

# John 10

Sunday 1/16/2022

I pray for David and Christina as they have their new baby and get everything situated. It is always an exciting time.

## I. Recap of John Chapter 10

In John chapter 10, we have divided this chapter into three sections. That is the best way to break something down in your Bible. Sometimes you can use the paragraph marks to do it. Sometimes you can just use the flow of conversation to do it. Sometimes you can see where it switches from the doctrinal into the inspirational. You can do it that way when it changes subjects. That is what we have done. So far, as I said, we have broken it down into three sections. My goal is to give you a complete understanding of this chapter and everything that is going on here.

When you get into the Gospels, nothing is at face value. Everything there is for a reason. Christ's coming, we look at it as our Savior dying on the cross, and that certainly is true. But the bigger picture is Him coming to the nation of Israel. Most people never see that. Most people do not see that the controversy that swirls around Him is because of the rejection that takes place in Matthew chapter 12. Most people never see that. So we have broken this down to give you as much of an understanding of it as I can give you.

Briefly, as a quick recap, we first looked at verses 1 through 6. We talked about the parable of the Good Shepherd. It is a story about Christ coming down to this earth from heaven to the nation of Israel at the first coming of Christ. The key word there, and we spent some time with this, was the word "door." I showed you how that up in the second heaven, there are actually doors and windows that are there. I laid it out doctrinally how this story is about the first coming of Christ and God calling the Old Testament saints out of Abraham's bosom. This is all connected in this great parable. We saw the stranger show up. Then I showed you how it jumped from the first coming of Christ right over the church age into the Tribulation period, dealing with the Antichrist.

As I have said, I am trying to keep before you all this, doctrinally dealing with Israel at the first coming of Christ, and then going straight into the Tribulation and then into the Second Coming, showing you what God is trying to do to the nation of Israel. I explained to you what the parables were. In Matthew chapter 12, they rejected Christ. They equated the spirit by which He was doing the miracles with the spirit of Beelzebub, that is, the devil. At that point, when they made their official rejection, the kingdom of heaven now went into a mystery form. I gave you all the verses on that, which are called parables.

The second week we looked at verses 6 through 15. In this section, I showed you how Christ made the practical application to Himself as the door, even though He is not the door of verse 1. He is now using it to show that He is the only way that Israel can get salvation. He goes here from the Tribulation into the Millennial Reign of Christ, the pastor. We looked at all the verses on that, verse 9. We saw how that all worked. We defined the hireling for you in that particular week as the religious leaders of Israel that cared nothing about the nation of Israel, that were in it

for their own power, for the money they could make, for their own situation, and cared nothing for the sheep, the nation of Israel.

Then I showed you the aspect of leaven. Leaven is false doctrine. The Bible tells us that it told the nation of Israel that they were to be aware of the leaven of the Pharisees. I showed you, and then I took the application to your world and my world, how some things never change. Just as the nation of Israel, and you are going to see this in a minute, just as the nation of Israel had their false leaders that claimed to be of God but were not, had taken the Word of God from them, had taken everything that God had given them, and yet they had a form of godliness, but it was empty, without any power in it. I made the application that that is what we have today in the Laodicean church age. Pastors, megachurches out there, all they care about is what they can get from you. All they care about is what you can do for them. There is no spiritual insight into trying to give you, to help you, to be there for you in what you need. Certainly, the leaven is all through the Laodicean church period today.

Last week, we got into verses 16 through 30. We saw the references there to the other sheep. I told you that doctrinally that will be the 144,000 going out to evangelize the Gentiles in the Tribulation period. Inspirationally, once Acts chapter 7 gets rejected, the final rejection, then spiritually it is talking about the church age, us being in one body. All of this showing you that it is all to the nation of Israel, primarily. Directly, this is everything in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. It directly is going to be to the state of the nation of Israel at the first coming of Christ. We talked about sound doctrine, how doctrine is the number one thing that the Bible is built on. I took you back last week to Ezekiel chapter 34, a passage in the Old Testament, and completely validated and showed you everything that we have been looking at in John chapter 10, because it is all directed to the nation of Israel. I tied it all together for you about the shepherd and the sheep, the leaders of the nation of Israel, and the nation of Israel themselves. We saw in each one of these a better understanding of what really is going on at the first coming of Christ.

## II. The Bigger Picture of God's Plan

Through all of this, we see the bigger picture. You need to know, wherever you go in the Bible, whatever you are reading, whatever book you are reading, whatever story you are reading, whether it is a character study about somebody in the Bible, face value is going to be some great material, but I am telling you right now, there is always a bigger picture. You have to be able to go underneath the surface and see what God is really doing. We saw how God runs all this from the Old Testament up into the New Testament, into the Second Coming, and then on into the Millennium.

God's ultimate plan to reach the world. That was His original plan. All the way back in Genesis 1:1, when it starts unfolding, if you look at the bigger picture, you see that God wanted His creation to be part of His government, part of His kingdom. God's ultimate plan to reach the world with His truth. Then we see that the devil steps in to try to stop that plan. He will do it in a number of different ways. We have talked about it many, many times, but establishing the kingdom of heaven through the nation of Israel in the Old Testament, for all mankind, all of

God's creation to be part of God's plan, God's government, God's structure, which was and still is His original plan.

Sometimes, because we live in the 20th and 21st century now, and we see things around us and how different it is, and all the different things that change between Bible times and today, we fall into the trap that we think that it is actually different. It is not. Do not ever get sidetracked by the bells and whistles of life and all the things that man comes up with. God's fundamental plan is still God's fundamental plan, and He is right on track to accomplish what He wants to accomplish. We know that a real historical picture of all history can only be found in the Word of God as it applies to history. I have told you this many, many times. You cannot separate the two. You cannot take and put history over here and the Bible over here, because Gentiles have the idea that history and the Bible are about what man is doing, and that is not true. History and the Bible from God's standpoint are about what God is doing. That is the big picture you need to see. You will see this laid out in the picture all the way through the Bible.

Thursday night, someone asked a question about the books of the Bible, and I showed you how that by the order of the books in the Bible, God shows you His plan. We know that the coming of Christ is the pre-millennial return of Christ. He comes back first before He establishes the Millennium. That is mostly unaccepted today, and nobody believes that anymore, but that is the Bible teaching on it, and that has stood in the church for the last 2,000 years. I showed you how that from 2 Chronicles 36, right up into the book of Proverbs, everything is in an orderly fashion that shows you God's plan. That is the big picture, and you see that all the way through the Bible.

### III. Old Testament Kings as Types

We have talked about the Antichrist. We have talked about the Second Coming of Christ. We have talked about the Millennial Reign of Christ. We are talking about it a lot, because it is major doctrine of the Bible. But you can go back in the Old Testament, and just like the books of the Bible show you the pre-millennial return, so do many times the character studies you will take in the Bible.

Take, for instance, three kings that Israel has: the first king, the second king, and the third king.

- The first king was Saul.
- The second king Israel had was David.
- Then what do you have? Who is the third king? Solomon.

I have had people ask me, "Why did God allow Saul first and then David second?" I know the doctrinal thing, Antichrist and the Second Coming, but what is the practical application? Here again, this is where the Bible is unsearchable. The practical application is Saul was the first King. David was the second King. In your Bible, it is never the first birth that ever gets you anywhere. It is the second birth. You must be born again. You see the picture in there? Your Bible is incredible. These first three kings, just like the books that I gave you Thursday night, all point

you to the greatest doctrine of the Bible, which is the Second Coming of Christ. That is what we have got in John chapter 10.

## IV. The Devil's Operation Through Nations

I have showed you many times over the years how the devil uses nations. I have given you the two greatest chapters in the Old Testament on the devil at work: Job chapter 40 and Job chapter 41. The two greatest chapters in the New Testament: Revelation chapter 12 and Revelation chapter 13. In Job chapter 40 and 41, I have laid it out many times how he operates through nations.

In Job 41:12, the Bible says, God tells you and me:

*Job 41:12*

*I will not conceal his parts, nor his power, nor his comely proportion.*

I have told you before where the Bible says that God will not conceal his parts. That is the men that he uses down through history to stop the plan of God. That will be the Sadducees and the Pharisees in John chapter 10. It will be all the other nations that we find in the Bible that tried to stop them. Then he says, "nor his power," that will be the nations. The devil stays in power in the Old Testament through nations. In the New Testament, it changes, and he stays in power through religion. But that is another message for another day. Then it says, "nor will I conceal his comely proportion." There is his religion. It is through the nations. Those nations are listed for you in the Bible. It starts out in Genesis with Egypt. Then it goes into the Philistines, and then the Hittites, and the Moabites, and the Amorites, and the Amalekites, and the Jebusites, and all of those nations.

When you get into Daniel chapter 2, as the world expands, he expands. He runs the world through Assyria. Then he runs the world through Babylon. Then he runs the world through Persia. Then he runs the world through Greece. Then he runs the world through Rome. When Christ shows up at the first coming of Christ, right where we are at in John chapter 10, he has got the world through Rome. Now he is positioned himself in Rome, in Jerusalem. Just as God brought the Jew back, like I showed you last week in Ezra and Nehemiah, to establish that kingdom for the first coming of Christ, the devil did not miss that. He got Rome, and Rome now is in charge of Jerusalem. You know from Matthew chapter 2 and all through the early accounts, Rome was in power for one reason through the Caesars: to kill Christ. They knew the Old Testament prophecies. They wanted the wise men to show them where He was born. Why? They knew what the Bible said. There was an alliance between the scribes and the Pharisees and the Sadducees, who knew their Old Testament, with Rome. The scribes and the Pharisees and the Sadducees did not want to lose their job to this King of the Jews. That is how Herod knew. That is where he knew where to look. Of course, God's hand is all through this.

That is the big picture. If you want to go a little bit farther, we go into Daniel chapter 7, and you see the kingdoms then as it plays out, you see England, Russia, the United States of America. It is incredible. All are the powers that he uses against God down through history to stop Him. I

have told you many, many times, when Rome comes into power 100 AD, she never loses power. She just changes garments around 325 AD and goes from a political system to a religious system. On we go. Here we are today.

## V. Rightly Dividing the Word: Old vs. New Testament

Today, with all that in hand, let us look at our last section out of this chapter as we close it out. Let us look at John chapter 10, picking it up in verse 30 and then 31 down through the end of the chapter in verse 42.

*John 10:30-42*

*30 I and my Father are one.*

*31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.*

*32 Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?*

*33 The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.*

*34 Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods?*

*35 If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;*

*36 Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?*

*37 If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not.*

*38 But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.*

*39 Therefore they sought again to take him: but he escaped out of their hand,*

*40 And went away again beyond Jordan, into the place where John at first baptized; and there he abode.*

*41 And many resorted unto him, and said, John did no miracle: but all things that John spake of this man were true.*

*42 And many believed on him there.*

Father, help us today to see what is going on here. I have tried my best to give them the best appreciation of this chapter that I could. I have tried with everything in my ability to lay it out as cleanly and clearly and understandably that these good people could have a better understanding of You and the Word of God and what the Word of God means to them and how You rightly divide it. I pray now, Father, that You will bless us today. Open up our hearts, open up our minds, open up our eyes. Put us under the blood this morning. Forgive us where we have transgressed

Your law and sinned against You, Father. Help us to be clean that we might receive all that You have for us. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name for His sake we ask it. Amen.

I want you to note a couple of things here. The first thing I want you to note is that here again, He divides them. The key to understanding God in Christ is that that is what He does. The world thinks that He came to put everybody together. The liberals think that, the Methodists think that, the Catholics think that, most Baptists think that, the Neo-Evangelicals, they do not know what they will think. But the bottom line is everybody today thinks that Jesus came to put everybody together. That is not true. He tells you very clearly that He did not come to put together, He came to divide. The way you got saved is He divided you from the world. The way you got saved, He divided your soul from your flesh. After you get saved, you are to be separate, divided from the world. God cannot put anything together until He divides. So it is no great mystery to me that when He comes to the nation of Israel, there are some things that need to be divided. Then God will put them together.

I want to make some comments on this passage in a few moments. I think personally, the closing of this chapter, He gives us one of the greatest unknown or at least forgotten truths that the body of Christ will ever get. For me, and I cannot speak for you, but for me, when I read this last section, it seals the deal for me with a lot of so-called Christians. We live in a world today where everybody is a Christian. We live in a world today where in most churches, everybody claims to love God even when they have the devil's Bible. We live in a world today where God's people have no understanding of God. They are doing nothing for God. They care nothing about the things of God. Yet we are supposed to be okay that that is what a Christian is supposed to do. The thing that bothers me about Christianity today is I cannot find anywhere in the Bible a Christian that is like most of the Christians that we see today. I do not find any halfway Christians in the New Testament. They are either in or they are out. Where did this idea that there is this twilight zone that we can get saved and then not give our life to God or not be everything God wants us to be? You did not get that from the Bible. We will talk about that here in just a little bit.

I will tell you, we are living in the great apostasy. The falling away, and we have talked about this many, many times. The longer I go, the less I want to waste my time with people who just want to waste God's time. There comes a thing where if we do not have a lot of time left, I do not know when God is coming back. It may be tomorrow. It may be in the next 30 years. I do not know. But I know we do not have a long time left. I am 71 years old and I do not have a lot of time left. If God comes back in 40 years, I am finished. You will plant me like you did your rose garden in your backyard. That is true of so many of us. The older you get, the older I get, the more I see the urgency of where God's plan is. The less time I want to waste with people that do not care. You want to learn the Bible. You want to be everything God wants you to be. I will give you every drop that I have got. I will give you everything I know. I will spend whatever time it takes. But if you want to waste God's time, do not waste my time because of the urgency of the hour.

Before I get into this and make these comments on this verse, which I think is a great thing, let us go back for a moment and get the rest of what we need. We have got a lot about the big picture,

but I want to give you another dimension of the big picture. I want my people to be dialed into the Word of God and to be prepped into the Word of God in any situation in life. I want you in time to see the big picture of God and everything. I do not want you to be a nominal average Christian. I want you to be better than that. You know why? Because you should be better than that. You know why? Because you are better than that. If you are truly saved this morning, you are the aristocracy of heaven. God came down and died. God came down and paid that price for you. He did not do it so you could be of non-effect. He did not do it so you could just be like a daydreamer in your attitude. He did not do it so you could grab His salvation like a fire exit and then just do your own thing. He did it to change your life that through your changed life, you could change somebody else's life.

When the Bible tells us in 2 Timothy 2:15 that we need to rightly divide the word of truth. That is a very familiar verse. Everybody knows it. Our first basic division will be obviously the Old Testament and the New Testament. I know I brought you through dispensations and laid all those things out. Put that out over here. The fundamental first division, when the Bible says we have to rightly divide the word of truth, will be the Old Testament and then the New Testament. That sounds easy. It sounds like it should be, "Oh, okay. Well, here is the Old Testament. Oh, there is the New Testament." It is much more complicated than that. Getting the first two divisions right will be the key to everything else you need to divide out of your Bible. When you mess that one up, nothing else is going to be right. It is like if you are going to St. Louis and you are going down I-70 and then you take 13 South, you are never going to get to St. Louis. You took the wrong road. The Bible is the same way. When you start the Bible and you have to rightly divide it and you go down Highway 13 instead of going to where you need to divide it, you are never going to get there. The first tragic mistake that people make will be that they think that God operates the same way in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. I am telling you, nothing could be farther from the truth. If you do not get that first division down, you are going to be like the Chiefs this afternoon. You are going to be one and done.

Let me tell you my method to this. If I watch the whole game, they lose. If I do not watch the game, they win. If I sit down thinking we are going to really beat these guys, we lose. If I go in thinking we are going to lose tonight, we win. So I am just trying to help them out. Unfortunately, trying to help them out will be like trying to help some of you out when it comes to the Bible.

Allow me to lay out some underlying aspects of the Old Testament and the New Testament. You are all Bible believers for the most part, probably 99.999% of you. I think the vast majority of you, honestly, I do, really want to know the Bible. I know you are all on different levels. I marvel at you young people that your minds are still sharp. We have our churches, 90% under 30 and under. Your minds are sharp. You have everything ahead of you. Giving everything that we have to you is the best thing that we can do for you. Even if you are older folks, I believe that you really, really have a good handle on the Bible and you want to know the Bible. So we are all good with that. But allow me to lay out some underlying aspects to give you a complete big picture, if you will allow me this, of that first division in your Bible, because that is where we are at now in John chapter 10. We are coming up to that break-off point.

The first difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament, and I want you to get this, the real difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament, this is where it starts, will be the object of their obedience. You have to see this. It is very important.

- In the Old Testament, the object of their obedience varied from person to person based on their circumstances. You will see that God dealt with Adam one way, told him what to believe. He dealt with Enoch another way. He dealt with Noah a completely different way. He deals with Abraham in a totally completely different way. Adam was told about a tree, Enoch was told about a walk, Noah was told to build a boat, Abraham was told about the stars. When we get to Moses, he gets a totally different aspect and he gets the law now in the Ten Commandments. Then we see it go on from there. It is endless. David got the sure mercies of David. Saul did not. Solomon did not. Why did David get the sure mercies of David? Yet when we study Saul's life, our first type of the Antichrist, David got the sure mercies of David. The Bible clearly tells you, God took His mercy from Saul. God may have not taken His mercy from Solomon, but He took His kingdom from him. It is all different. Each one was told to trust God through a different object of obedience. That is the biggest fundamental difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament, because in the New Testament, the object of our obedience will be fixed on the Lord Jesus Christ and His blood atonement. They did not have that. I know you are told this all the time by guys who know nothing about the Bible, that that is why in the Old Testament, they look forward to the cross; in the New Testament, we look back to the cross. Well, I may look back to the cross, but I am telling you right now, if you actually think that the people in the Old Testament looked forward to the cross, you know nothing about your Bible. My Bible tells me that Abraham looked for a city whose builder and maker was God, not the cross. But I do not want to ruin your heresy, so just believe it at that. But in the New Testament, it is all different from the Old Testament. That is the first fundamental difference. In the Old Testament, there is nothing fixed. Hebrews tells you that in Hebrews chapter 1, God, who at sundry times and in different ways, revealed Himself in different ways. Because in the Old Testament, it is not fixed. It is not fixed till Christ comes down and dies on the cross. From the New Testament on, your obedience and my obedience are now fixed on the finished work of Christ.
- The second thing, do you ever stop and go underneath the surface and ask yourself or look at why God wrote the New Testament and the Old Testament? I mean, just at face value. When you look at it, the Old Testament was written to confuse and destroy the Gentiles in general, in particular, the Catholics and the Protestants. The New Testament was written to confuse and in time to destroy the Jews and the Muslims. That is the reason why they were written. God's underlying reason for putting that out, oh, I know there are a million spiritual things, but down in the basement where it started, right next to the hot water heater, this is what He does. What God does in the New Testament, He makes a fool out of the Jew and the Muslims because they reject the New Testament and Christ and they miss the church. Then God makes in the Old Testament a fool out of the Gentiles because through their unbelief they reject the Old Testament and God dealing with the nation of Israel. See how it works? So along with that, He will write the New Testament to mess up a Jew and a Muslim because the New Testament is a spiritual grace situation that is fixed on Christ. A Jew cannot get it because he rejected Christ, and that rejection in the Bible we are told becomes now a stumbling block for

the nation of Israel, does it not? The Bible says over there in Romans 9:33 that God taking Christ and making Him the fixed point of the New Testament became a rock of offense to the nation of Israel. You see, the Bible tells us that Jesus Christ was the chief cornerstone of God's government. When the Jews rejected that in Matthew chapter 12, that chief cornerstone, the rock of God, became a stumbling stone and they tripped over it through their unbelief. So that is why He writes the New Testament, bottom line. Then He writes the Old Testament. He writes the Old Testament to mess up the Gentiles because the Old Testament is set up after an order of a theocratic military dictatorship with Christ on the throne called the kingdom of heaven in the Bible. A military dictatorship with Christ on the throne, and they can never get it because they cannot rightly divide the Word of God, and the Gentiles today think the kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of God are the same thing. So their rejection, here it comes, their rejection of the Old Testament, you are told in Daniel 2:44-45 and Psalm 2:9. When the Gentiles reject the Old Testament, the stumbling stone for the Jews becomes the smiting stone for the Gentiles. The last Gentile kingdom in Daniel chapter 2 and Revelation is represented by the 10 toes of Daniel, which are the 10 confederated nations of the Antichrist. What happens? The stone cut without hands, the Lord Jesus Christ, smites those Gentile nations and wipes them out, Second Coming. You see, there it is. The first coming of Christ, the Jews reject it. So God writes the New Testament with Christ as the fixed object of their obedience, they stumble over it. He writes the Old Testament, and the Gentiles cannot see the theocratic kingdom. They cannot see the difference between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven. They certainly cannot see Israel. They reject it, and it becomes the smiting stone. You will not beat the book. I tell you all the time, if you do not receive the Word of God, like 1 Thessalonians 2:13 says: 1 Thessalonians 2:13

For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe. If you do not take that approach to the Bible, that it is the absolute Word of God, Old Testament and New Testament, and see the underlying reason why He is doing what He is doing. Now, I am not even getting into the spiritual stuff of the Old Testament. I am not even getting into the types of the models. I am not even getting into the great principles of the New Testament. I am taking you to the basement. I am taking you down and showing you the foundation of why God wrote the New Testament and wrote the Old Testament. Then He sprinkled all the other good stuff in among them. It is just that simple. That is why I will spend so much time laying it out for you in every detail, putting it in its right place. That is how important I think it is.

I will tell you over and over again, and I say this all the time, there are no experts when it comes to the Bible. There are no Bible scholars. There is nobody who has the handle on the Bible. No one has all the answers. If you are really honest and you have the right attitude of heart about the Bible, this will be your opinion and your attitude: the more you learn the Bible, all it will do is show you how much you do not know about the Bible. We are all students of the Word of God. We may be on different levels, but we are all students. We are helping each other. You look at me on Thursday night when I come in and answer your Bible questions like I am something special. You hear me preach up here and give you things like this and you think that I am better than you or higher than you. No, you have no idea the things that I get from you that help me. I will listen

to one of you do a sermon and get three things out of it. I will listen to some of you do something or give a testimony, or you will just ask me a question about something in the Bible, and when I look at it, you will have given me one key word I never saw before. We are in it together. There is nobody who is on top here who has all the answers about everything about God and the Bible. There are no experts. We help each other.

## VI. Wisdom Books and Stages of Development

Along with that, here is another key you need to unlock the Old Testament and then the New Testament. In your Old Testament, you have five wisdom books. We have talked about them. I made reference to them, but fundamentally, going back down in the basement next to the hot water heater, what do they do? I mean, I know they are filled with everything and great stuff with great principles, and you folks who have biblical principles and keep them, you probably have a bunch of them out of all those verses. Psalms is probably one of your favorite books in the Bible. Put that aside for a minute. Come on down the cellar over here by the water heater, as deep as you can get in this house. What do those five wisdom books do for you? I will tell you.

- We are told in the Bible that we understand the cost and the price that God paid for our salvation. We are told in the Bible that we need to have an understanding of the price that He paid that day on Calvary's cross. We are told in the Bible that He became sin for us who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. We are told that He died on the cross for every one of you. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. Yes, and I know a great aspect of the first coming of Christ. I know He came to Israel, but He also came for you and for me. When He died on the cross, that is the fixed point for my obedience to Him. So if I am going to really understand the way I should the suffering of Christ, then I will need to get the wisdom book in the Bible that lays out better than any book anywhere on the planet the sufferings that He went through. That will be the book of Job. My first wisdom book.
- You and I are told to get God's heart. Get His heartbeat. We are told to love the Lord God with all of our heart, with all of our minds, and all of our soul. We are told how important it is for a Christian to get God's heart. Get out of your own stony heart and get God's heart. That would be the book of Psalms because the book of Psalms is the wisdom book that shows you the heart of God.
- You are told that we are to get God's mind. I tell you all the time the job and the goal of every one of us should be to look at the world and see it through God's eyes, not our own eyes. If you are going to get God's mind, then you are going to have to get it through the book of Proverbs, that wisdom book, because that wisdom book, as I told you when we study it, that is the mind of God.
- You and I are told in a couple of places in the Bible that we are supposed to get the mind of Christ. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." That would bring us up to our fourth wisdom book that is the mind of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that would be the book of Song of Solomon.
- We are told that we ought to get the mind of the Spirit. The mind of the Spirit will show you the path of the Holy Spirit of God down through history. That will be the book of

Ecclesiastes because in the book of Ecclesiastes it tells you there is nothing new under the sun and it gives you the path of the Holy Spirit of God right down through history. You see these books are the key books to understanding God in the Old Testament. Then in the Old Testament, now in the New Testament. Those books will show you where He has been. They will also show you where He is at, and they will show Him where He is going.

Having said that, that will help you with the Old Testament. Now there are five wisdom books in the New Testament. Solomon was the wisest man in the Old Testament. John is the wisest man in the New Testament. There are five wisdom books in the New Testament, and they are all written by John, a type of the church.

- The first one is where we are studying right now. That will be the Gospel of John, and the Gospel of John, we now know from when we started it, was written to show you how to be saved. The Gospel of John is a picture of understanding our salvation.
- Then you have the next book which is the wisdom book of 1 John, and that is the book that tells you about your walk and your fellowship.
- But we would be remiss according to Romans chapters 9, 10, and 11 if we did not understand as Christians God's dealing with the nation of Israel. So the next two books, the third one would be 2 John, and in 2 John he deals with the elect lady, the nation of Israel.
- The fourth one is 3 John, and there we see two men, a wise man and a foolish man, just like in the book of Proverbs, just like in Matthew chapter 25, and now I see my relationship to the Jew in the New Testament when I anchor that into Romans chapters 9, 10, and 11.
- The fifth wisdom book will be the book of Revelation, also written by John, and this will be a layout of everything that God is doing in the church age. God will show you and me every aspect of the church age because He knows how important history in the Bible is, so He breaks it down into seven periods of church history so we could not miss it. In that, He gives us the complete picture: Revelation chapter 1 is the introduction. Revelation chapters 2 and 3 are the church age. Revelation chapter 4 is the rapture. Revelation chapters 5 through 18 are the Tribulation. Revelation chapter 19 is the Second Coming. Revelation chapter 20 is the Millennium. Revelation chapters 21 and 22 are eternity. What more do you need? You see the importance of these books when you see them as the wisdom books in the Old Testament and the wisdom books of the New Testament. The book of Revelation is like going to the Chiefs game this evening and buying a program. It will give you all the players, it will give you their stats, it will give you an overall view of how the game is going to go and who is going to play. That is what Revelation does. It shows you the players in history, it shows you the devil how he works in this great game of life, it shows you everything that you need to know that you can get the stats and know where you are at in life and where God is at.

Along with that, I have given you the five stages of the development of the nation of Israel. You have the formulation, you have the calling out, you have the establishment, you have the demise, then you have the captivity which leads you to the first coming of Christ. But now you have five stages of the development of the church. One for the Old Testament that shows you and leads you to the first coming of Christ, one in the church that leads you to the Second Coming of Christ.

- You have a formulation, that will be the apostles and the Gospels, Ephesians 2:20, they are the foundation.
- Then you have the calling out, that will be Acts chapters 8 through 19.
- Then you have the establishment, that will be Acts chapter 20 up to about 1880, our time.
- Then you have the demise which starts about 1888 up to the 1970s and 80s.
- Then now we have the captivity which comes in sometime after that and we are living in it now, 2021 and 2022, which is going to lead us, our captivity, to the Second Coming of Christ. See how it works.

## VII. Nine Parallels of Christ's Comings

What I am about to give you along with this are the nine parallels understanding the Old Testament and the New Testament. I have given you everything to show you the big picture. We are down in the basement, so we might as well, before we come up into the sunlight, take a look at this one. Nine parallels of the first coming of Christ to Israel and the second coming of Christ to the church.

- When Christ came the first time, Israel was held captive. When Christ comes the second time, the church is held captive. They are both without the Word of God.
- When Christ came the first time, Rome was in power. When Christ comes the second time, Rome will be in power.
- Christ came the first time, the Jews are in the homeland. They go in in Esther, Nehemiah, and Ezra, we saw it a couple of weeks ago. When Christ comes the second time, the Jew again will be in the homeland. This time they go back in 1948, and you are told in your Bible that your Jew goes back two times.
- Christ came the first time, the Jews are in apostasy. Christ comes the second time, the church is in apostasy.
- Christ came the first time, John the Baptist was the forerunner. Christ comes the second time, Elijah will be the forerunner, and in Matthew 17:2 it shows you the connection between John the Baptist and Elijah and why Elijah comes in the spirit of John the Baptist.
- When Christ came the first time, there is one universal language, it is Greek. When Christ comes the second time, there is one universal language, it is English.
- When Christ came the first time, there is a military dictatorship in power. When Christ comes the second time, there is a military dictatorship in power.
- When Christ came the first time, at the first coming of Christ, you will notice in Matthew chapter 2, He comes privately to His family first in a manger, and then when He starts His public ministry, He reveals Himself to the world. The second time He comes, He will reveal Himself to His family first, the rapture of the church, you and me. At a time later, He comes at the Second Coming and the whole world sees Him.
- At the first coming of Christ, there is a world tax put on all the people. Right now at the Second Coming, Biden and the boys are considering putting on a world tax. Some things never change.

You see, you have it all now, everything that I have got on it. Everything you need to make that Bible come alive for you. Understanding the big picture, going underneath the surface, never accepting anything in the Bible at face value, even though face value may have some tremendous spiritual impact in your life. Just know that it is deeper than that. You have to learn to go down deep. You have to learn to go underneath the surface. You have to learn to see and understand the big picture behind why God wrote what He wrote. Why He wrote the Old Testament, why He wrote the New Testament, why He called out a nation in the Old Testament and He calls out a spiritual church in the New Testament. Why? Did God just decide some day, "I do not know, this is what I am going to do"? No, He has a plan, and God's people get so surface with it all. They never see and understand what God is doing in the Old Testament or the New Testament. Very frankly, that is why they do not ever want to get involved in anything because they do not know what He is doing. They think He is a great God. They thank God that He saved them. But as far as understanding really what it means for us to give our life to God and where we fit into this scheme of what God is doing, they have no clue.

## VIII. The Power of Example

In closing out this great chapter, He leaves us with all this material, but yet in spite of that, from a practical personal application to myself, and I would never try to speak for you, one of the greatest things that will really show me what a true conversion experience really is. When it comes down to the good work that He did for His Father, He says to them, this is the last thing He says, in verses 37 and 38:

*John 10:37-38*

*37 If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not.*

*38 But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.*

There it is. I could not have thought of a better way to close this chapter out after all that He said and all that we have seen, the division, the opposition, everything that we have experienced all through this chapter. They have denied Him, but what they could not deny was the works that He did. It is the difference to me between a Laodicean Christianity and a biblical-based Philadelphia Christianity.

I want to say something to you and I want to let it sink in for a moment. Real biblical Christianity will never be by the example of our power. Real biblical Christianity will never be by the example of our power, but real biblical Christianity rather will be by the power of our example. Now you let that sink in for a moment. It is not about what we claim we know. It is not about what title or status we hold. It is not about what we think about who we are. Real Christianity is about the power of the example of what God is doing in our lives.

I have told you many, many times, and you see it here, that real witnessing is not about telling somebody what God will do for them. People are going to deny what you say. People will deny everything when you try to witness to them. They will deny what you say. Unfortunately, many

times they deny what we say because our lives do not match up to what we are saying. But in spite of that, people may deny what you say, but they cannot deny the power of a changed life and the power of your example. As I have said all through this chapter, you do not tell people what God will do for them. You allow them to see your life. You allow them to see your family. You allow them to see your ministry, and you allow them to see what He does for you, the works of God through your life. That is the only proof you have. He told them, "You can deny Me, and that is okay, but you cannot deny what God is doing in My life."

People will deny what you say. We live in a Christianity today where no one can deny what God says anyhow. The only witness we have is the power of our example of what God is doing in our lives. We live in a world that is broken. We live in a system that is so fouled up and messed up and busted that it is unrepairable. We have broken marriages. We have broken families. We have broken individuals. We have people who are struggling in a world looking for answers that has no answers. The only one who has the answers is every one of us, if you are saved this morning and you know the Lord Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior. That alone is not going to get it done. Just getting saved and claiming you are a Christian will not cut it. Not in the world we live in today because everybody is saved. They look at you and me and say, "Well, I am a Christian. I love God." They see other Christians that say they love God doing the same thing the world does. It is just like the scribes and the Pharisees versus Jesus. They did not like Him. They wanted nothing to do with Him. They called Him a liar. They called Him a thief, but they could not deny the power of God of His example.

Christianity today is as empty as a broken 55-gallon drum. It has lost the power of its example. All through here is the example of their power. The scribes and the Pharisees, and the Sadducees, they had the power and they lorded over the people. They ruled the people and they were cruel to the people. Their example was their power. Jesus had the power of His example. Because God's people have lost the power of any example of God working in them. We all know there is no work for salvation. You cannot work your way to heaven. There are no good works that can cut it with God. There is nothing that you could do that could ever earn or merit salvation with God. But salvation is God's work in your life. You do not work to get saved, but you need to work after you get saved. Because when He began a good work in you, He wants to perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. You see, salvation is not about me working my way to heaven, but after I get saved, it is about me recognizing the work that God started in me to finish for Him the work of the Father that He never finished. Yet, I think that is one of the simplest concepts to understand, but for the life of me, I just do not understand why God's people cannot get that.

This will be the powerful testimony that Christ had. This will be the powerful testimony that the religious leaders did not have. They hated Him for it. Simply because it was the one thing that they could not deny. They could rumor about Him. They could lie about Him. They could get little meetings together and castigate Him. They could call Him names to His face, a blasphemer, a devil, all the things to His face. He still raised the dead, gave eyesight to the blind, and could still the waters of a roaring sea. It was not the example of His power. It was the power of His example. There is no difference from the first coming of Christ and the second coming of Christ. I have showed you that.

Today, it is all talk. Like Israel, it is a form of godliness. The proof of our salvation is your work for the Father. Jesus Himself said, "It is the only thing that I have that is credible." "You do not believe what I say. You want to stone Me. You want to kill Me. My God, I have divided the whole nation. The only thing that I have to My credit that you cannot deny that proves who I say I am, is what God is doing in My life." Many of God's people will go to church on Sunday, but there is no power in their life on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. There are people who never, they just cannot get to the point where they ever realize what God has really done for them. This is true all across the country in America, probably around the world too.

I told you when the first pandemic hit about two years ago, and everybody had to scatter, everybody had to hunker down. We had to do all those things that everybody said we had to do, wear masks. I told you then that this was going to be a real test for God's people. In this church, and churches across this city, across this country, I told you that there were people that were good people. But when you stay out of church for a year, you stay out of church because you are afraid of the pandemic, or your church, you stay out for six months, four months, three months, five months, a year, two years, you never go back. I told you there would be people that would not come back. Not because they are bad people. They will not come back because in reality, the truth, this church meant nothing to them to begin with. Some of you, you get sick for a week and you are certain that you are going to die because you cannot come to church. Some of you, when we were separated from each other, you had anxiety over the whole fact, because you knew what meeting together and opening up the Word of God and building each other and helping each other meant. But for some of God's people, it meant nothing. So nothing lost, nothing gained. You are out for a week, out for a year, out for six months, and you never come back. Why? Because it meant nothing to you to begin with. This is Christianity today.

Yet the Bible says that Christ not only loved the church, He gave Himself for it. Philippians 3:10 says:

*Philippians 3:10*

*That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;*

"That I may know him." There is your salvation. The day you met Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior. That was the day it was supposed to change your life forever. That was the day that you came out of the darkness into the light. That was the day that no more will the world have anything to do with you. That was the day that God's hand, that big knife, Colossians 2:11, came down and not only divided your soul from your flesh, but it divided you from the world.

"That I may know him, the power of his resurrection." That is the power of the example of Jesus Christ. Nobody can explain how He came out of the tomb, why the Romans, they wanted to pay the guards to say that they came and stole His body. The Protestants come up with every kind of thing, the swoon theory, "Well, He really did not die when they put Him in that cool cave, He just woke up and went home." You see, He was dead. They put Him in that tomb. On the third day, He came back from the dead. Amen. Nobody can explain that. That is the power of His

example. That is the same power that your life and my life should be. My life should be as unexplainable as Him coming out of that tomb. Your life should be as unexplainable as Him coming out of that tomb. To this day, 2,000 plus years later, there are people still denying that He came out of that tomb. There are people that still say the swoon theory or this theory or that theory. There are people that still say, "Well, the Roman soldiers came and stole Him," or "His followers stole Him." But the truth of the matter is He came out of that tomb. Whether you want to believe it or not, the power of His example has existed for 2,000 years and the millions and millions and millions of souls that have been saved because the object of my obedience is Him on that cross, in that tomb, and resurrected. His resurrection changed the world. Your resurrection from the life of sin should change the world. It is just that simple.

"That I may know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings." Understanding the price that He paid will help you understand the price that we need to pay. Then it says, "being made conformable unto his death." I want you to note, this one does not say conformable unto Him, Christ, but unto His death. The only way you have the work of God in your life is to be dead to the world but alive to Christ through a resurrection of your soul. The day you trusted Christ, you were baptized into Jesus' death. The day you trusted Christ as your own personal Savior, you were dead in trespasses and sin, but you arose alive in Christ. As the Bible says, "You are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God," Colossians 3:3. "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

So it closes out this great chapter which deals with Him as Israel's Messiah, by giving us the great example of how to be an effective witness for Christ through the power of our example, based on the power of His example. Our work of God in our lives through a changed life that people cannot, they can deny what we say, but they will never be able to deny what God does in your life. It does not matter what they thought of Him. A man said, "I know I was dead and now I am alive." A blind man says, "I do not know. All I know is I could not see and now I am seeing." The other guy says, "I do not know. I was white as snow with leprosy. He made me clean." You can never deny the miracles of God. The problem is God's people do not have any in their lives.

The ministry of God in His life as the Son of God divided Israel. But through that division, the Bible says God used it to show the people what was real and what was not real. I love the last verse in that chapter. John 10:42, after everything that was done, everything that was said, they could not get past the miracles that God had done in His life, the work, and it says:

*John 10:42*

*And many believed on him there.*

The world cannot stop Him and the world cannot stop us. We think it can. We get fearful because we think it can. We get afraid of what is out there, the roaring lions in the dark, but the truth of the matter is greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. The truth of the matter is nothing can stop us because it is not us, but it is the power of God, the power of an example of a changed life. You and I as children of God with the works of God will be what God will use to

bring many to Christ. But John chapter 10 shows us He must first divide. He has to divide truth from leaven. He has to divide truth from the world, and He has to divide truth from religion. Then through the power of the example that we have, God will do the work. People will see and they will want what we have because they live in a world without any answers. They live in a world with rejection, heartache, depression, all the things that just destroy people's lives today simply because all they need is a miracle. When they cannot get God to give them a miracle to come down from heaven, somebody says, "Well, do you believe in miracles?" Yes, I do believe in miracles. I believe every one of us ought to be the miracle to an unsaved person. Yes, I do.

There you have it, John chapter 10. Next week, John chapter 11. I am telling you right now, I do not even know where to start with this one. It is probably one of the greatest chapters in the Bible. There will be so much in this one. We do not know what we are going to do with it. Do not forget, sign up for the Ladies Night.