

I. The Significance of John Chapter 5 and the Attack on Families

John chapter 5 has proven itself to be a key chapter that really deals in particular with the first coming of Christ. As you go through this, you are going to see how what was going on back then has really affected everything in Christianity today. I want to try to get you to see that.

I know today is Father's Day, and every church around the world today is talking about fathers and doing Father's Day messages. When Mother's Day came, I gave you a great message on the truth, and I want to do the same thing today. I wish that all fathers who claim to be saved did everything they were supposed to do with their children. That would be ultimately in a perfect world. We know that doesn't happen. I have spent my whole life in ministry, and many of you, when you came here, you had issues, and you have gotten through it, and your family is doing great. God really has done some things for you, and you are an invaluable part of this ministry.

Needless to say, in the day and age that we live today, that is an exception and not the rule. We see the attack today is against families. There is no question about that. We know why, because we have talked about that before. If the devil is going to destroy the family, he is going to start with what should be the head of the family, and that is the father. It is a key aspect that when we are looking at this stuff in John chapter 5, and I will keep reminding you as we go through this, I want you to see today from what was going on back then.

In our first message, we saw one of the most powerful miracles in the Bible: the moving of the water there at the Pool of Bethesda. I showed you how it illustrated for us Israel's spiritual condition at the first coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, really showing us through this story about a certain man, Israel's infirmities.

Him being impotent, which we know is powerless, having no power.

Him being blind, which is no spiritual insight.

Him being halt, which illustrates no real walk with God.

And then, of course, him being withered with no work.

These are the people that are laying around that pool. I showed you how that was absolutely historically true back in Jesus' time in this story, but inspirationally, it is a picture of where we are at today. You cannot miss the parallels between what happens in the Old Testament and where we are at today.

II. History Repeats Itself: The Devil's Infiltration

Last week, we saw how Israel rejected Him, didn't we? I have said for many, many years when I look at people, not just dads, but moms and kids and everybody, I say to myself, "Jesus is the

only man in the world who never did anything to anybody, but yet nobody wants anything to do with Him." We saw how Israel rejected Him last week. They rejected Him in the face of all the Old Testament scriptures and the sign gifts that they were told to look for that would identify Him so there would be no mistake.

I showed you one of the greatest single truths of the Bible that I hope, if you get nothing else out of anything I say, I hope this one thing permeates in your mind forever. That will simply be the greatest single truth that you will ever find about figuring things out, and that is the fact that certainly history will always repeat itself. We saw in the book of Ecclesiastes chapter 1 where he says there is nothing new under the sun. He says, "Somebody will come and say, 'Wow, look at this, it is brand new.'" And he will say, "No, no, it has been around a long time." History goes through a repetitiveness. I say it all the time; I have heard it said all my life and all my ministry: the only thing that men never learn from history is the fact that they never learn anything from history.

In John chapter 5 last week, I showed you three times in history how in this one area with Christ here, dealing with Israel in particular, history has repeated itself. The devil, whom we know from last week as the fifth cherub, our fifth columnist, will be a key player in the cycle of that history so you can track him. He has in the Old Testament destroyed the nation of Israel. In the New Testament, he has destroyed the New Testament church. In both cases, he did it through the families.

People scratch their heads sometimes and wonder why it was such a rigid thing with children back in the Old Testament. If you had a boy or a girl who was 15, 16, 17 years old in the Old Testament and they were rebelling against their parents, the parents would deal with them to a point, and then to no avail, they would take them before the elders. The elders would try to deal with them, and if they rejected that, they would simply take them out, put them in a hole, and stone them. People look at that and they say, "Wow, that was pretty barbaric back there." Well, you are missing the point. Back in the Old Testament, as in the New Testament, God's program, His system, revolved around the families. I love that from Abraham. It was so key. You lose the family, you lose Israel. In the New Testament, you lose the family, you lose the church. So that is just where it goes.

It is a tragedy. We have seen that all through this cycle of history; you can track him. He has infiltrated both the Old Testament and the New Testament, every aspect of God's structure, whether it is Old Testament Israel as a nation or the church today. He took from both of them the single thing that they needed to survive.

III. Understanding the Devil's Garment Changes

In the book of Job chapters 41 and 42, I know I have told you this many, many times, you have four definitive passages on the devil in your Bible. Everything you need to know or wherever you need to go, you find in these four chapters. There are two in the Old Testament and there are two in the New Testament. The two in the Old Testament are Job chapter 41 and Job chapter 42.

The two in the New Testament are Revelation chapter 12 and Revelation chapter 13. You get those four chapters down on both sides of the cross, and you will have some information.

It is all rejected today, I might tell you, by scholarship, by the big-time preachers, by the Bible colleges, by the men who hold themselves up as the great scholars of the Word of God; they reject all that stuff. They would not believe anymore that Job 41 and 42 has anything to do with the devil than Revelation chapter 12 and 13. Back there in Job chapters 41 and 42, it talks about a behemoth; it talks about Leviathan. We know that is defined in the Bible as the devil, but when scholarship gets a hold of it, it tells you it is an elephant or a whale.

It is one of those things where it is an incredible, incredible thing to just get your Bible down. Job 41:13 to me is probably about the devil, is probably the greatest single verse anywhere in the Bible that should be an eye-opener for anybody. He says there:

Job 41:13

Who can discover the face of his garment?

I have taught you this before, and I am certainly not going to get into it this morning, but you cannot separate the Bible from history. They go together. If you will take your Bible and you will understand Job 41 and 42 and Revelation 12 and 13, you will find when it deals with these garment changes, down through the history of man, from Genesis to where we are at and beyond, there have been seven; there will be seven garment changes. Seven places in history and in your Bible where the devil will change his garments to appear to be something else, but his face always stays the same. We use the term "face value." That is a Bible term. You never look at the devil and Satan as he is doing his destructive infiltration work at the way the garments are. You take him at face value.

As he does that, he infiltrates God's plan to destroy it and to stop it. We have seen this over the last couple of weeks. The key, as far as I am concerned, is that most of God's people will fall into three categories.

1. You will find those who care really nothing about the Word of God, and they would not open it if their life depended on it.
2. You find those who play with the Word of God, but they do not really ever get into it; it is just a plaything.
3. And then you have people like many of you. You search the Scriptures. You go after the Bible. You are a workman that needs not to be ashamed that the judgment is made of Christ because you actually get into the Scriptures.

When you do that, the key for you will be understanding, not just understanding all things like we talked about, understanding how and when he changes garments. Because it is absolutely key. It is absolutely key for your success today, not only for this church, but in your family, certainly if you are a father.

The infiltration, we talked about this last week, started way back. The devil's plan from the very beginning was to stop God's plan. So all the way back in Genesis chapters 1, 2, and 3, God put

Adam and Eve down in a garden. He had a plan for them. That plan was going to be fulfilled as God gave them the instructions and told them what to do. What happened? The devil showed up, and he stopped God's plan. He took away, or he thought, he took away what God was going to do, and he messed up the garden. He threw man into sin. Of course, when I am saying all that, he did not stop God because God just kind of sidesteps it, and God knows what is going to happen. God uses everything. When the Bible says, "All things work together for good to them that love God or are called according to your scriptures," He means all things. All things in the Bible, no matter whether Absalom does it, the devil does it, Saul does it, Solomon does it, God uses it for His work to good. You have to understand that.

We see how that there again, we have the first picture. Adam is a type of Christ. Eve is a type of the church. She came out of him. You came out of Christ. God took Eve out of the side. That is where he came from. When Christ was on the cross, that Roman soldier put a spear in the same part of His side, and just as in Genesis, the Eve came out of the type of the church through His death on the cross through that side. There, when blood came out, became the church. So it is a picture all the way through there.

What happened? The day that the devil destroyed God's plan, or thought he did anyhow, he showed up with Eve when Adam was not there. I do not know where Adam was, but he was not at home, and it was by that deception that she got to see. That is a picture of the church age. Christ is up in heaven right now. He is not here. In fact, when Paul wanted to make a reference to the church, you and me, over there in 2 Corinthians 11, when he wanted to make a reference to that, you know what he used? You and me in the church being beguiled and being deceived. You know what he used? Adam and Eve. He says, "As the devil beguiled Eve." So we see that it goes all the way back.

Then we saw it, and I gave you this last week, from Genesis 50 to Exodus 12. You have that 400 years or so, about 430, while they are down in Egypt, and the devil has infiltrated the promised land to keep them out. I showed you also in 606 BC, when they go into their captivity up to the first coming of Christ, you have another 400 and some odd years, and now the devil is doing his work again to destroy everything that he had. We had a question about the Apocrypha Thursday night. This is the time period that the Apocrypha is written in.

Then I showed you that the third 400 years, and our third little picture here, will be from 1611 to today. We talked about the additions of the King James Bible Thursday night and went through all of that. So we see three times history has repeated itself in particular: Genesis 50 to Exodus 12, 606 BC to the first coming, and then today for us. Last week, I showed you how the devil infiltrated Israel, their 400 years, by bringing in the Sadducees and the Pharisees, and then corrupted the priesthood and the scribes. By the way, that is garment change number three on your list. The reason, the purpose, was to blind Israel to God's truth, 2 Corinthians 4:4, by the god of this world.

Then I took you to our 400 years and our own infiltration from 1611 to 2011 and on. And how the devil again corrupted the church by adding our own non-biblical participants in by satanic implants to destroy the church. We talked about that.

IV. Going Behind the Scenes: The Wizard of Oz Analogy

So now, so far, we have studied John chapter 5 for a couple of weeks now.

4. The first week, the great miracle.
5. Last week, we saw their total rejection of Him as their Messiah.

Now today, I want to go to the third aspect, and I want to show you why they rejected. I want to show you why Israel, in the face of everything that they had, why they rejected. What is really going on here? One of the things you are going to have to learn about the Bible, and you will get there in time if you stick around here, one of the things that you are going to learn about the Bible is the ability to go behind the scenes. Nothing in the Bible is at face value. There is always something working behind the scenes that you want to learn to be able to look at. My job is to help teach you how to go behind the scenes.

One of my favorite movies is the old 1939 film with Judy Garland, The Wizard of Oz. Everybody has seen that. It is a classic. Everybody likes it. Most people, I do not know if you know this, but about eight or nine years ago, the last Munchkin died. He did not get any bigger; he just died. But those are those little guys. I have always liked it. I always did. I just thought it was good. I mean, when I was a kid growing up, I watched it. My mom would yell at me because I would go around the house going, "Oh, ee, oh, oh, oh." My kids grew up watching it. But by the time my kids were watching it, I learned a great truth. It is something that I carried with me, and I have tried to instill in the parents too. My kids watched it one time. It shows you how old nature prevails over what God wants to do. They watched that one time, and they knew after watching it one time, they knew the songs, "Off to See the Wizard." They knew where Kansas was. They knew who the Tin Man and the Scarecrow and the Cowardly Lion were. They were walking around the house, "It is off to see the wizard," and putting it down back and forth. I thought to myself, "There it is." One time they watched that movie, and they had it all down. I have tried to work with them now for months to learn memory verses. It is easier for your kids to pick up the world than it is the Word of God. You need to learn that.

Now, you would not think you would learn that from The Wizard of Oz, but I did. You ought to see what I learned from Sands of Iwo Jima. No, I am just kidding. So, it is a thing where in The Wizard of Oz, they got this idea that they are off to see the wizard. I do not know how much Bible that really is or not, but they are going on a yellow brick road. A yellow brick road is going to take them to some guy out there who has the answer to everything in life and is the great wizard. When they get there, they think that he is going to get them back to Kansas. First mistake. They are going back to Kansas, man. But anyway, to pick your Kansas, living proof that hell is full and dead men walk the earth. Come on.

So it is a thing where they go to see the wizard, and there is lightning, and they are saying, "Oh, we are finally here." You might know it, the hero of the story is Toto. Toto goes over and pulls the curtain back, and we see that the whole thing was a fraud. There was no wizard. All the things that were going on that they thought were real were simply somebody behind the scenes pulling all the strings. I am going to tell you something, folks. Everything you see going on

around you today is just simply somebody behind the curtain pulling the strings. The quicker you learn that, the smarter you are going to be, and the less deceived you are going to be. Understanding in reality will take you inside the dressing room when he is changing garments. Understanding in reality will be just our ability to go behind the events and read what is really going on. You see that that is the key. That was the key to Israel. They had no idea what was going on at the first coming of Christ because somebody was behind the curtain pulling all the strings.

Just like in The Wizard of Oz, they went there to see the Grand Wizard, and he did not exist, and everything was an illusion that he was doing behind the curtain. What you are seeing today in New Testament Christianity is an illusion. This is why families are broken. This is why fathers fail. This is why mothers fail. This is why people have their kids, and they get saved. There is a great lesson that you ought to learn about first and second thermodynamics, in particular, the law of enthalpy. Things left in themselves do not go up; they go down. You will find in an average family when the mom and dad, or dad or mom or whatever, do not do what is right, they may get saved, but they do not do what is right. The next generation of kids will be worse off than they are. Then the next kids after that will be worse than the kids before, and that thing will degenerate right down the line.

I have seen great preachers who really had a good handle on the Word of God and really were great preaching, but they did not do what was right with their kids. After they were dead, their kids fell out of church, quit doing what was right, got messed up, and all kinds of stuff. Two generations later, they all married unsaved people, and that great preacher, whoever he may have been, they all forgot who he was. You know why? Because things left in themselves do not go up; they go down. Let me tell you something. If God does not inject Himself into your life, you are not going up; you are going down. If God does not continually inject Himself into your marriage, into your family, into your kids, they are not going up; they are going down. You can pretend you are at Oz, and the wizard is pulling all the strings, but behind the scenes, it is a disaster. It is just the reality of life. I am sorry. Happy Father's Day. It is a reality of life.

All through history, all through the Bible, it is so simple. You see all the stuff, and you read all the stuff, and oh my goodness, you could read volumes and volumes and volumes on world history, American history, European history, English history. What a boring thing that is. You could go, and I read them, and you could go through that stuff on and on. Let me cut it all down for you. All history, I do not care where it is, there is nothing more than God moving in a direction to accomplish His plan and the devil moving in opposition to stop it. Now, you can pick up your PhD on the way out, and you are good. But that is just what it is. Nothing in the Bible is at face value. There is always something going on behind the scenes.

Just as God hid Himself from Israel at the first coming of Christ, you find that in Matthew chapter 13, He hid Himself from the nation of Israel at the first coming of Christ. He has done the same thing today. God's people cannot find Him, just like they could not find Him at the first coming of Christ when He was right there. Why? Because they rejected what He gave them. Without the Word of God, my friend, you are blind. That is why God's people today, dads today,

moms today, families today, they are just like this guy here in John chapter 5. They have no power. They are blind. They have no work. And they have no walk.

I like movies. I like good movies. I know there are a lot of preachers that say you should not watch movies, so I do not. I watch films. I remember years and years ago, I was working for a pastor, and I had to get up, and they were showing Christian films on Saturday night for people to come. Those goofy things that they used to make back in those days. I had to make the announcement for it because I was in charge of it. So I got up and I said, "This Saturday night, we are going to have a conversation about a movie," and "we want you all to come," give the name of it, I forget what it was, and all those things. Afterwards, the pastor pulled me aside and he said, "Don't ever say that that way again." I said, "Say what?" He says, "Don't ever call it a movie." I said, "What are you talking about?" He says, "It's a film." I said, "Oh, I got it." You see, here it is. When you say "movie," God goes [makes a sound]. When you say "film," God goes [makes a sound]. It is stupid.

I grew up in a day where, you guys do not have this problem now, but I want to tell you, back in my day in Canton, you would never get to play softball or not because your hair was too long, and you got that, whatever that is, your hair, right? Your hair had to be over the top of your ears. You could not touch it. You were out. You would be gone. That was another thing. We had hippies back then. How many know who hippies are? Okay, I got a better question. Back in the day, how many were hippies? Carlene, were you a hippie? You look hippie to me. I do not know. I thought maybe you guys met at Woodstock or something. Anyway, I am just kidding.

I figured it out. I watched a guy preach one time, and he got lathered up. He was really going to town. He did not have a lot of hair. He was kind of like Woody. He did not have a lot of hair. But by the time he was preaching, his hair was all down in his face and everything. Immediately, I got the revelation from God. You or the hippies could not come to church because the hair was too long. So I said to myself, "You see, when your hair goes over this way, God is not pleased. But when that hair goes down in your face, it is okay." So it was not hair; it was the placement of hair. I learned how goofy it was. It is a thing where I am telling you, you see these things, and you understand these things, and pretty soon, man, it is just crazy.

So God hid Himself with the first coming of Christ, and He has hid Himself now. So what churches have done, what pastors have done, they come up with this goofy stuff to replace the Bible. I like movies because, especially the—I loved The Da Vinci Code. Remember that one? And then there was the one—oh, there was National Treasure. Remember that one? Indiana Jones, all the way back to—they were looking for the Ark of the Covenant, and then they were looking for the Golden Chalice. The Da Vinci Code was a code hidden into the thing. National Treasure was based on the Masons and all this stuff in Washington. I saw a thing the other night on Nostradamus, that great guy who lived back in whenever and saw all these future events, and wow, what a great thing he is.

They have the Masons who are a secret organization, who—everything is a mystery, and you have to do all kinds of stuff to get to be a 32nd-degree Mason. I guess—and then you have the Shriners that wear little goofy little hats, drive the little go-karts around in a parade, have the

bumper stickers, "Need help, call me, I'm a Shriner." Things like that. I am not fighting it, but all of that stuff was mystery movies. Now, they are all satanic by design, and they are satanic by design. I am not saying they are bad, and you should not watch them, but I am saying everything in those movies was coded. Everything in those movies, there was a mystery. You had to find the code to get the truth about the movie. That is what made them great. I mean, that is a lot better than Texas Chainsaw Massacre where there is no plot to it. They just cut everybody up with a chainsaw. No, I like that. Nothing better for me to see teenagers get hacked to pieces with a chainsaw. I love that stuff. But there is no mystery to that. It is just, "Whoa," and off you go, man. Excuse me, break up, I did not mean to get that all over you. But yeah, it is okay.

But it is a thing where, you know, I love those kind of movies. But they are all fake. They are all designed to hide the real book of secrets from you. That will be the Word of God. The Bible is the true mystery book. Agatha Christie made a lot of money on her mystery novels of "whodunit." You know that is all throughout the Bible, "who is doing it?" You realize that there are 12 mysteries in the Bible given to Israel, and there are seven given to the church, and they are all coded. Everything else is a phony counterfeit to the real section of life and history and God and the devil. The Bible is the greatest book of secrets and of coded messages that you will ever find. If you are ever going to learn your Bible here, you are going to have to go through and learn how to decode it. No, I am giving you the keys, key words, key phrases, context. I give you all those things. But God's secret in breaking the code is only given today to a select few, just like who He was only given to a select few back in the first coming of Christ, based on understanding.

Remember last week, Proverbs chapter 2:1-4, the six things you do or seven things you do to get understanding, the prayer in Psalm 119. Of course, this is the key to this book of secrets. There is always a key. The key for this is in Revelation chapter 3:7, the key of David. Secrets to us from God's secret book.

Now I talk like this, and there is somebody out there, I guarantee you, "Well, gee, I just don't know about that. I think he is struck and think, 'All right, turn over to Deuteronomy 29:29.'" Let me get your elastic back in shape. It says in Deuteronomy 29:29:

Deuteronomy 29:29

The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.

You know why somebody will scratch their head and say, "Well, I don't know if the Bible is a book of secrets," because God never gave you any. When it comes to that book, you are as blind as a bat backing in backwards. You just do not get it. Yet on top of that, God will out of the book of secrets give and reveal them to you. Things that He will not give to anybody else, but He reveals them to you because of the way you approach the Word of God. Hey, and then when you get them, you pass them on to your kids. Happy Father's Day. The greatest gift you can give your children will not be a new bicycle. It will not be to buy them a car at graduation. It will not be to buy them a dress for prom. It will not be to buy them a suit and a tuxedo, or buy them a new

shotgun or a new fishing rod or whatever the case may be. The greatest gift you can give them is the secrets that God has given you and pass them on to your children.

Hey, I know we got a young church here with all these young kids, but I am never going to forget all you oldies but goodies. Remember back in the 50s and the 60s, there were two great television programs. One of them was Truth or Consequences. Remember that one? And the other one was What's My Line? Remember that one? You will probably still find them on cable someplace. Probably tucked in with Freddy Krueger, but they are there someplace. I remember watching those, and back in the day, I was just a kid, but once I got into the Bible, I saw the value of those things back in those days. Nobody was trying to put up, but you cannot get away from the Bible because I am going to tell yourself when it comes to life, it is either truth or consequences. You know that?

I am going to tell you something else. The TV program What's My Line? People had to guess who you were or where they are. They were blindfolded, and you had to talk, and they would ask questions, and then they would have to guess who you are. For Christianity today, there is a lot of guessing on who we are. That is based on truth or consequences. I have never seen a time when God's people have been more confused about everything in this world. That is the plan of the devil. I mean, that is his deal. That is his goal. I get that.

V. Navigating Deception: Conspiracy Theories vs. Biblical Truth

We live in a world of conspiracy theories. Every generation had its conspiracy theories. You do not know that because you do not really know history. I will go back to Abraham Lincoln. Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in 1865 by John Wilkes Booth. They went to see a play in Ford's Theatre. Anybody know what the name of that play was? I will just—if you raise your hand, if you give me the right answer, you can have whatever you want out of the bookstore. Anybody know what that play was? Well, I am going back to the bookstore and get something out of it then. Because I know. You do not know? Huh? It was not Die Hard. No, it was not Die Hard. I am sorry. Okay. We will work on that. Work on that.

He was shot in 1865. The conspiracies were everywhere that he really was not dead. You realize that they moved his grave 17 times and opened his casket to make sure he was there five times before they finally encased him in cement and put him down there where nobody could get into. Why? Because the conspiracies were flying all over the place. They were saying, "He's not really dead. He's not really dead." You hear it today. Elvis is not really dead. He is out there someplace, wearing—you know who he is because he is wearing blue suede shoes. But it is the thing where—that is the way it goes today. But I mean, imagine moving the guy's body 17 times and by 1900, opening up his casket five times to see if it is really him. Why? Because these conspiracies were everywhere that he really did not die. Incredible stuff.

In 1914, the steamship, passenger ship Lusitania, was sunk by a German U-boat. Oh, the conspiracy theories were just everywhere. She was carrying war supplies. To this day, it is the big debate. You can see it on—and then how about the Titanic? The conspiracies about that and

its sinking. I mean, oh, and then do not forget the Illuminati. The Illuminati is running the world. The Jewish bankers are running the world. I mean, it is everywhere.

One of my favorites—and I really like to know this, and when I get home to the Lord and I have the Lord's mind, I will know—Amelia Earhart from Kansas. She is right over here from Kansas. She was a female pilot, and she was flying around the world to set the world record for a female pilot and got over there by Howland Island someplace and vanished. Never heard from. Never found. But there are all kinds of conspiracies. Some say she ran out of gas. This was about 1938, 1939, and the Japanese buildup was over there in the Pacific. Where was she flying? So the conspiracies were that she really was on a secret mission for the U.S. government. She was spying on it, and so she got shot down or got forced down, and then she was a POW. They even had people that said, "I saw Amelia Earhart in a Japanese POW camp." Conspiracy. Crazy. I mean, it is just unbelievable what people will do. People get caught up in that.

How about the Philadelphia Experiment? You know what that was? In 1947, 1948? Supposedly, our American government had come through the breakthrough of doing time travel. So they took a destroyer with a crew on it, and through this time travel, whatever it is, brought it through another time and brought it back. In other words, they completely liquefied the ship down, moved it in time, and then put it back together and then took it down with the crew on it. Supposedly, when it came back, the crew that were on it were all part of the ship. Their heads were sticking out of the sides of the deal, and they got to become one with the ship. On and on and on about that stuff. I mean, it is crazy stuff. I am not saying it is not true. I am just saying, this is where it goes.

Hindenburg disaster. Lakehurst, New Jersey, back in what, 1937? The big airship Hindenburg from Germany blew up. You probably see it on the thing that blew up right as it was landing. Killed, I do not know how many people. There is a great movie on it called *The Hindenburg*, good casting. That was theories about what happened to that. "We blew it up. The Nazis blew it up." It is just crazy stuff. It goes on and on and on. People just get caught up in all that stuff.

Adolf Hitler. He escaped to Brazil or down someplace there, probably Topeka, Kansas. Nobody, it is just endless. How about the JFK assassination? Boy, there is one. You can find an old thought for you one about that. Then there are the guys and people that do not believe we landed on the moon. Now, personally, I do not really care whether we did or we do not. But yes, out there, "Well, they did not really land on the moon." There are all these things out there, and it is just, it is crazy stuff. It is fine.

Oh, 9/11, the World Trade Center. "Well, Bush blew it up." They say, "Well, you know what? That structure had to have explosives hit in it." So Bush did it, or the government did it. I have even saw one on the Internet where the aliens did it. This guy had actually photoshopped with the thing burning, little aliens running around the top of it. Crazy. Somebody said, "Well, I think Bush did it." "I think the government did it." I think God did it. How is that for you? If you know anything about your Bible.

How about the origin of COVID-19? A monkey? I mean, a bat or a Wuhan lab. I mean, it is crazy. Unbelievable. It is kind of popular now. This is about as goofy. You know the world is flat.

Not really round. The world is flat. I got guys send me stuff all the time saying, "You know what? The world's flat. It's not round." Really? I do not know your Bible very well. Bible tells you it is round, but that is okay. It is one of those things where on and on it goes.

I got people that believe that the Jews in Jerusalem right now, they are not the real Jews. How did a guy tell me? He says, "Well, the Jews in Jerusalem aren't the real Jews." And I said, "Really?" He says, "No." He says, and he went to this big elaborate thing. "But the Jews in Jerusalem are not the real Jews." I said, "Well, you better tell the Lord because when He is coming back, that is where He is coming. He does not know they left." It is crazy. I mean, it is absolutely crazy.

I got one today, I was looking this morning, they got brand new evidence now on the Shroud of Turin. You know that burial cloth that supposedly got Jesus's face imprinted in it? Now there is a whole new evidence, you see, all the technology now we can—one guy said, "We can pick a rock up out of the ground and do scientific research, and we can tell you where that rock came from and how old it is." I thought to myself, "Well, I got some dead rocks in my church. I wish I had tried to see where they came from." It is crazy.

Now they are saying this has been around for a while. We are going to see the Auschwitz, the Holocaust Museum. You know that there is a bunch of people in this country, especially in America, do not believe there was a Holocaust. They do not believe it ever happened. They believe it is propaganda. A guy told me one time, he said, "I don't believe there was a Holocaust. There's no information for it." I asked him, I says, "Who was the chief prosecutor in Nuremberg?" He did not even know. You would think if you had that kind of information, you know who the chief prosecutor was. I know who he was.

When they went into all these camps, you know what Eisenhower said? He said, "I want all kinds of pictures taken of everything here." You know why? Because someday somebody is going to say this did not happen. You know what Robert Jackson, the chief prosecutor, said in about 1950 about the Nuremberg trials? When people started to say it did not happen, he said, "You know what? I prosecuted it, and we had all of those Nazis, and they were all faced with all of those things working on." He says, "Some of them said they didn't know what was happening. Some of them said they were just following orders. Some of them said that if they didn't do what they were told, they would be killed. Some of them said that they didn't like the Jews." But he said, "Nobody, nobody said it didn't happen." Conspiracy, man.

That is what I like about the Bible. The Bible will, if you stay with the Bible, it will navigate you through all of this goofy stuff that is going on out there that God's people get so caught up in. I got pastors out there that are so conspiracy theory oriented, I do not know how they ever preach anything out of the Bible. Now see, I do not make up theories. I make observations, and I make observations of facts, and facts are hard to deny. You will find that none of these conspiracy theories are ever oriented in the Bible. They are ordered off most of God's people's new Bible, the Internet. On and on it goes. God's people have no understanding, so they get caught up in all this stuff, and they miss the greatest book that God has ever given us of secrets. The real secret book, the real book that opens up the real conspiracy that was going on in John chapter 5 and has

been going on all down through history and going on right now today. You just missed the garment changes.

VI. The True Conspiracy: The Devil's War on Christ's Deity and the Bible

Now let us look at our text today and go behind the scenes for a few moments and see what is really going on here in John chapter 5 and also the coming of Jesus to Israel and the opposition He faces from His own people. Remember now, the Bible says in John 1:11 that He came unto His own, and His own received Him not.

Now let us read John 5:17-24.

John 5:17-24

But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.

Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.

For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.

For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Help us today, help us to look at this and fully understand what is going on here behind the scenes. We love You, we ask You to take this time and to use it for Your honor and glory. We will thank You and give You the praise and the glory and the honor. In Jesus' name for sake we ask it, Amen.

Now this passage here, we find the real issue. Going behind the scenes, looking at the actions of the scribes, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the priests, the Levites, all that group. We see a mind at work who hates the Lord and God's people Israel, and you will see this in reality if you ever read Revelation chapters 12 and 13. We need to develop now an understanding of what is before us.

Briefly, let us recap what we have talked about the last couple weeks.

6. The first week, the great miracle.
7. Last week, the rejection of it.

Now I want to show you the real reason. I want to take you behind the veil. I want to take you behind the curtain of The Wizard of Oz. I want to show you the real reason for the rejection of Him and also today the rejection of His Word. The only thing men never learn from history is the fact that they never learn anything from history.

Matthew chapter 21. What a great chapter and what a great story there. In that chapter, I think you will find that it is very clear that these satanic implants that are here at the first coming of Christ that are taking the people and deceiving them, they knew exactly who He was. But I want to give you this in John 5:20 here before we look at that. John 5:20 says:

John 5:20

For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.

That verse, it says, and it is a great promise for you and for me. God is saying, "I am going to show My Son everything that I am doing." Now we know in the context historically that is Jesus at the first coming. But you and I are God's son, 1 John chapter 3. So that is a promise to you and me that God will show you and me everything He is doing, if you get understanding.

Now let us take a look at the man behind the curtain here who is pulling the strings of his satanic puppets. He will be the fifth cherub, the devil himself, the fifth columnist. Here is the verse that is the real issue in verses 17 and 18. That is why I told you to mark this.

John 5:17-18

But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.

Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

Now there is the bottom line right there. The fact that Jesus Christ claimed to be God. Now that does not mean much to most of God's people because they are so shallow in the Word of God. But it brings up the issue of the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. The first issue that you will find when you go back and look at the garments that Satan has and changes but keeps his face is the fact that the devil wanted to be God. He wanted that title for himself. The number one book in the world that protects the deity of Christ will be a King James 1611 Authorized Version. So when the devil had his Bible prepared down there in Alexandria, which comes out with the NIV and all the new ones today, he had Origen take on all the verses that have to do with Christ being God. Why? Because he wanted that for himself. So he took it out of the book that you hold in your hands because he hates that aspect because he wants to be God.

Today, as I said, if you have an NIV, ASV, New King James Bible, or whatever, you will find that all of the verses that deal with Christ's deity are either taken out or they are altered because the devil's real issue that he is moving through here with the scribes and the Pharisees and the first

coming, he wants to be God. You will remember in Matthew 4, which deals with the temptation of Christ, the devil does three things; there are three temptations before Him. The last one he does, he takes Him up and he shows Him all the kingdoms of the world, doesn't he? Then he says something to Him. He says, "You know what? If you will bow down and worship me, I will give you all those kingdoms." Now most people just read that and think, "Well, that was a goofy thing to say," but you see, you have to go behind the scenes. You have to go see what is going on. You have to see this thing not at face value. Why did he say that? Because the devil knew that at the second coming of Christ, God the Father was going to give all those kingdoms to Christ. See? So if Christ would have accepted that, He would have accepted that the devil was God because God is the one that is going to give them to Him. You have to go behind the scenes here. You have to get understanding. You cannot just go around your life and writing down a bunch of Bible verses that mean nothing to anybody. You have to get into the book yourself.

Back in Isaiah chapter 14, you want to go behind the scenes? This is where we see the beginning and the fall of Lucifer who becomes Satan. He says in verse 12 there:

Isaiah 14:12-14

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

He wanted to be God. This is where it starts. You will notice, and I have told you this before, verse 12, it says, "O Lucifer, son of the morning." That is a title to Lucifer who becomes the devil. All your new Bibles, the devil had them take out "son of the morning" and put in "morning star." That is a reference to Christ. So now, you have an NIV, and you are up there preaching or wherever you are at today, you have a Bible in verse 12 along with many others where they take the title to the devil out and put the title of Christ in. Why? Make the devil happy, kinfolk. So you can give him the honor and glory that is supposed to go to God. It is not hard. That is done by God's people. The world did not do that. God's supposedly people did that.

Look at Ezekiel chapter 28. Pick it up in verse 12.

Ezekiel 28:12-17

Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.

Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

Now verse 6 would tell us that he says that he set his heart as the heart of God. That is what he wanted. From the very get-go, all the way back, before anything is really recorded, before God puts anybody down in the Garden of Eden, he wanted to be God. So when he tries to get everything back, this is why he came to Adam and Eve. Notice that he says there in verse 13, "Thou hast been in Eden, the Garden of God." It is a long way before Adam and Eve, but there is a garden in Eden. So when God put Adam and Eve down in that same garden, that is where the devil was, and he wanted it back. He wanted that back. He wants the honor and glory of being God, and that is why when Christ shows up, they go crazy when He says He is God, because that is what the devil wants.

So we see clearly what is taking place in John 5. It started a long time ago with the devil trying to overthrow God and exalt him over to God's throne and be God himself. So when Christ says, "I am the Son of God," which made Himself God, this is what they are upset about. I will tell you today, you see the same thing. The only thing that men never learn from history is they never learn from history. Today, when you claim that the Bible you have in your lap is the absolute perfect Word of God, and it is one with God and equal with God, John 1:1, John 1:14, "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us," they will go ballistic too. It is because the crowd today, they did not want Jesus being equal with God, and the crowd today does not want that Bible, which is Christ, being equal with God.

VII. The Devil's Strategy: Destroying Families Through a Corrupted Bible

What he has always done, Old Testament or New Testament, he has infiltrated the true church, and through his fifth column of activity, today he will make none affect the Word of God. That is what he wants to do. Why? Because he wants to destroy families. He knows if the family goes, the church goes. It is just that simple.

I have read all kinds of books and all kinds of stuff over the years, and these guys get way too over their head with stuff. The devil's plan is so simple. The devil wants obviously to start at the beginning. He wants everybody in hell. He wants every one of you in the lake of fire. Do you know that? Yeah, and that is an enigma to me. Enigma is a mystery, by the way, I think. That has always been a mystery to me. You are sitting here today, and God's people all around this country and all around the world who claim to be saved, and they are living like the devil. Yet, do they

not understand that the very devil that they are serving and doing all the things that he wants is going to wind up and put them in a lake of fire? Once I realized the devil wanted to burn me like a torch for eternity, I wanted nothing to do with him. Why do some of God's people still want to be part of him? I mean, I just, I do not get it sometimes.

The devil, everybody here, from here to here, and every saved person in this city, and every saved person in this country, and every saved person in this world, the devil had one goal for you. He wanted you to burn like a torch for eternity in the lake of fire. You know what? You got saved, didn't you? Praise the Lord. I am glad that excited so many of you. You got saved, didn't you? You see, you got saved, but his main attack was to get everybody he can. He is not after the world. He has already got the world. If you think the devil is down there in the bars, in the casinos, in all those places, and down in the dregs of society, that is not where he is at. He has already got those people. They are already addicted to something that is going to keep them right where he wants. He is after you. He wants to keep men and women from trusting Christ.

I cannot tell you the chances against that lady in that rest home. She was in her 80s, wasn't she? Getting saved. Do you realize how hard that is to live 80-plus years old and then find Christ as your own Savior after 80 years of going the other way? But that is what he wants. So his main theater of operation is not the bars or the discos or the strip clubs. His main theater of operation is churches. So he wanted to establish his own church. And he did. Then he had to have ministers to staff it. And he did. Then he needed a Bible to carry it out, and he did. Through his church, defined in Revelation chapters 17 and 18, as the Roman Catholic Church, through his church, he has got billions and billions and billions and billions of people in hell.

When I started, this is really, this is hard for people to accept. I will talk to people sometimes, and I will say, "Okay, we've got to start with this. Do you believe that the Roman Catholic Church, based on Old Testament, based on Revelation 17, 18, the Lord knows how many places you can go. I mean, you were told in Matthew not to call anybody father. I mean, you could go all over the place. You were told that people are going to abstain from eating meat on a certain day and abstain from marriage in the ministry. That does not figure it out for you. I mean, I do not know what to do." So I say, "We've got to start here. Do you believe the Roman Catholic Church is Satan's church, based on the Bible?" If they say yes, then you have got something to work with. If they say no, then you just stop right there. I mean, because what you have got to say then is that everybody in these churches today are using a Bible that came out of the Roman Catholic Church. Every Bible in the market, in the world today, came out of Rome except the one that you got in your lap. So now you have got to accept the idea that God brought His Word through the devil's church. Oh, it is tough, man. I get it. It is tough.

Once you accept that fact, then you have got to realize that the devil is in the Bible business. He knows, he knows. It is so simple. Part two of his plan.

8. He wants to get everybody in hell.
9. He knows that is not going to happen. He knows that the gospel is so powerful. He knows that the Holy Spirit of God has come to seek and to save that which was lost. He knows that God is going to have churches. He is going to have preachers. He is going to have God's

people who are going to witness. They are going to win people to Christ. He knows that is not a reality.

Now he tries to pull the strings behind the scenes to get everybody to believe that his church is the only true church. That does not work because the Holy Spirit of God cuts right through that. There are a lot of God's people that get understanding, and they know, you can see the garment changes, and they go to work, and people get saved. So here is his plan. He simply says, "Oh, you got saved, did you, Bob? Yes, I did. You ain't going to get me in hell." "Well, you know, I'm glad you got saved. You know, I'm glad you're going to be a Christian. I always wanted to be by myself, but I just couldn't live it. I'm really glad that you got saved, and I'm glad for you, and I'm glad you're going to church." See, here is the plan. If he cannot get you in his church, then he will let you stay in whatever church you are in. But here is the trick. He will say, "Well, I'm glad you got saved. I'm glad you're going to a church. I'm glad you're having all those great big halftime shows up there and the lights and the smoke. I'm just glad of all that stuff. But now I hear that these churches are saying it's okay to drink, man, I'm good. But I am glad you're going to church. I really am. I don't need to get you in my church. You can stay in your Baptist church. You can stay in your neo-evangelical church. You can stay in your church that you're in there. Just use my Bible, and the damnation is done. The destruction is done."

He does not mind if you stay in a Baptist church. He does not mind if you stay in a Christian church as long as you do not use that book that makes Jesus Christ God. That is why he wants everybody else to use the other ones. I do not say this is hard. This is not hard for me to say it, but it is going to be hard for people to understand. Can you imagine that? Can you even wrap your little brain around the fact that today all across this country, all across this city, there are churches who claim to be God's churches, who claim to be saved? They probably are. Who are holding church services today with a Bible that gives the devil the preeminence of being equal with God and takes Christ out? And they are too stupid to see it. You know why? They have been blinded. They do not get it. No understanding. They never saw the garment changes. The garments may change, but what a face. They never get face value of anything. He says, "You just use my Bible and go to your church."

Revelation chapter 3:20 will take place, and it will become the church of the closed door, and I will be on the outside not going to get in because the Christ that is on the inside has nothing to do with God in a good sense. God's people just scratch their head and say, "Well, I just don't know if I accepted it or not." Hey, I do not really care whether you do or you do not. You cannot deny the facts. You absolutely have no understanding of history and what he is doing. You think all this stuff out here is God when all it is is the wizard behind the curtain pulling the strings. You think it is wonderful. You need to go get you a Toto. Maybe that is me. I will snarl and pull the curtain back and then bite the wizard on the ankles. Then he will say, "You know what, you do that. Now you lose the seven things that that old heretic Bob preaches about, you know, that when you lose the Bible. But don't worry about that. Look at the show you got. Look at the breakdancing. Look at the people up there holding that microphone like a big old serpent wading back and forth."

Here is his plan. You may be saved, but in a church or a family that does not have the Bible with a leadership, whether it is a dad or a pastor, two or three generations down the line, none of them

will be getting saved. He wins that way and walks out the door laughing. We are still there in Oz looking at the pulling of the strings. I am telling you. John chapter 5 is one of the greatest stories, chapters in the Bible that shows you the great miracles that are happening. They reject Him. But why? One little verse: He claimed to be God, and the devil went through the roof. One little verse: He claimed to be God, and the Sadducees and the Pharisees and the scribes went through the roof. One little saying: the King James Bible was equal with God and is a perfect Bible in the Word of God, and all the Bible scholars and pastors go through the roof today. He is pulling the strings. He wants to be God. God's people are so stupid that they fall right into the trap of going to churches that should be God's church with the devil's Bible that took the deity of Christ and in Isaiah 14, make Jesus, make the devil Jesus Christ. God's people just sit there and say, "Come out and say, 'Wasn't that wonderful today? Wasn't that just great? Well, that was an inspiring service. Well, the music was wonderful. I mean, it was just great. The pastor's sermon was just great today. He talked about nothing, but it was wonderful.'"

That is going behind the scenes. That is getting understanding that nothing you see in life, according to history repeating itself out of Ecclesiastes chapter 1. Nothing you see in history and life you never take at face value once you understand there is something going on behind the scenes.

VIII. God Working Behind the Scenes: The Book of Esther

I think my favorite book in the Bible is the book of Esther. Not for what the things that you would actually think, but Esther is the only book in the Bible where God is not mentioned. There is no mention of God doing anything. There is no "thus saith the Lord." His name is not mentioned one time in the book of Esther. I remember reading that and thinking to myself, "Well, that's a strange book," so I really wanted to go behind the scenes.

First thing I noticed that Esther was out of place. In your Bible, you have Ezra, Nehemiah, and then Esther. You know that is the wrong order. Probably never caught that. The right order should be in chronological events: Esther, Ezra, and Nehemiah. So the first thing that caught my attention was, "Why is that book out of place?" Now I asked a guy one time, and he said, "Well, that's because the guys when they put the Bible together, they just made a mistake." I knew that was not true. I did not know when his mom and dad decided to have him that was probably a mistake, but that was not the thing with the book.

So I started looking at that, and then I found that the book of Esther may be the only book in the Bible where God is not mentioned at all, but when you begin to look at it, you see that God is behind the scenes in every chapter of that book doing something. Then it caught me. What is happening in the book of Esther? Oh, I will tell you what is happening. A Gentile queen is being dethroned, and a Jewish queen is coming to the throne. Excuse me, backwards. A Gentile queen is being dethroned, and a Jewish queen is coming to the throne. I looked at that and I said that book is a picture of the times of the Gentiles, the last part of where we are at, because what God is doing right now, He has dethroned the Gentiles, and He is establishing the nation of Israel, the Jewish queen.

Then I started looking. There is an antichrist guy in there, Haman. There is a guy who represents the nation of Israel, and then the antichrist guy is trying to get the Israel guy killed. I saw behind this book where no God was mentioned, God was actively doing everything that He—you know what that told me? In the day and age that we are living in right now, probably from 1900 up to where we are, you do not find God doing much because everybody has rejected Him. You know what God is doing? He is behind the scenes. He may not be in churches because He is on the outside knocking to get in, church of the closed door. He will be in some churches who keep the door open because of the Key of David. But what He is doing is He is behind the scenes when it is not apparent because churches do not believe in Him anymore. They have rejected His work. They have done the same thing that Israel did. Our modern-day scribes and Pharisees and scholars and Sadducees have done the same thing to the church that the devil used to implant back in the first coming of Christ. You know what? God is still getting the job done. But you have got to go behind the scenes to see that. You have got to get behind the veil. You have got to see who is pulling the strings to give this great illusion that at face value, the world is really becoming a better place. The politics are going to make it better. That the Democrats or the Republicans or whoever is going to give you a better place to live. That the World Health Organization is going to solve all your problems. That unemployment and all the things that the government is going to do, the free education, the free—oh, what a great—that is all an illusion.

What is going on behind the scenes is that the Lord is preparing everything for His return. God's people are on the outside looking in. They have been what I said a couple of weeks ago. I told you not to be disarmed. Do not let them take your Bible. That is what the devil did. "Stay in your church, just use my Bible." When he disarmed the people, then there was nothing to keep the people from being deceived. Until they saw everything at face value, which was not true. They could not go behind the veil and see who is pulling the strings. When they got disarmed and after they got deceived, and Christianity does not work for them, and they lose their kids, they lose their marriage, they lose their own faith in God, they lose all of those things, then they get discouraged. Be not disarmed, be not deceived, be not discouraged. This is what the devil has done today. This is what you get out of John chapter 5. It shows you what is really going on here. What is really taking place. Because at face value, it just looked like a bunch of people did not like Him. But oh, when you go back and put the pieces together and look behind that curtain, there is a whole lot going on.

Next week, I am going to take this same chapter, and I am going to give you, because everybody needs to know this, I am going to give you four or five of the absolute proof out of this chapter that Jesus Christ was very God. We will talk about that next week. The devil is going to do everything he can to keep God's people from finding the truth. We are going to do everything we can to get you the truth. So let us hold up there. We are going to immediately go upstairs.