

# John 4:21-24

Sunday 5/9/2021

John 4:21-24

*Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.*

*Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.*

*But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.*

*God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*

Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus, and we do love You. I thank You, Father, for the privilege today to open up Your Book to these great people. Lord, I thank You for the moms and the dads in our church that just really amaze me with how good they are with their kids, and I just appreciate it so much. What a testimony it is to the preaching and the teaching that they get here. I just pray, Father, that Your blessings will be upon all that we do today, in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it, amen.

## I. The Definitive Passage on Worship

Over the next couple of weeks, I want to build a message around what He is saying to her in John 4:21-24. I want to focus on a number of things, but on the key element here of the church age that we are in today and our key relationship with Christ, and that is going to be our worship.

I do not know if you know it yet or not, and we are really not going to get into that part today, but if you want a definitive passage—and I am big on definitive passages; I think there is a definitive passage for every aspect of the Bible, and that is how you understand what He is saying by finding a definitive passage—what He is telling her right now, if you want the definitive passage on worship, it is John 4:23-24 in particular.

We are not going to deal with that today. We are going to look at it from another aspect here, and we are going to deal with something that I think is the number one issue today in the church age. I want you to completely understand this. First, I must take today and lay a foundation for you. I could just get up here and lay out for you and just go on for hours about the mess that we are all in in Christianity and the danger to your family, the danger to your marriage, and the danger to your own life, and that is fine. We are going to get into some of that. But if you do not learn how we got into the mess we are in, you are never going to be able to stand up to it or lead your family through it.

That is my case. The times that we face as God's people, and for you moms today, when your kids are young and small, you are the key. There is no question about that. You are the key to what they are going to be when they are two or three years old. You are the key to what they are going to be when they are fifteen or sixteen. I am sorry, that is the way it is. Dad will pick it up later. Dad needs to be in support of it. But let us face it, the bottom line is, it is that responsibility

that you build into them. I am telling you right now, we are under attack, not just here, but all across Christianity. So I want you to learn and build this foundation for you today, so as we move into it next week, you have a better understanding of it.

## II. The Lessons of History

After we celebrated a couple of weeks ago my fifty years in the ministry, I appreciate that. But I have to tell you, once I began to get into the Bible and learn my Bible—and that was about five or six years into it, maybe—I began to realize the importance of learning history. I was never good in school. I never was. But my main, I was good in English and I was good in history. Everything else, forget it. But it is a thing where God used that in my life because once I began to unlock the Bible, I saw that you cannot really understand the Bible without understanding history.

Most of God's people do not want that today. I have said it many, many times: if you do not know where you come from, you do not know where you are going. If you do not know where you come from and you do not know where you are going, do not kid me that you know where you are at. It is a thing where God's people today do not have time for that. Pastors never talk about it. They are too busy building your longest buildings and trying to squeeze every dime out of you. They want to get everything they can from you, but you are the one that has got to face tomorrow. You are the one that has got to raise your kids in this hellhole that we are facing around the world. You are the ones who have got to build into your children and your marriage and your own personal relationship.

I learned that if I want to understand where I am at, if I want to understand where this is all going, then I need to learn the lessons of history. Somebody said one time years and years ago, and you have heard me say it a thousand times, "The only thing men never learn from history is that they never learn anything from history." So I began to look at some things and I began to watch some things. I saw that back in the Old Testament after David's reign and Solomon's reign, God takes the kingdom from him. Then we see his son and one of his generals, Jeroboam and Rehoboam, they take over the kingdom and they divided the kingdom.

Now the kingdom is Jerusalem, the two southern tribes, and Israel, the ten northern tribes. They are divided now. You find that in 1 Kings 10, 11, and 12. Then I began to see that from that point on, the nation of Israel began a downward spiral, a demise in everything that they once knew. It was going to end with them going into the captivity of the world system. And that happened. Solomon is on the throne, David is on the throne about 1000 BC. They go into captivity, northern tribes around 587 BC, southern tribes around 606 BC, four hundred years. In four hundred short years, the nation of Israel is finished. The world comes in and swallows them up, and the Bible gives us, for historical studies and biblical studies, the next greatest timepiece in the Bible: the times of the Gentiles, which we are still living in today.

## III. Israel's Demise and Lost Truth

As the spiral went down, Israel lost all the great truth that God had given them. Their value system was completely eradicated, completely gone. By the time you get into Chronicles and Kings, you will find, and I told you this before, how that when they conquered countries, God required some of the gold and the silver and the vessels to be put in a treasury. They were dedicated to Him because He gave them the victory. They put them in a storage place, and they are called the hallowed things. They are called the dedicated things. They were only for God. I told you how that represents the special secret things that God puts into your life, the things that He gives you, only with your salvation and in the blessings, the promises, and everything that God gives you.

What did they do? As this spiral down began to unfold, you find the kings of Israel taking those hallowed things, those dedicated things that belonged to God, and gave them to the godless kings that were the pagan nations. Many times they gave them to buy them off so they would not come in and conquer them. But it is a picture of what God's people are doing today with the very things that God gave us, giving them to the world.

I told you before how back in Numbers 21, if you want a good study on worship, when the fiery serpents were biting the people and they were dying, God told Moses to make a brazen serpent and put it on a pole, and anybody that looked at that would live. That was a type of Christ's death on the cross. But then I showed you how in 2 Kings 18:4, that was one of the hallowed things and the dedicated things. Now Israel has gotten so far down, they took that brazen serpent out that God gave them for their salvation, and then they gave it a name of a pagan, godless, false god, and now they are worshipping it.

You will go back to Matthew 1, and in Matthew 1, you will find the genealogy of the kingly line. By this time, when this demise is taking place, the kingly line has totally corrupted itself and now has lost any reality of God within the political system of the nation of Israel. We want to talk about their worship, the priesthood, the men that God ordained in the Old Testament to be the providers of everything that Israel had pertaining to God: the sacrifices, the tabernacle, in time the temple. Now they are totally corrupt, and they have connected themselves with Baal worship and everything that God once gave them that was holy and hallowed that kept them to be God's people. By the time you get to 606 BC, it is gone.

Who knows that today? Who of God's people knows that? And even more tragic, who of God's people cares? As long as you can go to a church where they put on a Super Bowl halftime program for you with belly dancers and break dancers and everybody up there singing and just acting like it is the world, you are okay with that. You do not understand what is happening before your eyes.

#### IV. Prophetic Warnings and Modern Parallels

Here is the truth. When this began to happen, all of the prophets, God sent them prophets. We know them as the major prophets and the minor prophets. All the prophets are sent by God to the nation of Israel, and they are sent to them to bring them back from the apostasy that they are in, but they have rejected the truth of God, and they are only getting worse. Before you can see

where we are at and where we are going, you need to learn the lessons of history and see where it has been. The only way, moms, you are going to preserve your family, the only way you are going to keep those kids from going the way of the world and the world destroying them, is to see what happened in the Old Testament.

The Old Testament prophets give us a glimpse, just a glimpse, of how bad it really was.

*Isaiah 59:14*

*And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.*

*Isaiah 10:1*

*Woe unto them that decree unrighteous decrees, and that write grievousness which they have prescribed;*

The writer Hosea, when he wrote in Hosea 4:1-3, he says, "You know what the problem with Israel is? There is no truth, there is no mercy, and there is no knowledge of God."

*Hosea 4:1-3*

*Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.*

*By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood.*

*Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yea, the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away.*

Amos wrote in Amos 8:11, and he says there is a famine in the land, but not a famine of bread and water, but a famine of hearing of the words of God. That always amazed me. He never said there was a famine of the word of God, that it was not there. It is there. He says the famine is nobody wants to hear it anymore.

*Amos 8:11*

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

Then I get over to Proverbs 28:5, where he says that there is no understanding of God's judgment in the world today.

*Proverbs 28:5*

*Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all things.*

*2 Chronicles 15:3*

*Now for a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law.*

Malachi 1:7, Malachi when he wrote, he says to the nation of Israel, "You offer polluted bread upon mine altars, and you say, 'Wherein have we polluted thee?'" They do not even get it. "And that ye say, 'The table of the Lord is contemptible.'"

*Malachi 1:7*

*Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD is contemptible.*

Haggai 2:3, when Haggai wrote, he saw the real issue probably better than the rest, or at least he wrote it; maybe they all saw it, but at least he wrote it. We see in his writings the end result of two hundred plus years of a nation turning their back on the truth of God and now its effect on God's people because he says in Haggai 2:3 to the nation of Israel: "Who is left among you that saw this house in its first glory? And how do you see it now? Is it not in your eyes in comparison as it is nothing?"

*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?*

You know what he is saying? He is saying, "How many of you people now in a deep apostasy that you are in know what real temple worship was right under Solomon and David? Who of you today who are in the demise of this mess about to go into captivity, who of you remember and have a comparison of what was really real so you can see what you have now is not real?" My, my, my. Does any of this sound familiar to you today? These are the lessons that God's people better learn.

I will tell you this too, I will just throw this in. We follow the first sign of trouble if you have a train to die. Way back, we saw before this thing ever split with Rehoboam and Jeroboam and all the "boam" boys, before this thing ever happened, we saw the beginning of trouble back in 1 Kings 6:38 and then 1 Kings 7:1. You know where the trouble began? Solomon is building the temple, and the Bible tells you that he was seven years in building the temple of God.

*1 Kings 6:38*

*And in the eleventh year, in the month Bul, which is the eighth month, was the house finished throughout all the parts thereof, and according to all the fashion of it. So was he seven years in building it.*

Then in the next chapter, 1 Kings 7:1, he says, "But he was thirteen years building his own house."

*1 Kings 7:1*

*But Solomon was building his own house thirteen years, and he finished all his house.*

You know that is the problem with God's people today. We spend more time building our house, the things that we want, than we ever worry about building the temple of God that you are inside you. That is where it started. I am going to tell you right now, the mess that we are in, that is where it started. God's people put more emphasis on the things they wanted to build for themselves than ever thought about building the things that God gave you.

Around here, we have Discipleship, Discipleship 2, we have the other different principal classes, we have the Bible Institute, we have the people ministry, we have everything you need. You know what those things are for? They are for one reason: to help you build God's temple, your body, more than the physical things of this life. He is telling them in Haggai 2:3 that where they are at now, there is no comparison to what it really should be, and they have lost God and the power of God. Nothing is left to show anybody what the real nation of Israel looked like. Israel had lost its identity. Israel had lost its purpose. Israel had lost its perspective. Israel had lost God. And the most tragic thing about this, they have lost their future.

## V. America's Decline and the Church's Compromise

You know what? I know how it works. All the Republicans blame the Democrats, and all the Democrats blame the Republicans. That is an easy way out. As far as I am concerned, I am not looking for—the government that I am looking for is the one that Jesus Christ is going to bring in. I am not under any illusion that anything that man is going to come up with is going to be better than some other. But at the end of the day, the best one you can ever have is when the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords come through that eastern gate and says, "Okay, boys, here I am."

I see it all the time, the Democrats and the Republicans say, and most conservative guys, "Democrats want to stay in power, so they want to let all the illegal aliens in because when the illegal aliens come in, they are going to take care of them, and then they are going to vote for—and they want to stay in power forever." I saw last week where some Democratic guy was demonizing the Republicans and saying that the Republican Party was worse than Al Qaeda or worse than the Taliban. See, that is where it is going. It is a thing where everybody looks at that and they think, "Wow, this is a power play. This is politics." You are out of your mind. You do not know very much about the Bible. This thing is not about the Democrats or the Republicans. This thing is God is finished with a godless nation, and He has turned it over to the world.

I am going to tell you right now, what is going on before your very eyes is nothing more than God setting it up for the rapture of the church and the second coming of Christ. Just like God's people walk around with their head in the clouds and not knowing the times they are living, that day is going to come—the most confusing day of your life as a Christian is going to be the day of the rapture. When you blow up and you stand up there before God, the first thing you are going to do is look for your car keys. You are going to say, "Oh, what happened to my cell phone?" You are going to be a stranger in a place that you ought to be familiar with. You say, "I have never been to heaven." That book is filled with it. It tells you what to look for. It tells you what is going to happen. Every morning I get up, brother, I am looking for it. It is not going to take me by surprise. But just like in the Old Testament and the nation of Israel, people are going to wonder,

"Where am I? What happened?" I think I saw an episode on The Twilight Zone like this way back in the day.

I want you to know I completely understand it. I am not here to get you to completely understand it. I am here just to preach the truth. Happy Mother's Day. But at the end of the day, I know where God is at in all of this because I have known where He has been through history. It is just that simple.

*Isaiah 5:20*

*Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*

You see a plan in place and being put in place. You know me, I am not political. When I am done with this section, you may better understand. I am not political. I do not blame the Republicans, and I do not blame the Democrats. I do not like either one of them. Anything an unsaved man does is going to come out bad someplace along the line. I am not interested in unrighteous people trying to give righteous decrees. It never works. I have never met a politician that claimed to be a Christian and I thought he was a Christian. You know what? Instead of getting up and telling people how great you are, "I tell many people you won to Christ last week." I give them my favorite Bible verse out of the Bible. I get up and instead of giving them some political speech, I give them a nice devotion about where America is at, what America needs to get back to. You will not see them doing that. You know why? You will never win doing that. You do not want to hear the truth today.

I grew up in a generation, some of you older folks did too, with that generation that said, "Tell it like it is! Tell it like it is! Tell it like it is!" And then when you told it, they did not want to hear it. You see a plan to destroy in your children every aspect of this great nation. As I said earlier, they want to take away the concept of mom and dad. They want to take away the concept of a family. They want to teach in school this "cancel culture" idea, and they want to teach your kids the reason why they want to erase all history of America, and they want to make America a terrible place and a bad place and a place that needs to be changed and believed before, because they are going to take that generation and put in their agenda of building the nation they want to build. They will teach America is bad. Why? So you can build a new America on your new value system that has nothing to do with God, whether you know it or not.

Here is the tragedy. This is what I mean. America is headed for a socialistic government. Now I say that, maybe that strikes fear in some of you. To me, it makes my day. I am not preaching any of this in doom or gloom. I am preaching this in anticipation any day now. I am going to hear, "Come up hither," and out of here I am, and you can have what is left. If you do not go in it, you come up next Sunday and we are not here. Hey, I will leave my Bible here. Preach whoever is here a nice message.

The progressive movement has one goal through a socialistic government. Again, I am not political. I do not care. Just to get control of everything you have got. Big government running everything in your life does not depend on God anymore. The big government is going to take

care of it. You know what the tragedy is? The kids, you kids, now you kids are a little different, but your average kids that are eighteen, nineteen, twenty, thirty, maybe even older than that, they have no idea what socialism is. They hear Bernie Sanders talking about it or somebody else talking about it. Then they equate it with the fact that, "Wow, what is so bad? I mean, they are going to give us free money. They are going to give us free education. They are going to give us free healthcare, free childcare, free unemployment that now I do not even, I make more money staying at home than I do finding a job and going to work." That is what they want.

The pandemic, folks, is as drastic as it was, and God, I am sorry that over six hundred thousand people died. I get it. I feel empathy for anybody who lost anybody, but it is just the beginning of where this thing is going. They want to bail out everything and everybody. They sent out stimulus checks. You got one last year for, I do not know. If you had a family, the more kids you had, the more money you got. Do not misunderstand me. The kids out there today think, "Free money!" It is not free. It is your money that they are putting on the backs of your children with a debt that is going to be in the hundreds of trillions of dollars that is going to bankrupt this country. Do not misunderstand me. I took my check. I took her check. She did not know it. I signed my name to it and changed them both. She did not need it.

Here is my philosophy. I want you to leave here today knowing I am not political when we are there. I do not care. Democrats, Republicans, it does not matter to me. You know what? There are stimulus checks and the country is going, "Hey, this country is going down the tubes." Here is how I look at it. It is going down the tubes. They are spending billions of dollars, trillions of dollars throwing it there. Now there is all this second infrastructure stuff. You know, they are going to build bridges underneath the road so turtles can go underneath of it for six billion dollars. I do not care. It is get everything we can. Just tithe off of it, but get everything you can. Get everything you can. I mean, you might as well. Everybody else is. But I am not under any illusion, you see.

Kids today, they have no idea what socialism is. Look at South America. Look at Europe. It always is one step away from communism. A complete loss forever in the freedoms that you have that you give it up, and now the government takes care of every part of your need, and then they tell you what to do. I am terrible, and I apologize for doing this, bringing the Bible in. Read sometime in Ecclesiastes 6:1-2 what the wisest man that ever lived said about socialism. But who cares?

Back in the days of the American Revolution, one of our great patriots said, "Give me liberty or give me death." Back in World War II, when the Nazis and the Japanese threatened the world, the cry was, "Give me liberty." Today it is just, "Give me. Give me." Today, President Biden, with all due respect, three or four or five years from now, it will be Comrade Biden. Freedom of speech is now gone. Now they will stop your Twitter account, which they should anyhow. They are going to shut down your social media account. That would be the best thing that could happen to you probably. Your Facebook is going to go away. You will be a faceless person now, my goodness. All because of the fact that you cannot say what you really feel. You cannot buy Dr. Seuss's book, \*The Cat in the Hat\*. I am glad I got mine when I was four. You cannot buy Dr.

Seuss's books because they are racist, but you can still get a copy of \*Mein Kampf\*. Something is wrong with that value system.

The church and pastors all across this country. Now here comes my point. The big-time guys all across this, they are around the area here. They are going to scream over this stuff. They are going to scream about it. They are already lining up with the conservative movement against the Democrats. If you are a Republican now, one for office, boy, you have got a lot of people you can just hitchhike off of. "I will stand for this and I will stand for that." You get a couple hundred thousand votes out of it. But hear me out. I do not normally like the word "stupid," but the older I get, the more I love that word. These guys are, just hear me out before you make a judgment on what I just said. Here is why they are so stupid. It just goes back to the nation of Israel and just learn the lessons of history.

The government taking away who you are as an American and building you back into something different is exactly what the pastors and the teachers and the theologians did to destroy the roots of Christianity. When the devil wanted to destroy the country, he just took a page out of the playbook of how he destroyed Christianity. Let me ask you a question. I will prove it to you.

- Who were the Waldensians?
- When did they live?
- What was their greatest opposition?
- Who were the Paulicians?
- Why were they called the Paulicians?
- Who were the Anabaptists?
- Why were they called Anabaptists?
- Who were the Moravians?
- Who were the Albigensians?
- Who were the Huguenots?
- Who were the Cathari?

Does anybody care? You know why you do not know that? Because Christianity has stolen from you your roots. They want to make you into some blasé blob of neo-evangelicalism that has absolutely no truth to it, so you do not know where you are going because they stole your roots from you. Now, we want to blame the government for doing it with a country when that is what the leaders of Christianity did, just like Israel. Maybe you are okay with that. Maybe you do not want to know who these people are. Well, I can guarantee you at the judgment seat of Christ, they are not going to want to know who you are.

Like the nation of Israel, New Testament Christianity has lost its identity. It has lost its true purpose. It has lost its true perspective. It has lost the true God and any relevance of what real Christianity is because they lost their roots. Most churches today are a three-ring circus where the pastor is the head clown in the center ring. You may be upset with me when I say that, but I just have one question: When is the last time you won somebody to Christ? When is the last time you sat down and worked with somebody in the Bible? Oh, can I see your free pass card that you got when you got saved that you do not have to do that? Did you get to opt out of the Great

Commission? Really? What happened in your own Christian life that someplace you just got off the side of the road and said, "I do not care anymore. I am not doing what God wanted me to do. I am going to do what I want to do." I just want to know where you found that because I will preach that next week and we can all take a break.

We have now seen one hundred forty years of preaching, producing generation after generation of pastors, churches, Christians that have absolutely no roots or heritage of who they really are. Because they do not know where they are and see the urgency of their ancestors, you do not have any urgency where you are going. You are great people. You are nice people. You come to church every Sunday. But that is all you ever do. You are not interested in going any farther. You are not interested in letting God use you. I am not fighting it. I am just telling you the truth. I mean, look at me like Paul said, "Because I am your enemy because I tell you the truth." Yes, you will be. I will answer that for you.

We, like the nation of Israel, have completely lost our way. We have lost our kids. We have lost our families. We have lost our church. We have lost our ministry. Unfortunately, we have lost our country. And they do not even know it. I will give you an example. Most churches today, big churches, they are probably some of the normal churches today. Everybody is into social drinking. They say it is okay to consume alcohol now as long as you do not become an alcoholic. They say it is okay to do that now, and you can drink and you can locate a drink. I have seen pastors put their face on social media drinking a beer and say, "Do not judge me." Everybody likes to, everybody. I have seen staff members of a church on lunch stacking up shot glasses of how many they drank. I have seen people, pictures put on Facebook and out there, where a bunch of church people are out there having a beer fest. One of them says, "Here, it is okay. I do not have to teach the Bible today." You probably would teach it better drunk than you do sober, but that is okay.

Steve Rakeen had a bunch come in here from a church out in Lee's Summit someplace, one of those big monstrosities, and they have a ministry called "Beer in the Bible." I wanted to know if Steve wanted to go. Steve said, "No, I do not read the Bible, but I do like beer, so I will go with you." I am telling you, man. Both a political system and a religious system are completely compromised and corrupted, just like it was with the nation of Israel.

Everybody, again, when we look at the coronavirus and the pandemic and all that, I have all the respect. You do what you need to do. Be safe, be careful. It is a killer. I get that. I had it. Barb had it. Many of you, most of you have had it, and we are still here, and I understand you want to be careful. We have people in our church that are older folks, and you need to take care of those older folks. This is not a criticism to anybody or anything. I am just making an observation. Because the pandemic canceled out a lot of good Christians who should have used the opportunity for ministry and did not because they hid under the claws of the coronavirus.

Let me ask you a question. History. I know this is rotten. I know this is dirty pool. How do you play dirty pool? Dirty cue sticks? Anyway, but it is a thing where I know this is rotten. But let me ask you a question. Do you know how many active pandemics were in the day of Jesus? Do you have any idea how many active diseases, pandemics, were spreading through the Middle East

when Jesus was alive? I mean, see, we get the pandemic and COVID-19, and everybody locks themselves in a room someplace and says, "Well, I cannot go out or I cannot minister or I cannot do that." Would it not have been terrible? Leprosy was the greatest pandemic that they had in the nation of Israel and all through the Middle East at that time. You know how you got that? Getting close to somebody that was dirty, did not bathe. It was rampant. What would you have thought if Jesus would not have went to the cross or did His ministry because of the fact He did not want to get it? Could you see Jesus on the cross when they were crucifying Him, asking the Roman soldiers to socially distance the two thieves from Him?

We are coming to the place in our world, and you better get this, where the coronavirus is going to look like a church picnic with what is coming our way. It is not because of the Democrats or the Republicans, it is because God is finished with this nation. This nation has turned their back on God's Word. Who does not know from history—I am sorry, I am sorry, but from history—that when God judged His people, He judged it two ways: with other nations and disease? Well, you lost that. You know what? You have no comparison.

Now you know me. I hate the twentieth century. I do. The twentieth and the twenty-first century, I hate it. I abhor it. Yet I accept the fact that I was born in 1950. I thank God that it was 1950. I feel terrible for some of you young kids that were born in the seventies or the eighties or even the nineties. I feel bad for you because you have no real comparison of anything. I try to do my best to give you a comparison because I was born at a time in 1950 where I actually saw the things the way they were and where they went the way they are today. I thank God that is the only redeeming fact that I was born in the twentieth and the twenty-first century. I hate it. I hate it.

Most of God's people today are cowards. They take God's salvation and they do nothing with it. They take the free gift of God that God gave them, that He sacrificed on the cross of Calvary, agonized for them, and just say, "Thank you." But when it comes to paying it back, "No thank you." I wanted to be born in the seventeenth century. I would hang out with the Waldensians, buddy. I would get along with them. I would hang out with Count Zinzendorf and the Moravians. I would get along with them. I would do fine with the Cathari and the Paulicians because they were people that were willing no matter what was out there and what they were facing was one hundred million times worse than any pandemic we will ever go through. You know what? They stood strong because they had the Book inside them. The reason why they had it so deeply inside them is because there was a church that was trying to take it from them and killing anybody they found with it. That will shake up your Sunday morning visit to church, will it not?

What would you do this morning or next week? You found out that they are going to meet you and arrest you up at the front door and take you someplace and put you in a camp if you came to church, but then I told you I would have the back door open and you could sneak in and we could still have church. Would you come? Would you? Would you come? Would you have a thousand excuses? "Well, you know, I have got to cut the grass," and, "I cannot..." Would you come? Because that is exactly what those people were faced with back there, and it never slowed them up. There is something wrong with us today.

Yet we want to pretend. I do not mean this in a bad way, and you ought to do it. You will take your mothers out today, and you will take her to dinner probably, and you will buy her flowers and give her gifts and everything and honor her, and that is a great thing, and I think you ought to do that. How about the Waldensian mothers who would not deny Christ, and they took their little kids and threw them into a pen of hungry pigs? As those little kids screamed and cried for a mommy to get them out, all mommy had to do was denounce Christ. And she did not. You are going to stand at the judgment seat of Christ alongside of those kind of people. "See, I do not like this kind of person." That is because there is a difference between me and you. I understand the reality.

I saw in the lessons of history that when the 1900s came around, there were no churches, Baptist churches like this. You only had three groups of Baptists in America. You had the Southern Baptists, which was the biggest. You had the GRB, and then you had the American Baptists. They were totally corrupt. The Southern Baptists in their seminary in Louisville were teaching that Adam and Eve was a fable. The flood did not happen. They were totally corrupt, and it just destroyed the Baptist mindset at that time. Yet at the same time, you had thousands and thousands of Bible believers out there that knew what they believed just like we do.

Then God raised up a man to make sure you and I would have that Bible. His name was J. Frank Norris. If you do not know who J. Frank Norris was or what he did, it is because you have the Bible you got in your hand. You ought to be ashamed of yourself because he broke the back of the Southern Baptist Convention. He took on the whole system. When he broke out from them, he started what we know today as fundamentalism, Bible-believing churches. He put a school up down there in Texas with big signs just to stick it in the eye: "The only Bible college in America teaching the King James 1611 Authorized Version." He was hated. They tried to lynch him. They tried to shoot him. A guy came into his office one time in Texas and said, "I am going to kill you this afternoon." He said, "I will be here till four o'clock." The guy came into the office, pulled a gun. He outshot him and shot him dead in his office. From that notoriety, he got to be known as the "Pistol-Packing Preacher." He was something else. But that is what God needed. God needed a nuclear power sledgehammer to break the back so you could have what you have today.

My name is Bob Alexander. I come from Canton, Ohio. I was trained at the Canton Baptist Temple. Dr. Harold Henniger was the pastor there. You know who Dr. Harold Henniger was? He was one of J. Frank Norris' boys. Wendell Zimmerman built the Kansas City Baptist Temple. He was one of Wendell Zimmerman's boys. Every Baptist preacher that built a great church during those sixties and the seventies all were out of J. Frank Norris' boys. There were not any neo-evangelical people. What happened was he died in 1952, and then God raised up a man around 1947 to carry on his legacy, Dr. Peter S. Ruckman. He carried that Book for all of us. He carried that thing through and kept this from going through. I actually saw the guys who believed it. When I got saved, and five, six, seven years later, they just dumped the Book. I watched them all. Every one of those churches, every one of those pastors got educated, got connected with a college, got their doctor's degree, and dumped the Book. Those two men that God used kept the Book for us. They were not perfect. They were far from perfect. Somebody said, "Well, you know what kind of guys they were?" Yeah, they were just like Moses and David. Yeah, I know

what kind of guys they were. And you know what else? I know what kind of guy you are. Well, do not give me that.

What they did as they turned themselves over to dumping the Book, they all began to take "Baptist" off their name, and they all began to slide into the new era called Neo-Evangelicalism. By doing so, stay with me, they turned Christianity over to the most godless system that the world has ever seen, Neo-Evangelicalism. I know, I can hear it right now. "Well, I just think that is over the top. I just think you should not say things like that." You know what? You do not know what you are talking about. Do you understand anything about the Catholic Neo-Evangelical Accord of 1994? Do you have any idea what took place then? Are you just feeding off the propaganda that you get and what you think you know and know nothing about history? In 1994, the Neo-Evangelical leaders, what you have aligned yourself with, made it according to the Roman Catholic Church that together they would put away their doctrinal differences to evangelize the third millennium. Now, how do you like that? If you think that will work and you think that is a good idea, okay, good deal. I get it.

Just like Israel, they lost everything that God had given them, and just like Israel connected themselves with Baal worship, now the Christianity of the New Testament has connected itself with the New Testament form of Baal worship. Hosea 8:12 tells us that Hosea said, "You know what has happened to Israel? The great things of God have now become the strange things to God's people." He says, "I have written unto him the greatest thing of my law."

*Hosea 8:12*

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

I told you a minute ago about social drinking and the churches embracing it. Billy Sunday. Billy Sunday preached in 1920. He single-handedly brought in prohibition. He preached against alcohol and drinking in any form, and he was the greatest evangelist probably in America in the twentieth century. He single-handedly brought in prohibition. When he died, they let his body lie in state in Madison Square Garden, and a New York Times reporter stood there and said in the two days or three days he was there, over three million people filed by his casket, and he said, "I heard more times than I can ever remember somebody saying, 'I would be in hell if it was not for that man. I would have lost my family to drinking and alcohol if it was not for that man.'" You know what? We have forgotten those things, have we not? You would ask the average Christian today, "Who was Billy Sunday?" You would ask the average Christian what he did in America, they would not know. Some of you would know, but they would not know. It is one of those things that you just see the whole thing falling apart.

## VI. Church Ages and America's Parallel History

In Revelation 2 and 3, we find an incredible story on the church age and the history of the New Testament church. In those three chapters, God breaks down church history, two thousand years, into seven easy-to-study, seven little breakdowns, Revelation 1, 2, and 3. He starts out in Ephesus, that is Acts 20, where the church age starts. He tells us about that one. That will fit into

history around 20 AD, Acts 20, up to around 180 AD. The name means "fully purpose." They were ready to do the job.

Then around 200 AD, we see the Smyrna come in, 325 AD, "bitterness and death." Of course, they are severely persecuted by the pagan Roman Empire. I mean, severely persecuted. Then you have the third one, the Pergamos in 325 AD, which means "much marriage," and that is where the Roman Catholic Church begins to start under Constantine. Then you have Thyatira, beginning of the Dark Ages, 500 to 1000 AD. Of course, now they are afflicted not by pagan Rome but by the Roman Catholic Church. You have Sardis, that is around 1000 to 1500 AD. The name means "red one." They are severely butchered and killed. This is where the Albigenses and the Huguenots and the Waldensians paid the price.

Then in Revelation 3:7-13, you have Philadelphia. It means "brotherly love," and boy, this is where from 1500 to 1900, this is where the King James Bible comes out, breaks the back through the Reformation of the Roman Catholic Church, and Revelation 3:8. God calls this church the "Church of the Open Door." It is nothing more than the Bible that you are holding in your hands going around the world several times in a time in history where three quarters of the world have been won to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ through the Bible you hold in your hands. The next four hundred years from when that Bible came out in 1611 is the greatest time of evangelism, the greatest time of missionary work. It is an incredible time.

When you begin to look at the parallels, going back to history, when you begin to look at the parallels between the nation of Israel and America, God had a plan for both of them. When you stop to look at it, it is incredible.

- Both Israel and America have God at their beginning through their founding fathers in America.
- Both have the Word of God at the beginning through a King James 1611 Authorized Version. That is what this Constitution was built on.
- Both go through wars to establish their nation. We went through the Revolutionary War. They went through the wars with Joshua.
- Both experienced a civil war, North and South, 1860 to 1865 for us, the South Judah and the split of the kingdom. They had a civil war for the next two hundred years.
- Both nations are incredibly blessed by God for the Book that they hold dear to their hearts.
- In time, in America, 1880 in America, both nations leave and forsake God and His Word and go into apostasy and the captivity of the world.

Brother, let me tell you something. American Christianity right now as we know it is entering into that captivity. And God's people could care less. God had a plan for America. God had a plan for Israel. In that history of America, God brought across seven great awakenings, seven great revivals to keep this country great. You could not name those seven awakenings as a Christian. In your own country, you could not name those seven revivals and seven awakenings if your life depended on it. You could not tell me when the first one started under whom and when the last one stopped under whom. This is your country. This is America, a Christian nation. When God's people should be gearing up, polishing their boots and sharpening up their bayonet to do the

work of God, there is one word for Christianity, and I am sorry. Get mad at me if you want. Coward. Coward. "I will let Him put Himself on the line for me, but I will never put myself on the line for Him. He went through all He went for me, but I will never disrupt my comfort zone."

Then in Revelation 3:14-22, the last church period before the rapture of the church in Revelation 4, Laodicea. He says in that great chapter that this is a church, Laodicea means "rights of the people." It starts around 1900 and goes all the way up to the time period that we are living right now. God tells us in this chapter, Revelation 3:16, 17, 20, I will not read it all to you, but He says this is the church of the closed door, where the church in Philadelphia was the church of the open door. This is our church period. This is the one I hate. This is one where He says:

*Revelation 3:17*

*Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:*

That is the church we are in today. He says this church is a lukewarm church. It is not hot. It is not cold. He says in Revelation 3:17, "And because thou sayest, I am rich, increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not." This church is just like Israel. They did not know it either. You know why? Somebody took their roots. Somebody took away their comparison. Now we have got churches that are filled across this country, across this city, and across the world with a bunch of good, nice people. I love them to death. They are wonderful people. They will just never step outside their comfort zone to do one thing for God. I am telling you, He is coming. He says they are wretched. They are miserable. They are poor. They are blind and they are naked. This church in Revelation 3:20 is the church of our own church, and it is all connected back to losing their roots.

He says the key to this church is the key of David. Revelation 3:7. "And I will give it to the Philadelphia church, the key of David." You could not find five Christians that could tell you what that key is. I will tell you something else. There are two keys of David in the Bible. Do not give me the one in Revelation 3. Where is the other one at? You see, I have those keys. That is why I preach the way I preach. That is why I pastor the way I pastor.

I lose my car keys a thousand times a day. I have little, John does his too, he is shaking his head. I have little hooks on my thing there where when I come in, that is where I put my keys. If I do not, I will spend the next hour looking for them. Somebody said you can buy a little thing that when you lose them, clap your hands and it will beep. That is great, except I cannot hear either. I need something that shoots off a little flare up into the sky, you know, and parachutes down. It is a thing where, but I, so I do. I lose my keys. I have lost the keys to my car, I have locked the keys to my car in my car. I did it once, and I called a guy, and he would come out for forty dollars for what, two seconds, pop that thing up. So I paid him, nice kid. A week later, I do the exact same thing. I called the exact same guy. He comes out, pops it again. He charges me thirty-five dollars this time. I asked him, "It was forty dollars last time. How come it is thirty-five dollars?" He says, "We give a discount for stupid." It is all right. I will save five dollars when I get me a Big Mac. I am good with that.

But anyway, it is a thing where I am telling you, I lose those keys. I will tell you, I am not losing this key. This is one key I will not lose. You may not want it on your key ring. You may not want to put it into the lock to turn the latch. I do not care. I know what the key of David is. It was a reason and success of the Philadelphia. I have told you many, many times, I am trying to build a Philadelphia church in the Laodicean church age. Not everybody is going to want that. I get it. I understand. I get it. I get it.

## VII. Conclusion: The Party is Over

I am telling you right now. Today, I just wanted to lay out the groundwork for an understanding of what is wrong and what is going on and the fact that we are going to, we have lost our understanding of worship. We have done exactly what Israel did. We took the object of the brazen serpent, and then they gave it a devil's name and worshiped it. We have lost our purpose. We have lost our perspective. We have lost every aspect. We worship the wrong things today. We worship our houses. We worship our clothes. We worship people. We worship rock stars. We worship athletics. We worship this. We worship that. We worship our car. We worship our money. We worship everything but where our worship should be.

To many of God's people, this message, just like the message the prophet spoke to the Old Testament Israel, it will fall on deaf ears. But I am telling you, the next four years or so, it will become the most important truth that will get you through what is coming. America as we knew it will never be back. It never will. One of the great lessons in history is once you lose it, you can never get it back. That is true of New Testament Christianity. It was true of Israel. The demise led to their captivity. You can look at the five stages of the nation of Israel from their formulation through their calling out, through their establishment, through their demise, and you can look at the same five things in America. It is true of any nation that rejects God and His truth.

I am okay with all of it. I am. I am. I am not preaching a message of doom. Maybe you are taking it that way, and that would question myself, "Why are you scared about it?" Did not God say that He would supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus? Did He mean that or did He not? Maybe it is the fact that you have been claiming that at all, so now it is kind of a quick start for you. I mean, I have looked at the captivity in Israel within. You know what? You take Daniel, one of the greatest men that loved God and honored God. You take Ezekiel. You take Isaiah. You take those guys. They were all great guys. But you know what? They got taken into the captivity just like we will. If I were you, you know what I would do to survive? I would start finding out how they survived. That is the only way you are going to survive.

You see, I would not be so upset with it and care about it so much if it was just the government. Because all governments go through, and I may not see it in my lifetime, but somebody will overthrow it and it will go back to another form of government. If it was just that, I would not care. But you see, the thing that really gets me in this thing is the devil is behind this. Because he is setting this thing up for himself, and he hates not only the Jews, but he hates you. You better have something bigger than him hanging around your neck instead of your crucifix. I understand what God is doing, and I will be honest with you. I thank God in all things. I do not care. It makes me mad sometimes, just because of the things that I am doing. But at the end of the day, I

do not care. You know what? This whole world is not my home. Maybe it is yours. Maybe you have got your roots down deep here. I am sorry. I do not. If God pulled this thing out this afternoon and we all went home to heaven, He would make my day just as simply as that. Just hope we can do it after we eat.

Next week, I want to explain to you how we got into this mess, and I want to show you the seven things that we have lost or a man will lose when he gives up his Bible that God gave us, and we trade it for the devil's Bible, and then we align ourselves with the world system, and we lose everything as Christians we could ever lose, all out of the world. We are going to do this in John 4, build around the number one thing you better have in your life and you better understand it after you get saved: your worship.

It was said over one hundred years ago. I read it. I mean, I did not read it one hundred years ago. It was written when I read it years ago. No nation on the face of this planet ever lasted past two hundred years after rejecting God and His Word. Whether you know it or not, America, like Israel, as in 2 Chronicles 5:3, has been without the true God, has been without a teaching priest, and has been without a law for one hundred forty years.

*2 Chronicles 15:3*

*Now for a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law.*

Years ago, I watched as a young man in my early twenties, Monday Night Football. Monday Night Football was the only night they had football back then, and it was the premier time. All this stuff today, it is fun and it is good, but you had to be back in the seventies and watch Lynn Swann. You had to be back then and watch the Pittsburgh Steelers. Watch these guys play. The two great announcers back then were Don Meredith and Howard Cosell. Dandy Don Meredith was a football player himself. I do not remember who he played for, but he played football, and he was now a sports announcer, and he was the life of it. Howard Cosell was about as boring as you could listen to, but he knew facts of football, unbelievable. The two of them made a great team. I do not think Don is dead, but I know Howard is. Every night we would watch Monday Night Football. Oh, it was great. Larry Csonka with the Florida guys, the Dolphins, oh man. Bob Griese and those guys, oh man, they were my heroes. I remember watching Lynn Swann play, and I will tell you, it is just unbelievable.

Every time at the end of that football game, when it was shutting down, Don Meredith would sing this little song, and it closed it out every time, and I have never forgotten. Howard would be talking about what a great game it was and everything, him and Dandy Don, and then they would start to show the things going off the air, and old Dandy Don would say this, "Turn out the lights, the party is over," and it would go off the air. So I am here to tell you, "Turn out the lights, the party is over."

I am telling you right now, you better gear up yourself, you better gear up your marriage, you better gear up your family because this thing is going to come home like a hungry giant coming home for lunch. They are going to gear up everything they can because the devil is running this

thing from behind the scenes, and he knows exactly what he needs to have and he knows exactly what he needs to get rid of to have it. We are right in the crosshairs. They are taking away every free speech you have got. There will be a time, and they already hinted at this several years ago, where every preacher will have to submit his message on Sunday morning to have it approved before he can preach it to his people. Now I am a Christian, and I cannot tell you what I would say about that to you, but you could probably use your imagination knowing me the way you do. You say, "Well, they will put you in jail." Prison ministry always sounded exciting to me. Why do not you come with me and we will start one together? Maybe we can be cellmates. Oh no, no, not you, no, no. All right, next week we are going to get into it.