

John 5

Sunday 6/13/2021

Let's jump into this today. There is so much in John 5, and I want to break it into sections. Last week in John 5, we saw one of the greatest stories and miracles found in the Bible. It is the story around the pool of Bethesda and how God used that story to show the healing of the nation of Israel, showing us also the spiritual condition of Israel through this man, and how this story really flows with the rest of the Bible, particularly the book of Hebrews that we talked about last week.

Then I took it up a couple levels. We looked at it from an inspirational application, how it applies to us in the New Testament. To refresh your memory, in the story, once a year, an angel came down to this pool of Bethesda, and all the people who had all kinds of illnesses and infirmities were laying around this pool. Once a year, an angel came down and troubled the waters. Then whoever got in the water first got healed, and everybody else had to wait until next year or something like that.

We saw how that story and the inability for everybody to get in was a picture of the Old Testament strategy through Israel, where not everybody could get into what was going on. We saw this certain man who had an infirmity for 38 years. I showed you how that is a picture of the nation of Israel and how he was made whole when he met the Lord Jesus Christ. It is an incredible story, one of the most incredible miracles found in all the Bible. As I said, today, scholarship, pastors, and teachers all discount the story. They tell you that it should not be in your Bible, and we will tie that in here in just a little bit.

I showed you all the key elements to lay this story out and how it points to Christ coming to the nation of Israel as the Messiah. If they will accept Him, just as this man pictures, the Old Testament could not get into the water by himself. Christ came, and He is going to heal and make whole the whole nation of Israel after the Second Coming of Christ. The great chapter on that, as I have given you before, would be in Acts 2.

You want to remember that all this story will unfold around the time of the Passover. In fact, this is the second Passover. I showed you how John is built around four Passovers. This story here is built around the Passover, which takes us back to Exodus 12, where the Passover started. The word Passover comes from Exodus 12, when the nation of Israel was about to be taken out of Egypt. God told them to put the blood on the door, and when God saw the blood on the door, He was going to take them out of Egypt, but He was going to kill the firstborn of everybody who did not put the blood on the door. So the word Passover came from that: when God passed over Israel, He saw the blood on the door, then He spared them, and then He led them out of the nation of Israel.

For them, that is a key point; their whole new year changes from that point. As I said last week, the Passover then forms their Memorial Day, when God brought them out of the land. At Exodus 12, with the Passover, they had a sacrificial lamb. They had to kill a lamb, put the blood on the door. That lamb back there is a perfect picture of Christ. It had to be a male, had to be without spot, it had to be killed on the 14th day of the month, everything lining up with Christ's

crucifixion. So we see in that picture a picture of the coming Messiah that was going to deliver the nation of Israel.

So in John 1, 2, and 3, when John the Baptist sees Jesus coming, what does he say?

John 1:29

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

He made the connection all the way back to Exodus 12. John's preaching is six months before Jesus shows up. He is the forerunner to introduce the Lord Jesus to the people in the nation of Israel.

I gave you five key areas that help you gain understanding in this passage through your trained eye:

1. We talked about the sheep market, and we ran that back to Nehemiah 3.
2. We talked about the word Bethesda itself. It means mercy.
3. This man had an infirmity for 38 years. I told you about Deuteronomy 2:14 that says that is how long Israel wandered in the wilderness.
4. It talked about him being made whole. That is Acts 2, where the nation of Israel gets made whole.
5. It was on the Sabbath day, which is a picture of the coming of Christ, Genesis 1, 2, and 3, when the Lord comes back.

I told you again how this story, along with all the others in the Gospels, illustrates the spiritual condition of the nation of Israel. I cannot emphasize that enough for those of you who study your Bible. If you just get that into your brain, whenever you are starting to read Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, you are going to find a lot of stories. You are going to find a lot of events. You are going to find a lot of things happening. When you do, know that they are all a picture of Israel's spiritual condition at the first coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Then we took it into the inspirational application, how it applies. Once we saw it applied to Israel, then I took some time to show you how it applies to you and to me. All this will also be a picture of our time period right before the second coming of Christ, where it shows you Israel historically, it shows you Israel and their spiritual condition right at the first coming of Christ. It shows us our spiritual condition as God's church, inspirationally, right before the second coming of Christ. It is a great aspect. We talked about the church of Laodicea in Revelation 3:17-18, and the complete breakdown of everything that is going on in Christianity today.

Then you remember I took you over to 1 Corinthians 10, and I clearly showed you how God will teach us about the things in the Old Testament through their examples. The parallels between the nation of Israel, God's people in the Old Testament, and the parallels between God's people, you and me in the New Testament, and how the situation on both sides of the cross are really the same, and they both get into the same mess. I told you how 1 Corinthians 10 tells us that the

things that happened to Israel back in the Old Testament, everything that happened to them, was for our admonition, that we might learn and understand what is really going on around us today.

These issues will also be our issues. The man had four fundamental issues:

6. He was impotent. That means he was powerless.
7. He was blind. That means he had no spiritual insight.
8. He was halt. That means he had no walk.
9. He was withered. That means he had no work for God.

That is exactly where we are today in the church. We are just a bunch of people laying around doing nothing for the Lord and just waiting for God to do something with us. It does not work that way. It did not work that way in the Old Testament, and it certainly will not work that way today. If there is one word that has to fit into Christianity today, it has to be the word proactive. You cannot just get saved and then sit. It is all right to stand. It is all right that we sing the song "Standing on the Promises." It is okay to stand on the promises, but you cannot be sitting on the premises. You have to do something with it, and you have to get proactive. If ever there was a time, other than Israel's time, that we needed the moving of the water, it is today.

In John 5, as I said, we looked at it last week, this week, and then again next week, and maybe even beyond that, but there are three things here that we want to look at:

10. We want to look at the miracles that God did for Israel. We did that last week.
11. Today, I want to show you the rejection of the nation of Israel, and I want to show you the people that were involved in it.
12. Next week, I want to show you the real reason behind the rejection, and you will find again, just like that is true of the Old Testament, it is also true of Christianity and the New Testament today.

So today, I want to add basically to last week, and this is a really good chapter to show us the opposition, not only that Christ faced back in His day, but it is the same opposition that you need to be aware of because we all are up against it again today. To me, I cannot speak for you, but for me, chapters like this are invaluable. So if I were you, here is what I would do today, because all I am going to do is show you the associations back and forth and the comparison that brings us to an obvious logical conclusion of what was wrong at the first coming of Christ with God's people, but also what is wrong right before the second coming of Christ with you and me, God's people.

So I want to read for you John 5:10-16, and then we will make some comments.

John 5:10-16

The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed.

He answered them, He that made me whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and walk.

Then asked they him, What man is that which said unto thee, Take up thy bed, and walk?

And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.

Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.

The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus, which had made him whole.

And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day.

Father, help us to get into Your Word today and glean from it all that You have for us. We love You. We thank You, Father, for the truth of the Word of God and how it sets every crooked thing straight and that we can have the understanding to be able to understand what You are doing and the times that we live in, that we can benefit from it and be part of everything that God is doing. Now take this time, use it for Your honor and glory, and we will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

I. The Nature of Opposition: Internal Infiltration

This chapter is teaching a great truth: the truth that opposition to God's work, here with Christ, but true for you and me too, will never just be from the world. You would think that would be true. The Bible talks about "love not the world, neither the things that are in it," that the world is against God, the world is against Christianity, and it certainly is. We are faced today, just like they were back then, with the opposition of the world, and there is no question about that. But you will see that the real opposition that the devil throws at us will not come from the outside, but in most cases, from the inside.

This is so true with what you have here. We saw this back in Numbers 3 and Numbers 11. You remember when they came out, it was the people. Egypt gave them problems, they certainly did, but where did the real problems come from? It came from the mixed multitude that were with them, that came out of Egypt, that never really bought into what God was doing. I am going to tell you something, in every church, I do not care where you go, and I have been with them for a long, long time and dealt with them. In every church, you are going to find that there will always be people who are part of a mixed multitude who are not going to like or go along with what God is trying to do.

I do not care how many people that church gets saved. I do not care how many people they are discipling. I do not care what good things they are trying to do. And I do not care how the hand of God is in their midst that just keeps turning things over and people keep getting saved. You are going to find people that all they can see is through their own prism of their own failures. They have an attitude and a bitter spirit that, just like you find it at the first coming of Christ, they did not care about the things of God, and they were upset at the miracles that God did.

Who would think that any Christian would be upset or be against any situation where many, many people were getting saved? It speaks to an inner problem that somebody has. It speaks to the fact that they cannot see the hand of God doing anything. In most cases, the reason why they

cannot is because they have no hand of God in their own life. God is not doing anything. I have found this to be true. God's people, inside people, in any church who have nothing going with God, God is doing nothing. They have no ministry. They have no influence many times in their own families. Their life is just an upside-down salt and pepper shaker that somebody dumped all the salt and pepper out of. They absolutely have no impact in anybody's life to do anything.

They will always be adverse to somebody whom God is using. Whether it is you, whether it is a church, whether it is a pastor, it does not matter. The real opposition, and you have to see this from this chapter because many of you, most of you, are up to your eyeballs in ministry. I am going to tell you now that the real opposition will not come from just the outside. It will come from the inside. Sometimes it comes from your own family. That is just the way that it works.

You saw this all through. You never want to forget the devil. The devil will work through nations. He will work through men. He will work through kings. And he will work through queens down through history. But his real influence, and here is what you never want to forget, the real influence and work of the devil will be in the world of Christianity, Bibles, and churches. We saw it in Genesis 3, when he wanted to destroy mankind and put him into the lake of fire. When he shows up to Eve, it was:

Genesis 3:1

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

But then he changed what God said, and that is how he operates. Ephesians 6:12 calls that spiritual wickedness in high places.

In military history, when they talk about spies, they call them fifth columnists. I will be honest with you, I never really understood the term. I have heard it all my life. I never really understood the term until I got into the Bible. I saw that the greatest spy and the greatest saboteur and the greatest infiltrator of Christianity was the devil, and he is the fifth cherub. So where a fifth columnist will infiltrate something to destroy it from within, the fifth cherub took the position of a fifth columnist, and through the form of religion, 2 Corinthians 11 and 2 Corinthians 4:4, became an angel of light. He has got his own church, he has got his own Bible, and he has got his own ministers right in the text that tells you that.

So we see now that that is how he began to do his work. In John 5:10-16, they completely ignore the miracles that they were told to look for that would identify the Messiah. The signs and wonders, every one of these religious leaders understood Exodus 4, where God told Moses to put his hand in his bosom, and he pulled it out, it was leprous, and then he put it back in, and he pulled it out again, and it was clean. God told them there, and every one of these guys knew this. He told them that by signs and wonders, God was going to reveal Himself to the nation of Israel. So when Jesus Christ shows up, He shows up doing miracles, healing people, doing signs and wonders, and they are rejecting. Why do they reject it? Because the fifth columnist had infiltrated and destroyed everything that God was doing.

They should have known what this represented and how Christ was fulfilling the Old Testament prophecies. They should have seen how it fit into Genesis 1, 2, and 3. The Old Testament people, common ordinary people, not just the leaders, knew their Bible in the Old Testament inside out, upside down, every word of it. It was part of their culture. It was like you and me learning our ABCs. It was like you and me learning to speak English. They were raised under the confines of the Old Testament scriptures. They knew everything about it. These guys knew. They understood, they knew who He was. They had it right there in front of them. But unfortunately, by this time, the leaders of Israel had been fully infiltrated and compromised from within.

I know that Rome has always been the enemy of Christianity. I get that, and I understand that at the first coming of Christ, Rome was in power. But I want to tell you this: you can forget Rome. The book of Matthew tells us completely that Christ was the Messiah. Chapter by chapter, in Matthew 1, He goes to the genealogy, the right way, all the way back to David, the right genealogy. In Matthew 2, He has the right birth that was prophesied. In Matthew 4, it was prophesied that He would be tempted, and He was. In Matthew 5, 6, and 7, He lays out the structural concept of His coming government. It is all in the Bible in the Old Testament.

And lo and behold, in Matthew 8 and 9, He proves who He is by Exodus 4, by going and healing and raising the dead, doing what He did here in John 5. Then what does He do in Matthew 10 after He declared who He was biblically, laid it out so that you could not miss who He was? Then He sent the twelve out in Matthew 10, and they began to preach the kingdom. What happened in Matthew 11, 12, and 13? They rejected Him. They rejected Him in Matthew 11, Matthew 12, and Matthew 13. This is where they make their official rejection.

Now we find in Matthew 12:34 what goofy Charismatics talk about committing the unpardonable sin. The unpardonable sin is a sin that you can commit that God will never forgive you for. Whatever Charismatic idiot you are listening to, he will make up whatever one he wants to fit into that slot. Of course, Matthew was not written to the church. There is no unpardonable sin. When you read the context, you will find that the sin that they cannot be forgiven for is right there in the chapter where they see everything that God's Son is doing, and the Spirit of God is what is working through Him to do it. Then they equate the Spirit of God with the spirit of the devil. As long as they take that position, they cannot ever get right.

It is an incredible event that is taking place at the first coming of Christ. Just like back then, today, the fifth cherub, our fifth columnist, has infiltrated the New Testament church with the same goal: to destroy it and to weaken it. Both of God's programs to reach the world with His truth have now been completely compromised. Israel in the Old Testament, God had plans that they were going to reach the world with God's truth, but they got infiltrated. They got compromised, and it came to an end. Then we have the church age and the spiritual side of things. God expected the church to do the exact same thing, but the church got compromised, all by our fifth columnist, the fifth cherub.

As a side note, I like to read things in history and jot them down, and sometimes they do not make real sense when I do it, but later on, they all come together. I got thinking about the fifth cherub and the fifth column, the fifth columnist that they use in the terminology. Back around

187 A.D. in Alexandria, Egypt, history unfolds itself, and by the time we come around to 100 A.D., 150, 180, the great think tank of the world was in Alexandria, Egypt. The library there was the largest in the world, and what they had done is they had compiled all the works of the Greeks: Aristotle, Socrates, Plato, my favorite, Aesop. Some of his stuff is hard to swallow, but you can follow along with it. They had amassed all of this stuff in Alexandria.

What happened is this: the men down there claimed to be Christian. They were no more Christian than the devil was, but one guy in particular named Origen, took the manuscripts that were the pure manuscripts that God had, and he got his hands on them, and he worked them over for a number of years and changed it in over 60, 70, 80,000 places by his own philosophical thinking that he disagreed with God in the Bible. Many, many things, but what he did was this. If you would get into the Christian world today, and you probably have heard this word, maybe you do not understand what it is, but sooner or later you hear the word float around called the Septuagint. The Septuagint was a Greek New Testament that supposedly Christ used when He showed up at the first coming of Christ.

To make a long story short, that is about as bogus as a note to Santa Claus from Martin Luther King in 4004 BC. There was no legitimate Septuagint, but here is the kicker. Origen put together what was called a Hexapla. A Hexapla was a six-column Bible, each one in a different language. He inserted the Septuagint into that, and guess what? The Septuagint was his fifth column. You just do not beat the Bible. Today, Bible colleges, Bible scholars, probably most of the idiot stick pastors out there, they would swear by the Septuagint. When you just look at its origin, how ridiculously stupid it would be that it ever was anything that was ever credible with God. It was not. But it comes out of that Alexandria, Egypt mindset of destroying the Word of God by the fifth cherub, the fifth column, so Origen just puts it in his Hexapla in the fifth column. Incredible stuff, if you are paying attention. Learning the lessons of history, getting understanding. We talked about this Thursday night. Learning the lessons of history.

II. Historical Parallels: The 400 Silent Years

Now watch, just be with me here. I am not really going to preach to you today, but you have to see this. You have to see why they are rejecting Christ. What was behind it? Because whatever is behind that is behind what we have today, so just stay with me for a few minutes and watch what is really going on in John 5.

We know that Israel comes out of Egypt in Exodus 12. She goes through a number of years, and then in 606 BC, because she has completely compromised herself, she has thrown the Word of God out, God out. She has completely restructured everything that God gave her, and now God sends her into the captivity of 606 BC. The Southern tribes go in in 606, the Northern tribes go with Sennacherib around 721, but Israel ceases to exist. The reason Israel ceases to exist is because within Israel, God ceased to exist. They had completely corrupted themselves.

As I have shown you before, God now, Matthew 13:44, God now will hide Himself from the nation of Israel. You find this all through the Bible. If you were going to study history from the books in this period of time, this would be called the 400 Silent Years. It is a little more than 400

years, but that is what they call it: the 400 Silent Years. For the next 400 years after they go into captivity, God gives no revelations to man. Everything a Jew got, everything that they had, was already written. God did not give them one more thing until He shows up with His Son 400 years later at the first coming of Christ.

I will just throw this out to you. This 400 years is when the Septuagint is supposed to be written, and it was there that Christ could use it. God gave nothing in those 400 years, but that is another message. No revelation from God. He allows them, Israel as a nation, to go their own way. They will be for us the foolish man that we read about in the book of Proverbs who forsakes everything that God does for him.

When you learn the lessons of history, one of the great things that you will learn, and you can never forget this in your Bible study, is the fact that history will always repeat itself. History is a revolving door. History is a beginning, and it just repeats itself constantly. When you see how that in 400 silent years, you will find that God did nothing for man. During that period of time, you will find that the devil went to work.

This is where, Daniel 2, he brings in the Greek Empire, who literally changed the world from a godless standpoint of thinking. They took everything, and the great philosophers that we thought about today started right there. The Greek Empire impacted the world to such a degree that even when you go to college today, and you get into a fraternity or a sorority, you know what they use as symbols? Greek letters. Why? Because the Greeks are always associated with learning. If you watch Animal House, there is not much learning going on in those things, but that is okay. It is a great movie. But they were noted. They changed the world as far as the language. The language became universal. Their thinking became universal, and it impacted the rest of the nations even to this day. Incredible.

Of course, then you find the Romans come in. Where the Greeks refashioned the world intellectually, the devil used Rome to refashion the world by nations. Rome conquered just about all of the known world at that particular time. During that period of time, that 400 years, you will find that the devil does his work. He does everything that he can through these nations to destroy anything remaining of God. The nation of Israel gets scattered all through the world.

People talk about speaking in tongues, and what a thing that is. They do not have any idea. The only reason that God had tongues being spoken in Acts 1, 2, 3, and those places there, is because those Jews for 400 years had been scattered throughout the world, and they no longer spoke their own language. But God had a message to bring them back to Him, so they had to use tongues in their own language to get the message. It had nothing to do with Christianity or you or me or "fee, five, four, five" and all that stuff. It had nothing to do with that. But people do not know because they do not have any understanding. For that 400 years, the devil infiltrated everything. He wanted to make sure that when Christ showed up at the first coming of Christ, there was no way nobody was going to accept Him. It was a plan.

That is the second 400 years. The first 400 years you find is at the end of Genesis. Remember that story? The story of Joseph and Exodus 50, they all wind up down in Egypt. Guess how long they are in Egypt? 400 some years, same time period. What do they do? God is forging them in

Egypt. I know they are going through slavery. They are going through hard times, but God is making them strong because He is going to bring them out. What do you think the devil did during those 400 years? Do you think he was just playing, said, "Oh, we can take a break. They are down in Egypt. Let us just go do something." No, he knew. He knew that they were going to head to the promised land. He knew that that land was once his, and now God was going to give it to His nation. So what did he do? For 400 years, he fortified that land with giants, with pagan nations, all to keep the nation of Israel out.

You cannot escape history repeating itself. In Genesis 50, when they are down in Egypt for 400 and some years, the devil is building into the promised land to keep them out. When they go into the captivity, God knows 400 years later the first coming of Christ is going to come to His people. The devil does the same thing, and in both cases, he is trying to keep, get this, he is trying to keep the plan of God from going forward by infiltration, by imitating. It is one of the incredible things that you will see. This 400 years is the final destruction of Israel in 606 B.C. So that when the first coming shows up and Christ comes as the Messiah, the devil has had 400 years to destroy any relevance of God coming to them.

III. The Devil's Tools: Pharisees, Sadducees, and Rome

Now watch this. Here starts what we have in our text today. The Jews wanting to kill Him, and ultimately they do. But stay with me now. The structure of the nation of Israel, when God put it in play, had two legitimate operating formats:

13. You had the priesthood. The priesthood took care of the sacrifices, they took care of the tabernacles, they did all that work.
14. Then you have the scribes. The scribes' job was they were the custodians of the Word of God. The Old Testament was written by the scribes. They kept it. They made sure that no error got into it.

But now during this 400 years, because they have given up the Word of God, we have seen this in Isaiah 59:14, Isaiah 10:1, Amos 8:11, Hosea 4:1-2. We have seen it all through the Old Testament. Our fifth columnist, the fifth cherub, has infiltrated Israel and brought now during this 400 years two other groups to be part of Israel that God never intended to be there:

15. One of them is the Pharisees.
16. The other one is the Sadducees.

The Pharisees came into being about 135 years before Christ. The Sadducees came in about 167 years before Christ. In both cases, they were never ordained by God as a legitimate part, and the devil brought these two groups in to destroy the nation of Israel. Both are non-biblical groups whom the devil uses as his tools to destroy the first coming of Christ.

Along with this, the priesthood, 2 Chronicles 15:3, which was legitimate, was totally corrupted. The scribes had been totally compromised. Now we see, you talk about the devil putting it all in place, the Pharisees come in at 135, the Sadducees come in at 167, and guess what happens in 100 B.C.? Rome now comes to power. All three pieces of the devil's tools are ready to go to

make sure that Israel takes the position that they take in John 5 of wanting to persecute Him and wanting to slay Him. Both the Sadducees and the Pharisees, if you look at Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, it is clear there they make a political alliance with Rome. It is kind of like they become tools of Satan. They become tools of Satan to keep Israel from getting the Messiah.

This is why in the Gospels, and in particular John 5, we see the leaders, the Jews, rejecting Him, rejecting His Word, and rejecting the miracles. Now they want to kill Him. Those things they knew were what you needed to look for to find the truth. Let me tell you something. If you do not think the devil will infiltrate to destroy, you do not know very much about life or history or the Bible. He will infiltrate your life by putting the wrong people in your world to destroy whatever God wants to do with you. He will infiltrate a church. He will put the people in a church that are satanic implants. Of course, that is what he does.

Now look at John 5:16, and here is what they said:

John 5:16

And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day.

What a trumped-up charge. In fact, when you go back and look when He is crucified, every charge they had against Him was a trumped-up charge. But you know who put those trumped-up charges together? The Sadducees, the Pharisees, the scribes, and the priesthood. After one of the greatest miracles in the Bible, they do exactly what modern-day scribes and Sadducees and Pharisees do. They ignore the truth of the scriptures, and they want to get rid of it. So back then they wanted to get rid of Him. Today they want to tell you that that should not be in your Bible. Same crowd.

Stay with me. If they would have had what was written in the Old Testament scriptures, they never would have rejected it, but they did not believe it. Proverbs 28:5 is a great verse that we used last Thursday night, "the word understanding and all things." They would have known that the reason why it was okay for Him to heal on the Sabbath day, they would have known what it was a picture of, and they would have known in Mark 2:28 that He is the Lord of the Sabbath. The Sabbath was not given for Him to keep. He is the Lord of that Sabbath. It was given for them to keep. Why? Because it represented to them His coming kingdom. They should have known that. They should have known that.

Why? When I go back to Matthew 2, when Rome is trying to kill Him, I guarantee you the scribes and the Pharisees, they are sweating bullets. But what happens in Matthew 2? Some wise men from the east come to right where He is and bring Him gifts. Did you ever see the gifts they bring Him? They bring Him three gifts that has led people to believe that there were just three wise men. That is not necessarily true. They may have done what we all do for weddings, and they may have pooled their money and just bought three gifts. But the bottom line is what those gifts represent:

17. One of them represented the fact that He was Christ, a priest.
18. One represented the fact that He was a prophet.

19. One represented the fact that He was a king.

These are the three offices He holds. How did they know that? They are from the east. That is how Babylon went. Daniel was written out in the east back then. If you had the book of Daniel and you believed it back then, you could find where, and along with the rest of the Old Testament, if you believed it, you could find where He was going to be born, when He was going to be born, everything you could know. That is why these guys, you think they were just traveling along and they saw a billboard, "Come and see the great extravagant of the place where Christ is born"? They knew from the Old Testament scriptures that they believed exactly when, where, and where to go to see Him and what He represented. Why? Because they had the book. They believed it.

So do not tell me that the scribes and the Pharisees did not know. They knew exactly who He was. They knew exactly what He represented, and they knew exactly what He was coming to do. The fifth columnist, the fifth cherub, had infiltrated the last 400 years, just like he did in the first 400 years, to stop them. When Christ showed up, Israel was in a place that would reject Him. It is incredible, folks. It is not hard. It is just understanding what you have in front of you, being able to see it and lay it out how history always repeats itself. This is one of the single greatest unknown truths today: how Israel got into the mess they got into in John 5, because after one of the greatest miracles that pointed to everything, they were already in rejection mode.

IV. Modern Day Infiltration: Scholarship and Seminaries

Now let us learn some more lessons of history, like 1 Corinthians 10. Let us jump for just a moment right up into our time period, right before the second coming of Christ, where we live today, 2020. It is amazing that the best eyesight you should have is 2020, and we are living in 2021, and we missed 2020 and did not see a thing. I have a message on that; I will preach to you sometime.

I told you that history repeated itself two times: 400 years from Genesis 50 to Exodus 12. Then there are 400 years or so from 606 BC to the first coming of Christ. Now our 400 years will be the third time history repeats itself, and it will be 400 years from when the King James Bible comes out, right up to the point of the second coming of Christ. We celebrated the anniversary of the King James Bible in 2011, 400 years. Of course, there is always overlap with these things, but it is the same thing. That 400 years from 606 BC to the first coming of Christ, God revealed nothing other than what was already written. In our 400 years from the King James Bible coming out to the time of God, He reveals nothing outside of that book. That is all you get.

A guy told me one time, "Well, I am a prophet, I see things." I said, "Yes, especially when you smoke that stuff, you see all kinds of stuff." There are no prophets today. There are no people who see dreams and visions. A guy one time said, "I speak in tongues." I said, "Well, okay, that is good." He says, "Yes, I get revelations from God." Here is what I told him: "If you get a revelation from God that is not in the Bible, I care nothing about it. And if you spit out a revelation from God that is already in the Bible, well, what do I need you for?" It does not work. It is a thing where we had our own, we have now our part of our own 400-year time period.

Now watch this. During our 400 years, like the Old Testament captivity 400 years, where there is no revelation of man outside that God put in the book, all the Jews had from 606 to the first coming of Christ is what God had written them in the Old Testament. All you have from the time the King James Bible gets formalized and comes out and God gives it to the world, all you have is what He wrote in the Old Testament and the New Testament now that it is complete and perfect. That is the only revelation you are going to get.

Again, our fifth columnist never misses a trick. He infiltrates the church just like he did with the nation of Israel. Again, he develops two non-biblical groups for us, just like he developed two non-biblical groups, the Sadducees and Pharisees, for Israel. Now, learn the lessons of history. In your Bible, you will find this to be true, that when God set the church up, He put in two offices in the church, only two:

20. The first office is talked about, both of them are really talked about in the book of Acts. You find them again in 1 and 2 Timothy. The first office that He put into play was the office of a pastor, sometimes called a bishop in the Bible. A pastor is the guy whom God takes, and he leads the church through God's leading of him.
21. The second office that you have is the office of a deacon. You will find that they first come into play in the early book of Acts, and then they are talked about in 1 and 2 Timothy. Those are the only two offices in the church.

Everything that God does, He is going to do through those two offices. The third thing that God set up was the structure of the New Testament local church.

I do not care how screwed up the church is today, and there are plenty of them out there screwed up. That has nothing to do with the fact that God's true program in the church age went through a New Testament local church. You are going to find in the book of Acts, when everybody got saved, they did a couple of things:

22. First of all, they got baptized.
23. Second of all, they joined the New Testament local church.
24. Third thing they did is they got involved in ministry.

That is the standard process. All this stuff today about all these Christian organizations out there, I am not saying they are not good. I am saying God's program is only a New Testament local church. That is God's program. The only two identities in that that it all flows through is the pastor and the deacons. We have deacons in our church. We have pastors in our church. I am not the only pastor. We have other guys that are ordained to be pastors here. We have guys who are ordained to be deacons here. It is a thing where that is the structure. That is the way it works.

For us, what the devil did is he infiltrated the church today with a couple of non-biblical structural systems that never were put in the Bible:

25. The first one is scholarship. What do you do when you go to Bible college? I know people do not like this, but that is all right. I do not care. You need to get a grip. What happened when you go to Bible college? They teach you a whole system of terms. They will teach you soteriology. They will teach you angelology. They will teach you hermeneutics. Something

like that. In other words, you will learn a whole system of terms that nobody ever talked about in the Bible.

If you ever heard Jesus use those terms, why do you have to invent a language and a terminology that nobody in the Bible ever used? Why? Because you want to exalt yourself. What is called in Revelation 2, the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, putting yourself over the common person? Why do you have to talk like somebody so you want to impress somebody? Did Jesus ever do that? When Jesus talked to a man about his soul, did He say, "Well, I would like to talk to you about eschatology. I would like to talk to you about soteriology. I would like to talk to you. Now today we are going to feed 5,000. I am going to give you some hermeneutics." No. No. Why are people so impressed with something like that when you could not, I will give you a million dollars, you show me one of those terms in the Bible. You say, "Oh, that is talking big." You do not have that much money. I will get it together before you find it in there.

So the first thing he infiltrates is scholarship. Scholarship exists for one purpose today. There are no scholars when it comes to the Bible. Are you kidding me? There are no experts when it comes to the Bible. Are you kidding me? We are all students. We are all learning the Bible. It is a never-ending process. We may be on different levels, but we are just students of the Word of God. For a man to say, "My scholastic scholarship of the Bible," you are nuts, man. Because that leads to you deciding where God made a mistake, like in John 5 last week. Then you decided God made a mistake and should not have put it in. So you will fix it for Him and take it out. God is going to fix some things for you one day. That is the way it works.

It is a thing where, I tell you this all the time, we get on the Catholics because they worship dead saints. Well, Baptists worship live saints. They think that because a man has an education or whatever, and he has got a PhD and a doctorate of any degree, that that makes him really spiritual. That does not make you anything. What makes you spiritual is you in that book.

26. The second thing he did was the Bible seminary movement, the Bible college movement. Again, I hate to be the bearer of bad news. These guys, if you, sometimes he says, "Well, I went to Bible," okay, fine. Could you show me the first Bible college in the Bible? Of course you could not. The first Bible college in the book of Acts is found in Acts 19, the first place where you find a school for somebody teaching people the Bible. And they are teaching against what Paul is preaching. There you go.

Why am I against Bible? I am not against Bible colleges. I am just pro-local church. It is our job. It is why we have a Bible Institute that you do not come to. That is why we do everything we can to give you. It is our job. It is the church's job. It is the church structure through a pastor and deacons. They do not farm that out to somebody, but just like Israel farmed it out to the Sadducees and the Pharisees. Why? Because the fifth columnist got in and he infiltrated it.

All this stuff, I call these guys, if you go over to Matthew 13:33, it talks about that there is the faith, the true faith, and then the devil mixes in leaven. Remember that story? So I call these scholar guys and all this stuff who jump the Bible, I call them Satan's little hamburger helpers. You know what a hamburger helper is, do you not? You have real meat hamburger, and then you

put the helper in it so you think it tastes better. That is what these guys do. They just destroy the real meat. You do not need it. You do not need it at all.

This thing all happens around the turn of the century, with the neo-evangelical and the new orthodoxy and the charismatic movement. They all come into existence for one reason: they want to take the Bible out of your hand and tell you you cannot understand it. So you have to get an educated scholarship before you can really figure out the Bible. If you do not, you are just an old West Virginia hillbilly that you need us to tell you what God's Word means. That is where you are today. They do the damage of destroying the church and Christianity just like they did in the 400 years. History always repeats itself, taking the Word of God from them. So when Christ showed up the first coming, they had no idea. When He shows up the second coming any day now, God's people have no idea.

So we see this man last week who is impotent, he has got no power. He is blind. He cannot see anything. He is halt. He is withered. That is Israel's spiritual condition at the first coming of Christ, but that is the body of Christ's condition at the second coming. It is absolutely imperative if you are going to go anywhere with God in the day and age that we live in and not get compromised. I am telling you right now, you do not need to worry about most of God's people who are really sincere and love the Lord. You do not have to worry about going back to the world. You have to worry about getting infiltrated from the inside. The handwriting is in Daniel 5:5-12, it is on the wall.

God's people today, through this fifth columnist, this fifth cherub, they have been disarmed. He took the greatest thing from you, the Word of God. When he took the Word of God because they would tell you, like I told you last week, that John 5, that story should not be in your Bible, that when Origen took the real clear, clean manuscripts and altered them in over 60, 70,000 places, he did not believe that Jesus Christ was really God. So he took all those verses out. He did not believe you got saved by the blood. So he took all those verses out. When he was done, he cut it down. There was not much left. But that is held up today as the great teachings.

Once they disarmed God's people, then they deceived God's people. Because now God's people thought this was truly Christianity. This is the way it should be. I am going to tell you right now, I probably understand that. The word understanding, we had a landmark Bible study last Thursday night. I do not think we will ever look at the word understanding the same way again. But I am telling you right now, I understand that. I know human nature. I know me. Human nature is something we all have to get over. Because human nature likes the idea that you do not have to really study your Bible and get into that and be a workman, that you can let somebody else claim to be it and just read their little tidbits and get what they got. You do not have to do the work yourself. You have to fight against that. Because fundamentally, we are all lazy. Fundamentally, we are all rotten. And fundamentally, we will take the short stick of God every time we can, unless you change that about you. You have to do the work.

So once he disarmed God's people, then it was easy to deceive God's people. That is why you have people everywhere today believing some of the goofiest stuff you ever saw in your life. If you put an open Bible in front of them, they could not prove what they are trying to believe, but

life depended on it. Because they got disarmed. When you get disarmed, you get deceived. What happens then? Once you get disarmed and once you get deceived, it is only a matter of time. Because you have no power in your life, you have no work in your life, you have God doing nothing in your life. It is only a matter of time you get discouraged.

This is where God's people are today. God's people ought to be living on top of the mountain, especially at a time period we are living in. But they are not. They are the most discouraged, broken people you ever met in your life. Why? Because there is no power. God is not doing anything. They are just like the folks around the pool of Bethesda, just laying around with all their infirmities hoping, "Today be my day I can get in the water." It is not going to happen. Once both Israel in the Old Testament and the church in the New Testament lost their Bible, then they lost the ability to understand anything about God. They lost the ability to discern anything that is going on around them. Then they get in this big fog, this big gray mush called Christianity, where nothing is real. We all get along. We all want to do this. We all want to do that. Our modern-day Pharisees and Sadducees have again made an alliance with Rome just like they did at the first coming of Christ. Go look at the Catholic Evangelical Accord that I talked to you about a couple of weeks ago.

V. The Power of Understanding in the Last Days

Outside of salvation, the single greatest thing that you can ever put into your life will be the word understanding. Getting to the place in your life as the Bible says in Proverbs, you understand all things, and that only comes from your relationship in the Word of God. Understanding will be what God is doing in any given situation. It is our ability to look through the fog and the smoke screen that the devil is putting up that other people get lost in and lose their way. I like the movies today about submarines. When they are going underwater and another submarine locks on with their torpedoes and fires them, and they say, "Fire countermeasures," and out the back of the sub you see this goo and gauze stuff, and when the torpedoes go in it, they lose direction, and they are just, they cannot find their target, and they spin around, and they just get on their way, and they cannot, once they get in that, it messes up their sensors, and they cannot, they lose target acquisition, and they cannot hit the sub anymore. They just go on their merry way.

I have watched that a lot of the time. I say, "That is exactly what the devil did." We are God's torpedoes, and God has launched us toward a target that He wants us to hit. The devil did countermeasures. So we are like those torpedoes. We are just going around in a fog, and we never hit anything. I am telling you. It is a thing where, outside of salvation, that is the greatest thing.

The greatest example I can give you this, and this really does not have to do with John 5, but it is an example that shows you the illustration of understanding in John 5. The greatest example of this today is what is coming all around us: the UFOs. The background is so simple if you follow it at any time. We have been lied to for the last, it is obvious now that we have been lied to for the last 70 years. It is all coming out. I had an original copy of the, back in the 70s and the 80s, the Air Force put out a book called Project Blue Book. It was a listing of all the UFO activity. I

have a copy of a Blue Book, and I read some of this stuff, and it was crazy. There was stuff that was undeniable.

Let me tell you, when you get four lights that are coming and they are zinging in and out of water towers, and the Air Force investigates and says it was Venus rising early. When Venus starts zooming in and out of water towers, it is time to go home. I think all the way back in 1951, a P-51 pilot was chasing a UFO, and he is on the radio, Mandrell or Bandell was his name, and he is chasing this in a P-51 with not much chance of catching it, but he is chasing this thing up there, and he gets into the clouds, and he got radio contact with him, and then he goes dead. They found his plane scattered over 30 acres. They said it was instrument malfunctions. I am telling you, we now know Roswell was true. I taught it 20 years ago. We now know that all these things now, why now? For 70 years you said we were nuts. Now suddenly we are not nuts anymore? They want you to be nuts when they want you to be nuts. But why now? Why with everything going on around in the world and Netanyahu being booted out and now Israel going over the edge and what is going on in the world and what is going on around here? Oh, I have something for you. The best is coming. Just give me a second here.

Now they are undeniably real. For a minute, forget the government and all that stuff. It is fine. They do what they always do. But let me show you how understanding will work today if you are a Bible believer. This is also all down through history, but this is very fresh to us today. The other night, Thursday night, I talked about knowledge, wisdom, and understanding. I talked about that any unsaved man and Christians can have knowledge and wisdom. You can know facts, knowledge. You can have wisdom that is facts applied in anything. But you cannot get understanding because understanding only comes from God.

So you can have the first two, whether you are saved or you are lost, but you will never put it all together as God is doing until you get the book that has understanding. That is why in the book of Proverbs you find understanding over and over and over again. But when you get into the book of Ecclesiastes, and I will just give you this free, you get into the book of Ecclesiastes, which is now the world, you do not find a word understanding until the end chapter. He is talking about something else, but in the book itself, where he goes through all the "ologies" of man: socialism, pragmatism, all of them, fascism, humanism, liberalism, communism, democracy, all of those, no understanding. Because understanding can only be found in the book of Proverbs. You do not have to pay for that. I will not charge you for it. You can just have that. But you start to look at those things, and understanding has to come from God.

So these guys and everybody around it, you have these F-16 pilots, and these guys are chasing these things, and they get facts, and they get knowledge. They are there, they see them on the radar screen. They get wisdom. They are doing left-hand turns that pull 100 G's that no plane can do. They are going five times the speed of sound. No plane on Earth. They have the facts, and they have the wisdom. They just do not know how to put it all together because they have no understanding.

I am not the smartest guy in the world. In fact, I might claim the fame as I was the dumbest, smartest one in the slow class. But having said that, it is easy to see. Nobody can or will trace

these guys that are going on around us back to Genesis 6. Your scribes and your Pharisees, if you took Genesis 6 with the sons of God coming down and everything that happened, and then you add to that:

Matthew 24:37

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

There were giants in the earth back then, and it is going to be the same way before He comes. If you can make those connections, you would understand completely what you have, but they cannot. They do not believe the book. The Bible scholars tell you that the sons of God in Genesis 6 will save people, marry unsaved people. That is what they get out of it.

Of course, when you know your Bible, you know it is something different. When you do, and you can apply the scriptures to the time that we are living in, you have understanding. The complete compaction of what God is doing from start to finish, but your scribes, your Pharisees, your Sadducees, and your Pharisees told you now for 130 years, you cannot believe that. That is an example of how understanding works. You see something going on around you, you know that God is God's program, and then you see that history repeats itself. I gave you three times today, and then he tells you:

Matthew 24:37

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

Go back and look what happened in Noah. Learn from history. But you will never get that from the modern-day scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees.

VI. The Coming Giants and Persecution

All this ties into Rome. All this is part of the infiltration, the disinformation of the fifth columnist, just like he did with Israel, and their 400 silent years. He is doing it today in our 400 silent years. For the devil, the goal today is the same goal as back in John 5. He wants to persecute the Lord Jesus Christ and destroy it and get rid of Him today like it got rid of Him back there. In John 5 and the rest of the book of John, they got rid of Him by crucifying Him, did they not? Well, He is already dead and crucified and rose again, so they cannot crucify Him again. But John 1 says:

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

So the way they are going to kill Him in our 400 years is get rid of Him in the book. Same system. Clearly rejecting the clear biblical teachings. Hang on to your hats, folks. The Giants are coming.

I got a video this week of a publication that in Europe, they are building 100-foot statue giants. It is being put out that in 2021, they are going to be in 21 cities. They are 100 feet tall. Yet they say

that there is nothing like it on planet Earth, and they are saying this is an introduction to the Giants. It is right there! 100 feet tall, and if you went in, what it is designed to do, it is kind of like a hologram. You can project on its face and its body all your superheroes. Genesis 6. If you want to be portrayed on it, you go in this little booth, and the hologram puts your image on that 100-foot image, and they say, "Become one with the Giant."

Now why now? I do not think that ride will show up at Worlds of Fun. It is a statue. It is an image. Daniel 2. That is a hologram that will project the sons of God on it. It moves its arms. It moves its head. It will speak to you. The big billboard is "Awaken the giant that is within you." It will be put in 21 cities in 2021. And it says, "People of the world. Welcome to the Giants." Now do you think that is just a coincidence? I am telling you folks, I do not know where your head is at. But you better get it up and eyes open and ears up, pal. Because this thing is moving faster than a hungry giant coming home for lunch. It is going to be all over this place.

The only question we have to answer, which I do not really know the answer because there are not all the pieces to put it together, is how much are we going to be involved in this as the body of Christ. But it is right there at the door now. They are telling you they are building Giants to introduce you to Giants that you can put your superheroes on their face, or you can go in and become one with a giant. If that shows up at Union Station, I will not be taking a group down there. But that is where we are at.

Understanding. Realizing that they wanted to get rid of Jesus Christ at the first coming of Christ because the devil wanted his kingdom. Now in our 400 silent years, the devil is destroying everything that we are trying to do. Because he wants to get rid of us, get rid of the Bible, and everything with it. Here is the scary part or the good part, depending on how you look at it. The goal today is the same goal as back in John 5. The people rejected Him, so they persecuted Him. Today, since He is not here, but He is inside of you, they will persecute you.

So today, if the rapture does not come soon, and I do not know, the jig is up on it. It is causing you to rethink the whole position because things are moving so fast that things are changing beyond belief of anybody who could even believe that it would happen the way that it is happening. So if the rapture does not come soon, they cannot kill Him. They cannot persecute Him. But if He is inside of you, brother, we may become the target. I am just telling you, if you think this world is going to be any friend to Christianity, the way it has gone, no more than it was at the first coming of Christ.

Here is the real danger. This is why the Bible says in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John that you have mothers turning against sons, fathers against children, sons against their parents. Because it is the infiltration. If there ever was a time when a Bible-believing church, no matter where they should be, should be tight together and whole together, it is the day and age that we are living in, because I am telling you right now, friend, there will come a time when all we are going to have is each other. I realize that this probably cut this church down to 40, 50 people when things start popping. But that is okay. God always got the job done with a remnant. I am just telling you, it is everywhere.

So when you see John 5 today, I want you to understand that in the first message, He did a great miracle, but now they reject it. Now you can see how the devil's plan, the fifth cherub, the fifth columnist, was to infiltrate everything that he did and how history repeated itself in Genesis 50, 606 BC, 1611. It is repeating itself again from Genesis 6 to where we are today.

Matthew 24:37

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

If you do not have understanding, if you do not see it, you will never be prepared for it. That is why we are living in the days that we are living in, and God's people need to be paying attention to where we are at because it is not going to get any better.

I will hold up there. Next week, we are going to get in there. I am going to show you why. I am sure you have a reason behind it. We will get this thing from history parallels. When you are done with John 5, you will have a good understanding of it as it goes from there.