

John 11

Sunday 1/30/2022

We want to continue to pray for Jim Lake, Kristin out in Las Vegas, our missionary Ricardo, and Yell. The kids head over to Bible Explorer class. We want to continue to pray for Greg in St. Louis and Kimberly's dad, for Tracy and her situation. Kim's mom, I haven't got an update on that, but we want to continue to pray for her. And of course, most of us know that Sean's dad passed away this last week. Pray for that family. I'll be keeping you updated on that; they're going to have a memorial service here sometime next month or a month after, and we'll host that for them, and I'll keep you posted on that. Then Penny Hansinger, I talked to her this week; she sounded terrible. She was really sick, and so we need to pray for her. And then Sean Wiggins, I saw him today; they came to church this morning, and he's had some real struggles with his health and had to have emergency surgery. So we want to keep him on the prayer list and keep him before the Lord.

Thank you for being here today. As I said, we're in John chapter 11. We started it last week, and we had, in my estimation, a very good, solid introduction to this chapter. Hopefully, throughout this whole study of John, we have seen how important it is to train our eyes to look at what's really going on in the Bible. We're going to get some more examples of that today. We call that insight; we call that gleaning perspective about the Word of God, our ability to see what God is trying to show us. I've said it many, many times, and I'll continue to say it: you never look at the Bible at just face value. There's always something under the surface, either historically, doctrinally, or inspirationally, that He wants us to see. Real ability with the Bible is to be able to do that.

My goal for you is for you to learn how to use your Bible as it uses you. When you get into the ministry, you're going to find—and this is just the way it is, there's nothing you're going to do to ever fix it, it's just the nature of things—you're going to find that people will use you. Most of you who work with me in ministry and you're working with people, many times it doesn't work out with them. They're what I call the takers in ministry. They want everything, but they don't want to put anything back into it. Many times they'll use you, they'll use any church, or they'll use to get what they want. I totally understand that, and that doesn't make me angry. I just accept that as the status quo in dealing with people in human nature. But if we allow people to use us for the ministry's sake, we most certainly should allow God to use us for His honor and glory. It's a thing where we allow God to get the honor and glory through whatever is going on in our lives for the Lord Jesus Christ.

I. Life as a Game: Rules, Authority, and Performance

I watched just enough of the game last week for them to win. I shut it off for a large portion because that was a guarantee that they would get ahead. If I watched the whole game, they lose. Anything I see in life, I have learned this years ago, anything I see in life, no matter what it may be, I always try to find some biblical, and I'm not so super spiritual, I don't mean that way, but life is a game. You do know that, do you not? And it's all how you play the game. So whatever you watch, I don't care if it's football or baseball or basketball. If you stop and think about it, it's

all just like the Christian life and the game of life. In any sport you play, you have a set of absolute rules that you have to go by. Just because you don't like the rules, if you violate them, you get penalized for it. That's the way it is in the game of life.

In baseball, you have an umpire. In Christian life and the game of life, you have the Word of God. In football, you have the referees. In basketball, you have the referees. What they say goes. They're the absolute authority in the game of football, baseball, or whatever you do. Well, in the game of life, we have an authority, and it's a thing where it lays everything out for us clearly.

I was watching it last week, and a great thought hit me. Alex, you're not going to care much about this, but just bear with me, son. I love you to death. Whatever we think of Patrick Mahomes, what he did last week was quite incredible. What he did last week was quite incredible. I mean, I got the last part of the game. Here we are, it's just like one minute to go, and we're winning by whatever we're winning, five points, six points, I can't remember what it was. In most games, you think that, but not in this game. They came back down and scored again and left us down by three, with 13 seconds to go. How do you win a game in 13 seconds?

I'm watching this kid, and I don't know anything about him. I don't know much about football or baseball. I don't. I've told you many, many times, I still don't understand why to be an umpire in baseball, you've got to be named Al. There are things in life that really bug me that I've never figured out. I'm right in the middle of watching a good war movie, and right in the most part, this Amber Alert comes on my TV. That really infuriates me. Do you know how many times Amber's been abducted? What's wrong with this girl? Every time it's her. Things like that just, I don't know a lot of things about life.

But anyway, I watched this kid. Thirteen seconds, he goes all the way down to kick a field goal and win the game. I watched that, and I don't care. I really didn't care who won or who lost. I just like to learn things, and I watched that. I watched this kid with 13 seconds march down the field as cool as a cucumber. He never panicked. He never seemed like he felt the pressure. He stepped up there and simply relied on what he knew to get the job done.

That's not the way it was upstairs in my home. Mahomes felt no pressure. She felt all the pressure that he had not felt. The dog thought he was mad at her and hid. I come upstairs, they're losing. I get clobbered because of my mouth in the pulpit of saying that they were going to lose. I'm getting blamed for it. When they finally won, I got no apology, nothing, no thanks, no anything. I come up when it's going back and forth. She says she's got to go to the hospital because she can't breathe. She's exasperating. I was taken in that. I heard thunder. It wasn't thunder; it was her stomping her feet up there.

What I'm saying is this: Old Patrick, he just got in there. He did what he needed to do. He took them down, they kicked the field goal, tied the ball game, and they won the ball game. He stayed with what he'd been trained to do in tough situations. The thought hit me: that's the game of football, but we're all caught up in the game of life. And you know what I learned from that? Every one of us in the game of life ought to be able to do with the Bible what that kid can do with the football. We ought to be so in tune to the fundamentals, the principles, understanding the circumstances and situations that when tough times really come, instead of falling apart and

blowing the game, we just focus on what we've got to do, get down and get the job done that God's called us to do. I looked at that and I thought to myself, "Wow, we need to do with the Bible what that young man does with the football."

Then I saw the second thing, which is right up there. In life, in the game of life, it's usually not the big things that mess us up. It usually is the little things that lead to bigger things. I watched those, and again, I don't know nothing about football, but I'm smart enough to know that when they only had 13 seconds and they're down by three, and they kicked off to the Chiefs, if they would have kicked it to a runner and let him run it back, they'd have chewed up four, five, six seconds off the clock, and there was no way that they could have done what they did. When they kicked it in the end zone, then they came out and had the full 13 seconds. Maybe they thought nobody on planet Earth could do it in 13 seconds. I don't know, but that's where they lost the game. When I saw that, I thought to myself, "You know what, it just takes one little miscue, one little misstep, one little thing in your life and my life and the game of life that we don't see and make the wrong call that can lead to losing the whole game." There's not a whole lot of difference between the game of life and the game of football, or baseball, or whatever, because it all follows the same protocol.

II. The Bible's Central Theme: The Day of the Lord

Last week, in John chapter 11, I laid out the cast of characters for you. We now have the Lord Jesus Christ, we have Lazarus, we have Mary and her sister Martha, both sisters of Lazarus. This story goes through and around these people. God uses things like this to show us, in this particular case, God's dealing with the nation of Israel at the first coming of Christ, and we laid this out last week, and then again, at the second coming of Christ.

You want to remember this: when you read a book, any book, any book you read is going to have a central theme to it. All the other info in the book is going to support that central theme. By the way, for you young guys that are learning to preach and learning to teach the Word of God, that's the same protocol that you use. Good preaching, good solid sermons, they start with a theme, something that you want to give to somebody, something that in your mind, you say, "When they go home, when I'm done, this is what I want them to remember." Then everything else you say and everything else you do and the verses that you give them, all are going to support that theme to bring about the idea that you want to give them.

I get it, there are different kinds of messages. You have messages on the books of the Bible, which we did on the internet years ago, and people still follow that along. You have verse by verse, that's what we're doing in John. Then you have what I call topical messages or sermons. That's where you'll take a subject and you'll develop it and you use it. That's what, honestly, that's what most of you right now are doing. You'll see it when we go down to the ladies' ministry down there, many of you, that's what you want to do. You don't have a lot of time, so you want to get one little thought and leave it with those ladies. Then everything else you do is going to lead them and help them understand that thought in a better way. You'll have the ability afterwards to sit out and talk with them and give them any insight that they need on it. But that's what our goal is going to be. That's exactly what you do in discipleship. We have those lessons that are built

around a theme. When you disciple somebody, you want to give them the theme, so everything else you're doing leads to that.

Having said that, when it comes to the Bible, God's book, it's no different. The Bible has a theme to it. I've told you this before, the theme of the Bible will be a throne and a kingdom, making the Bible first and foremost, a political book. In the Bible, that theme is called the Day of the Lord. I know you know all this, but bear with me, I'm going someplace here. It's called the Day of the Lord, "that day," all through your Bible. Everything else that you'll read, where we're at in John chapter 11, wherever you go, I don't care where it is, underlying will be support to that final theme that God is trying to accomplish. That's why the Gospels are so filled with the examples of this. The Day, the Day of the Lord. In the Old Testament, there are over 800 references to it, because it's the theme of the Bible. Trying to learn your Bible, trying to get in the Bible without establishing that theme first, and knowing where He's going first, is just going to get you all messed up because everything in the Bible dovetails back to that. That day, when Christ comes back, when He establishes the throne, all the opposition on planet Earth will be gone, and God now begins to fulfill His original plan. You'll find most of God's people, bless their hearts, they're good people, but they have no idea what that plan is.

We read verses in Psalms. Sean asked me a great question the other day about a verse, and it just fit into where I was at. So thank you, Sean. But in Psalms 118:24, this is a verse that we all like to use. It says:

Psalms 118:24

This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

That is a favorite verse of the spiritual crowd, the Charismatics, the Neo-Evangelicals, "Let us be glad," all that stuff. "This is the day the Lord hath made, let us be glad and rejoice," and all that good stuff. The atheists came up with a number where they had a number Christians could call, and there'd be some sweet Christian voice on the other end that'd say, "This is the day the Lord hath made, let us be glad and rejoice." That was supposed to get your day started. The atheists came up with a number that you called, and nobody answered. If the truth of the matter was, that verse really doesn't work good for me, because if it was really for me, it would honestly say, "This is the day the Lord hath made, you're going to get it in the neck."

You see, when it says, "This is the day the Lord hath made, let us be glad and rejoice," that day, that's the second coming of Christ. Notice it says, "This is the day the Lord hath made." In the Bible, where He made that day, the Bible shows you the day that day was manufactured. We'll see it in a little bit. "This is the day the Lord hath made, let us be glad and rejoice." That is the second coming of Christ going into the millennium, and everybody rejoicing.

Now, I get it, we're saved, we're Christians, and we live above the circumstances. So no matter what happens in our lives, "This is the day the Lord hath made." That's the spiritual side of it. But everything in the Bible points to that day, and that day unfolds in Jerusalem. Jerusalem is the center of world history. It's the place where life began. It's the place where history is playing out in the New Testament, and then it moves into what we know as the Byzantine Empire, then it

moves into what we know as the Ottoman Empire, and then it moves right into where we're at today. Of course, it's the place where God's government will be established eternally, past, present, and future, just like we talked about last week.

We as Christians, and I get this, and we talk about this all the time, but I like to keep this stuff before you, we as Christians, we lose sight of that. We lose sight of that because we put our emphasis on the first coming of Christ and His death on the cross and our salvation that we get from that. I get it. As a Christian, this day will be our emphasis for me personally, because that's the day I got my salvation laid out for me. If it wasn't for that day for me, I'd still be lost and on my way to hell or maybe in hell. So that day to me, I get it. But you've got to keep the Bible in a perspective and have the insight. Because of that, we tend to look at everything in the Bible, everything that God's doing, and view it through the kaleidoscope of the cross of Calvary when Christ came and died on the cross. We make that the most important day in the Bible. It may be the most important day in your life, in my life, but I want to tell you right now, that's not the day God's talking about when He talks about "the day."

I've told you rule number one, when it comes to your Bible, never view the Bible or what God is doing through our New Testament Christianity experience. Because Christianity is only 2,000 years out of a 7,000 year plan. God's day is not the day that His son came down and was brutalized by man, beaten, whipped and crucified, scourged, spear in the side, high on the cross. That's not God's day. That's my day. God's day is the day His son comes back, steps into Jerusalem and is crowned King of Kings and Lord of Lords and the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of His Christ. Now that's the day God's looking for. You see, that's perspective. The first thing you learn is that everything in your Bible will point to that theme. All four Gospels do. When Paul writes, he puts all of it into an understandable format for us to follow if we're paying attention.

III. Romans: The Doctrinal Handbook and Israel's Place

When Paul wrote the book of Romans, I don't know if you ever, we talked a couple of weeks ago on Thursday about the importance of the order of the books in the Bible. I ran you through 2 Chronicles 36 up to Psalms and into Proverbs and all that and showed you how that's the pre-millennial return of Christ by the order of the books in the Bible. But the New Testament is the same way. The New Testament is God's structural outline for you and for me if we're paying attention. You have Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. We know that that's all dealing with the nation of Israel at the first coming of Christ. We're studying all this in Bible Institute. At the end of those four books, we have the Acts. The book of Acts brings us from the Old Testament into the New Testament, from the Jew to the Gentile church. The next book that he writes us after that is the book of Romans. Before he ever, and you'll notice that Romans is not written to the church. Romans is written to all that be in Rome. When he writes 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, and the rest of them, they're all written to churches. It's not in Romans. Why? Because Romans is the book after the book of Acts as the progression of the church goes. Before you get into the churches, he laid out a book that is the doctrinal handbook for every one of us, what we should

believe. Then he gets into the churches, and in those books, he shows the churches how to use what he gave them in Romans.

You've got to get this down at some point in your life, or you're going to be like a little rat in a maze that just keeps bumping into the false walls, trying to find the cheese at the end of the tunnel. The key to the end of the tunnel is understanding what God is doing, where you're at in it, and how He's working through this thing. The reason why so many of God's people are messed up in the things that they're messed up on, and when you get messed up in your Bible, it affects every aspect of your life. It affects your family. It affects your marriage. It affects your kids. It affects every aspect of your life because everything we're supposed to do as a Christian goes back to the book. The book goes back to a theme. It's not complicated.

So we see in Romans 1, he talks about us Gentiles and explains a lot of things about why we are the way we are. When he gets in chapter 2, he talks about the Jews and explains how they are the way they are. Then in chapter 3, he starts to explain how the Jews look for God one way and the Gentiles look for God another way. He's saying now that we're in the New Testament, that will never solve man's problem, whether he be Jew or Gentile, the way he's looking for it. Then he develops chapter 4 and chapter 5. In those two chapters, he's moving through this thing. In those two chapters, he now tells us that the answer to your problems and my problems as Gentiles and the answer to the Jews' issues will be getting God's righteousness. We get God's righteousness by the day you got saved, because of the day you got saved, God gave you His righteousness.

After that, now we're moving right along. Chapter 6, chapter 7, chapter 8, all the way up to the end of the book in chapter 16. Now he focuses on what you and I need to know to have a successful Christian life. He doesn't give us the doctrine of anything but what you and I as Christians are supposed to believe in this church. When I built this church, building this church, and the men and women who were helping me do it, it comes back to the Bible. My fundamental doctrine that I'll teach is found in the book of Romans. Once he gets into everything else, he's showing you how to use what he gave you in the book of Romans. That's the model that we should be following, not only as a church, but in your own individual life. But you've got to see. You've got to understand where it all starts. It's a great pattern that God has laid out here.

In the middle of Romans, in the middle of everything that he's giving us as Christians, Paul then begins to deal with not only what we are to believe about the Bible, not only what we're to believe about salvation or righteousness or all the things that he deals with, when he gets to chapter 9, 10 and 11, now he focuses on this great book, what you and I should understand about the nation of Israel, which takes us back to the very theme of what God is doing in the Bible.

There are a lot of people messed up today on the nation of Israel. I have to deal with it all the time. I'll talk to people about it, and they get this idea. It all goes back to around the end of the 1800s. There was a guy by the name of Ted Garner Armstrong. He came up with the idea, the heresy of what we call British-Israelism. That simply broken down means that the Jews that are over in the Holy Land now, or the Jews that are around the world, are not the real Jews. The idea is that after the crucifixion, all the real key Jews left the Middle East and moved into Europe. Some teach they went to England or Scotland. Anyway, the end of the day is the real Jews today,

in their estimation, are not the Jews that are over in the Holy Land. The real Jews today are the Gentiles that we have taken the place of the Jews. It would be you, me, Europeans, that we are now the real Jews, and God, we are the Jews, and God is all done with the nation of Israel.

I asked a guy, and all this is based on nothing in the Bible, of course, but it shows you how messed up they are because they've never got the book of Romans down. I asked a guy one time, I said, "So what you're telling me is this? Just so I'm clear. What you're telling me is that the Jews today are the Gentiles out of Europe and in America?" And he says, "Yes, that's true." And I'm saying, "So what you're saying is after Christ's death on the cross, the real Jews then moved from the Middle East into Europe and became amalgamated in with the Gentiles, and now they are the real Jews?" He says, "Yes." I said, "So let me ask you this: At the first coming of Christ, Jesus went to Jerusalem because that's where the Jews really were. So now you're saying after that, they all went to Europe. In 1885, whenever you're at, when the Zionist movement starts and God fulfills all those prophecies about Israel being restored, all of those Jews that are literal Jews, they go back to Jerusalem, not Europe. When Christ comes back at the second coming of Christ, according to 800 places in the Old Testament, I don't know how many places in the New Testament, when Christ comes back at the second coming, He doesn't go to London." I know the Seventh-day or the Muslim guys, they think He's coming here to Independence. Independence, Independence. There's a tower there on the temple. Of course, the top of that tower is a blinking light. That's so God can find it. He ain't coming there either. You know where He's going? He's going to Jerusalem because that's where the real Jews are. That's where they will be. That's where God has gotten them back because Jerusalem is the key. Had nothing to do with the Gentiles. But when you don't understand the book of Romans, it's easy to get to that. I've talked to those guys many, many times, and they can't give you one verse to support anything out of the Bible that they say because it has nothing to do with the Bible. It's all off the internet. It's all off some book some guy wrote, but it has nothing to do with the Word of God.

Paul gives us our proper understanding in Romans chapter 9, Romans chapter 10, and Romans chapter 11. It's a progression through the great handbook to you and me of what we are to believe, not only about doctrine for our salvation and our life and for our kids and for our family and for our marriages and for our jobs, but our understanding of God dealing with the nation of Israel.

In Romans chapter 9, I've always thought this was an incredible chapter. He lists eight things in chapter 9 that the Jews were given. He shows us in chapter 9, really how this mess started that we're dealing with in John chapter 11. We will get there today, I promise you. But in chapter, he shows us eight things that the Jews had gotten from God that should have been the surefire aspect that they should have known that Jesus was their Messiah.

1. The fact that they were adopted as a nation out of all the other nations on planet Earth never happened before. Of course, that'll take us back to around Genesis chapter 11 with the calling out of Abraham.
2. They had the glory of the miracles that God did that He did with no other nation. There isn't any other nation that can talk about the plagues with Egypt or the splitting of the Red Sea. Oh my goodness, God stopping the sun and making the time go backwards. Are you kidding me?

3. There's no other nation that God gave covenants to in the Old Testament other than the nation of Israel. They knew what those covenants were.
4. There's no other nation that received God's word and law. The Bible calls them in the book of Romans that the Jews were given the oracles of God. Nobody else got that.
5. The service of God. He gave them a priesthood form of worship built around a tabernacle that went straight to God. Nobody else got that in the history of the world.
6. God gave them the promises. The promises not only physically as a nation but spiritually that no other nation ever got.
7. The witness of the Old Testament fathers. You find it in the book of Acts and the Gospels that they're always referring back to this to prove to Israel that they're wrong and Christ was right. You find it in Hebrews chapter 11 in that great chapter that we call God's Hall of Fame out of the Old Testament. You'll find when Peter preaches his five messages there in Acts chapter 1, chapter 6, he's constantly going back to the fathers. When Stephen preaches his final sermon in chapter 7, he goes back to the fathers. They were the witness.
8. The fact that they were blessed for all of eternity by a new covenant in Hebrews chapter 8 and 9.

But it's just like today when you dump the Word of God, which Israel did and we've done, then you lose all those things. Chapter 9 will begin, Paul begins to tell us that because of Israel's unbelief and the hardness of their heart and of refusing to see what God had done for them. I'll stop right here for a moment. Some things never change. That's what gets us in a problem: forgetting the things God has done for us. Israel forgets what God does for us and they go into apostasy. We forget the things that God has done for us. We quit coming to church. We get out of the Bible. We don't do what's right anymore. Some things never change, you see. It's just the way that it works. Instead of the nation of Israel becoming a vessel of honor, they become a vessel of dishonor, Romans 9:21 and 24. In Romans 9:28 and 29, it says that Israel is just like Sodom and Gomorrah. Then in Romans 9:32 and 33, Christ, who was the chief cornerstone, Matthew 21:42, has now been rejected, and now because of their unbelief, as we've talked about this over the last couple of weeks, Christ as the stone made without hands becomes the stumbling block for the nation of Israel. This is one of the great teachings for us today to understand what God is doing with the nation of Israel, because how important they are. God is not finished with His people, but to see it, you must first see and understand what God is doing in His overall plan. You've got to get back to that theme.

Then right on a historical schedule that you can never beat. We go from Romans chapter 9 with the nation of Israel's rejection into chapter 10 where the gospel now goes to the Gentiles. When we win somebody to Christ, most often generally we wind up in Romans chapter 10. Romans chapter 10 is the gospel going to the Gentiles. It's in Romans 10:9-10, he says:

Romans 10:9-10

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

It's in Romans 10:13, it says:

Romans 10:13

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

And it's in Romans 10:15 that says the only way that you hear that is through preaching. That's just like 2 Chronicles to Ezra and Nehemiah in the Old Testament, the order of the books. In this particular case, the order of the chapters will lay it all out. So we go from the rejection in chapter 9 that Paul wants us to understand why. Then we go to the Gentile getting the gospel. He wants us to understand now why we got it, but he's not done yet. The next great chapter is chapter 11, and in chapter 11, that's where he deals with the restoration of the nation of Israel, and he shows me and you. God's going to bring the nation of Israel back. He breaks it down in an incredible way. Romans 11:25-28 says:

Romans 11:25-28

For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes.

That's concerning the gospel. See, he wants us to understand how we interplay right now. That's concerning the gospel. That's what you and I are in right now. The Jews aren't, but you and I follow the gospel. That's concerning the gospel. They are enemies for your sake because they reject the gospel. But as touching the election, God's chosen people, they are the beloved for the fathers' sake, for the gifts and the calling of God are without repentance. Clearly showing us that, and I always love this, he says in verse 25, "not having you to be ignorant of this mystery, brethren." That's another one of the seven things that we as Christians are not to be ignorant of in the Bible, which God's people have no clue on. We're in the rigor of it. It's the nation of Israel and God dealing with the Jews.

Now he says in verse 25, "blindness in part has happened to Israel." That's because in the church age, some Jews do get saved. If you want, we don't have time to get into all this, but if you want the Old Testament model for this in the Gospels, it'll be Mark 8:22, the story of a blind man, and that's where you would go. It's all through the New Testament. In verse 25, he says, "until the fullness of the Gentiles are come in." That's the rapture. That's you and me getting raptured out of here when the Gentiles in God's mind have been satisfied, and now out we go. What happens

after we go out? Verse 26, "and so all Israel shall be saved." There it is. He says, "the Deliverer shall come out of Zion. The Deliverer shall turn away the ungodliness from Jacob." That's the second coming. Then he says in verse 27, "this is my covenant with them." That'd be Hebrews 8 and 9. Then verse 28, he says, "concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sake, but as touching the election, they are the beloved of the fathers' sake, for the gifts and calling of God are not repentant." Simply, he's saying this: in the church age as Christians, the nation of Israel concerning the gospel, they will be our enemies because they reject Christ. They don't believe the New Testament Christianity in any way, shape, or form. So he's saying, "I need to know that." He's saying, "Bob, you need to know as far as the gospel is concerned, they will be your enemy, but you also need to know, Bob, you're never to be their enemy." Why? Because I'm to understand where they're at, what God's doing with them. Romans chapter 9, 10, 11, all the Old Testament passages, John chapter 11, I am to understand the big picture of what God is doing to restore His people and where I'm at in the church age in relationship to that. That is insight, perspective, and understanding. God's people have none of those things today, and that's a tragedy. That's a tragedy. It's a thing where I am to know God's overall plan and where Israel fits in.

IV. Lazarus: A Type of Israel's Resurrection

In John chapter 11, Lazarus will be a picture of this resurrection and the salvation of Israel. Lazarus will be a type of the nation of Israel who has died, and Christ now comes and resurrects him, and that is a picture, as I've told you in the Old Testament, of that day laid out for you clearly.

Now let's read our text today, and then we'll jump into where we're at today. John 11:7-17.

John 11:7-17

Then after that he saith to his disciples, Let us go into Judæa again.

His disciples say unto him, Master, the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again?

Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world.

But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.

These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.

Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well.

Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep.

Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.

And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him.

Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellowdisciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him.

Then when Jesus came, he found that he had lain in the grave four days already.

Let's pray. Father, thank you for all You do for us. Thank you for the Word of God, for the good people here today. I pray that You open up the scriptures to us, help us to understand the big picture of God dealing with the nation of Israel, the theme of the Bible, how God has a theme, and everything in that book we have to see and understand points toward that. We love You. We thank You for all that You do for us today, and we'll be careful to give You the honor and the glory and the praise in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

V. Four Systems of Prophetic Time in John 11

I told you last week that in the Gospels there are four references to the second coming of Christ laid out in story form, four direct references, stories that show you this Day of the Lord.

Amazingly enough, in this chapter, it's an amazing thing, I'm going to show you all four of those in John chapter 11. It's one of the most amazing things that you'll ever see in your life. So let's all get our trained glasses out of our glasses case and put them on, and here we go.

Last week, I gave you verse 2 and 3, and I showed you how that he waits two days and then goes to Lazarus on the third day. I took that opportunity to show you that he's illustrating to us one of the four ways that you find around the time of the coming of Christ is through that third day system. That's based on 2 Peter 3:8, which says:

2 Peter 3:8

But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

What I want you to notice now, here's where this chapter, you've got to really get into this and you've got to put your glasses on and you've got to look to the inside because look, look, look, look, look, in verse 17, he says he's still dead on the fourth day. Let me show you how you put this together. Last week, I told you, as I said, there were four different studies in the Bible that you could get all the information that you needed around the approximate time of the second coming of Christ because the Bible says, "of the times and seasons, brethren, I have no need to write unto you." So you want to watch this now.

The first system that you have, and I gave you this last week, but bear with me, was an hour system out of Matthew chapter 20. The second one was a watch system out of Mark chapter 13, based on four watches. Then I showed you that there was a seven-day system, which is found in Genesis 1 and 2 and again in Revelation chapter 20. Last week, because we only got into the first couple of verses, I laid out the third day system for you. All four of these are in chapter 11, and God put them in there so anybody paying attention would see the third day.

Now here's what you've got, and it's incredible what God has packed into this chapter. He just told us that he was going to head out on the third day, but then he tells us in verse 9 in his conversation, "Are there not 12 hours in a day?" Is that what it said? Are you sure? Are there not 12 hours in a day? Is that what he said? No. What does it say? "The day." You've got to catch that. He's not talking about just any day; he says, "Are there not 12 hours in the day?" He's talking about the second coming. That's a key. That's something a trained eye would see. That's something that should jump out at you once you understand about "the day."

He says, "Are not there 12 hours in the day?" In your Bible, in the New Testament, there are two systems based on this 12 hours in the day.

9. The first one's in Matthew chapter 20, and in Matthew chapter 20, you have the story of God sending His workers into the field or the world to do His work, and it's based on a 12-hour day. John 11:9, the story starts out at 6 a.m. in the morning and runs through to 6 p.m. in the evening. That's 12 hours. This will be the days, and this example will be showing us the leading up to the 12 hours, leading up to the second coming of Christ through a 12-hour day that he makes a reference to in verse 9.
10. Then in Matthew 13:34-37, you have again another 12-hour day, but here it's 6 p.m. in the evening to 6 a.m. in the morning, and it's based on four watches. These four watches will also represent the days leading up to the third day or the Day of the Lord.
 - The first watch is the even watch that would run from 6 to 9, 6 o'clock in the evening to 9 o'clock in the evening, and that would bring us up to about the time of Christ up to about 500 AD.
 - The second watch is the midnight watch that picks up at 9 and goes to 12, and that'll pick us up in time from about 500 at the beginning of the Dark Ages up to about 1000 AD.
 - The next one will be the cock crowing, and that'll pick it up from 12 to 2 in the morning, and that'll run from 1,000 AD to 1,500. If you talk to somebody that knows about nighttime, they will tell you that the darkest part of the night will be from about 12 to 2. After that, you start moving into the twilight of morning, you know, with things like that, but the darkest part of your night will be from 12 to 2. It just so happens in our four watches and putting this into history that this will line up from 500 to 1500, which will be in history, yes, the Dark Ages. You can't beat the Bible.
 - Then the fourth watch will start about three and go up to the morning watch, and that'll be around 1500 up to around the time of the rapture of the church and then moving into the second coming of Christ.

If you want a little extra study to take some time, these four watches, it's a great study in itself because if you go back to Isaiah 21:11, Ezekiel 33:6, and obviously the book of Habakkuk, you'll find where it talks about watches, watchmen, and what they're supposed to be doing. Trained eye, there is a reason why one of them starts out at six o'clock in the morning and goes to six in the evening, and the other one starts at six in the evening and goes to six in the morning. There's a reason for that. We don't have time to get into that today, but I'm just telling you, everything in your Bible is there for a purpose, and he just didn't say, "Well, I use the one, so now I'll use the other." It's there to show you something. In this church, my job, the men and women who work

with me in ministry, it's our job to help you younger ones see and learn your Bible by putting it together, understanding it. This is the way that it goes.

VI. Building Ministry and Understanding Scripture: A Component Approach

This is how you put your Bible together, one piece at a time, one doctrine at a time. It's like when I talk about building a church, you build a church one couple at a time, one person at a time. You build a ministry by one person at a time, dealing with them. You don't look at them in mass, even though you may be, but you look at the individuals and you find out what their needs are, and then you minister to them on that basis. That's exactly the way you build a church or any ministry within a church that's concerned with people. You build it one at a time. You give those people one at a time, one doctrine at a time, one piece of the Bible at a time. This is why, as you saw through here, I'm taking this chapter as other chapters in sections. Everything I teach you in Bible Institute, we're going through sections.

I'd like to tell you that I learned that from going to Bible college and seminary, that the professor told me that, but that would not be the truth. From all blessings flow, that would not be the truth. I learned it from World War II. You might know when I survived the Battle of Gettysburg years ago, that, and I give you kids history lessons, I know it maybe it's boring to you, but history to me is the lifeblood of everything that I do.

In World War II, before America got in the war, Britain, when Hitler invaded France, Britain had a concordia or an agreement with France that they would go to war. It was the trilunio lateral alliances that they have. So Britain declared war on Germany. Now Britain's an island nation. She does not have the natural resources. She certainly didn't have the armaments and all the things that she needed. But since she was thrust into World War II, she already had a lot of troops over in France, and she almost lost all of them, a good half of them, except for God and the miracle of Dunkirk. Some of you probably saw the movie Dunkirk. To me, that's not the best one. If you want the best movie on Dunkirk, it was done in the early 60s, and it's simply called Dunkirk. Alex doesn't like it, so he leaves when he just doesn't get what he wants. But anyway, Dunkirk, and they were trapped there, and all of the all of the people from England, the yachtsmen, people had little boats, bigger boats, ships, they sailed across the English Channel under Luftwaffe strafings and all of the Germans, and they evacuated 600,000 British troops that would have went into captivity and saved Britain from a disaster. Most people don't know that.

You want a little tidbit of history? Another one? You want a little tidbit of history? You want another one? Who remembers the sinking of the Titanic? How many were on it? I'll say again, you want a real understanding of the disaster of the Titanic, don't get Leonardo DiCaprio with his forticatus and down in the hole there in the field, that's ridiculous. Get the one that was made in 1956 called A Night to Remember. When they made that in 1956, they had over 80 or 90 actual survivors that were still alive from the Titanic, and in this story, you will find that true story that the first officer, his name was like Feller, he was the highest ranking guy that survived the Titanic, and when he, when he, he got rescued, he was a sailor, went back to sea, and in the

Battle of Britain, in Dunkirk, this guy had a yacht, and he was the guy who led the yachts over to pick up the guys that were the survivors on the Dunkirk beach. I mean, just little things like that.

Anyway, Germany was waging a war which is called the War of the Battle of the North Atlantic. Admiral Dönitz, who was the head of the Navy guy, and also later started Dunkin' Donuts, he had over 300 U-boats, submarines, and he knew that he could break the lifeline because America was sending ships over with stuff that Britain needed. So he put what they called wolf packs together, and they were sinking American ships, 600,000 tons a month. Nothing hardly was getting through. In America at that time, it took a year to build a ship. Somewhere along the line, and this is where I got this, this is, I built my ministry on this, somewhere along the line, around 1943 or 44, somebody came up with the idea in building ships differently, that all across this country they would build different, this factory would build all this component for this ship, this factory would build all this component, and all across this country they were building every component completely with the wires in them and everything that needed to go on that ship. So when they laid the keel of that ship, what took about no time at all, and when they ran it down the ramps, by the end of World War II, because they were putting the component pieces all here and then putting them together on that ship, they were turning out a ship every three weeks.

I saw that and I thought to myself, "You know what, if that works to win World War II, that's what I need to be doing in the Bible." So when I started, instead of just trying to give you the whole Bible and teach you the whole Bible and just bore you to death with it, I started breaking it down into components. What they did is they brought all these components to where the ship was, and then they bolted all the separate pieces together. Voila, they had a complete ship. I take the Bible and break it down in sections, teach you each section, put all the wires in, put all everything in you need, and all you've got to do is go home and do what? Bolt it together. See, now it's things like that.

VII. The Seven-Day System and Creation Chronology

Now you've got three of the four according to John chapter 11 here, all in one chapter, and chapter 11 dealing with Israel's dying spiritually, being resurrected like we saw in Romans chapter 11, and I've given you other places. Now look at this, here's our fourth one, you're going to love this. You want to get this in your Bible. I've shown you the third day, then I showed you the two 12-hour days. Now here comes why he waits and says what he says, that he's still dead on the fourth day. Now this will be our seven-day system based on 2 Peter 3:8, where he says, "one day with the Lord is a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." I've told you before that you have 7,000 years of history. I know the world tells you that you have billions and billions of years and that we all came from amoebas, and "I once was a monkey in a banyan tree, and now I'm a professor with a PhD." I get that, but that's not the case. Man has only been here 6,000 years, not millions of years. There's no cavemen, there's no, well maybe there were, but there's no men like they say that there is. All the dinosaurs, they fit into God's plan, there's no problem with that. That's a good Thursday night Bible question. But anyway, 6,000 years, and of course the last 7,000 years is going to be the millennial reign of Christ. Six days for man, the Lord is going to have His day, that day, Day of the Lord, going to be the seventh.

Now let's go back to Genesis chapter 1 and 2. I want to show you this. This is incredible. This is trained eye stuff. In Genesis chapter 1 and 2, God begins in chapter 1:2-3 down through here, in chapter 2 also, God begins His restructuring, and we talked about this Thursday night with a great question that the guy asked. God begins His reconstruction of what He already has created but got formless and void in 1 and 2, and now it's all coming together again, and He's redoing everything or refashioning it. He does this in seven days. Really, He does it in six days, and then He takes the seventh day off. Of course, this will show us that man is going to be on this Earth 6,000 years. Trained eye: one day with the Lord is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

Let's go back here. Let's look at day one, Genesis 1:3-5.

Genesis 1:3-5

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

This clearly tells us this is the first day. We'll go through these quickly. The first day, light shows up. That light is the glory of Christ. The darkness, the night, is the unholy glory of the devil. That's what you've got. It's showing you from Genesis chapter 1 at the very beginning that the issue is going to be light versus darkness.

Day two, Genesis 1:6-8.

Genesis 1:6-8

And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.

And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

This is God restructuring the second heaven or what we would know in common terminology as the universe. This is God working now in what we know as outer space. Just to throw this out, and we'll come back here just a little bit, trained eye, trained eye, you'll find that He said up there that God saw the light was good in the first day. You'll find it in the third day. You'll find it in the fourth day. You'll find it in the fifth day, the sixth day, seventh day. You do not find God saying on this day that it was good. There's a reason for that. Trained eye. Even in the morning with the second day.

Then we'll move into the third day. This will be Genesis 1:9-13.

Genesis 1:9-13

And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.

And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good.

And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

And the evening and the morning were the third day.

Now fourth day, Genesis 1:14-19.

Genesis 1:14-19

And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:

And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.

And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.

And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,

And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.

And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

Now the fifth day, Genesis 1:20-23.

Genesis 1:20-23

And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.

And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

Okay, sixth day, Genesis 1:24-31.

Genesis 1:24-31

And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.

And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.

And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Everything else was just good. There's something about this that's very good. Do you know what it is? Could you figure out what it is? See, this is the trained eye that we should have, little things like that. Now I'm not expecting you young Christian to get all this, but I am expecting me to teach it to you, and I'm expecting you to get it. Very good. In the evening and morning with the sixth day.

Then we come into chapter 2, and this will be day number seven. Watch it all change here. Genesis 2:1-2.

Genesis 2:1-2

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.

He rested on the seventh day, obviously went to Florida, Bermuda someplace to kick back after the laborious work of working for six days. You're laughing at that, but I've heard a lot of guys just say, "Well, God was tired after this, and so he just needed a break." No. If you're a pastor saying that you're tired and you need a break, "And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made." Now this is

where we get our seventh day, and it all changes here. God ends His work. God rests on the seventh day. He blessed the seventh day, and He set it sanctified apart from the other six. The seventh day is so special to God that through the rest of the Old Testament, He does everything by sevens. The Old Testament feasts are in a pattern of sevens. Noah was sevens. The generations are all built, and everything that Israel does, seven. Tribulation, seven years. Church history, seven periods. Covenants with Israel, seven. And then the new one, but it's the seven for when we're here, and it's everything is based on sevens. Why? It's because this day represents the millennium, and the millennium, the characteristic of that thousand-year reign, is all the world is at rest. That's what the picture is.

Now remember, Jesus shows up, and Lazarus has been in the grave four days already. So John 11:17, looking at this, we see that when we go back to Genesis, day one, day two, day three, day four, what happened on day four? The sun showed up. We say it again, on day four, the sun showed up. He's called the Son of Righteousness with healing in His wings in Malachi 4. He's called the Day Star which arises in your hearts. He's called the Morning Star in the book of Revelation. Just as the fourth day of creation, or God restructuring, on the fourth day the sun shows up, Lazarus is in the grave on the fourth day, and the sun shows up. In history, Christ shows up on planet Earth on the fourth day, according to Usher's chronology. He's born on 4 BC, that's the fourth 1,000 year from day one of the first creation. So in the fourth day from Genesis, the sun shows up, and 4,000 years after that day, praise God, the sun shows up.

Now we're not done yet. He may have been born in 4 BC as they say, according to Usher, but then we have the next day, and that is the fifth day. Now the fifth day will be 5,000 years after the first day. Christ may have been born on the fourth day, but He is crucified on the fifth day. Lo and behold, my, my, my, when we get to the fifth day, life shows up. The example that he uses for life showing up on the fifth day, Matthew 12:39-40, great whale. You're told that the only sign given to Israel was the sign of Jonas, because Jonah is a picture of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. So it's a whale representing the resurrection of His death on the fifth day, 5,000 years, 5,000 years after the first day. The fourth day, the sun shows up. The fifth day, life shows up.

Then we have the sixth day, and man shows up, and this is where he says it's very good. Now we've got just a few minutes left here. Anybody want to be brave enough to raise your hand and tell me why he says it's very good on that sixth day when man shows up? It's okay. I can't hear you. Getting there, close. Yes, yes. No, no, no, no, no. Yes, no. Why is it very good on the sixth day when man shows up after the fifth day when Christ died on the cross and brought us life? The reason why it's very good, because now it's going to be Christ in you, the hope of glory. Now He's going to find a place of rest in the church age in you and me as believers, and now we have something that is so special that the Old Testament saint never had. You know what it is? Fellowship with Him, Him in me and me in Him. That's why the day man shows up, and six in numerology is the number of man, that's why it's so important that when man shows up it is very good because now the Holy Spirit of God is going to indwell, and that's where the real fellowship is going to be. Incredible. I mean, incredible. Man will be on this Earth for 6,000 years. 4,000 of it is the Old Testament. Christ shows up in 4 BC right there toward the end, and

it's a thing where because you're going down in the Old Testament, and then the fifth day life shows up, and then the sixth day man shows up in a special relationship because of what happened on Calvary's cross through the sign given to Jonah, the whale, the resurrection of Christ.

Then we have the seventh day. There are two things about these seven days. Every day God says it was good except day two, and the reason for that, so you'll know, is the fact that this is the creation, not creation but the reconstruction of outer space. We know from the book of Daniel, the book of Jude, and the book of Job that this is the devil's domain for the next 6,000 years. This is where he operates. When Daniel, Daniel's praying and he's trying to get a prayer answered, and the angel can't get down, he says, "I'm coming from heaven down to the Earth, and a prince of the powers held me up for 21 days." That's his domain. That's why in Genesis when he gives man dominion, it's over the fish of the sea, the fowl of the air, and the birds, never outer space. You know why? Somebody else's domain. So he, trained eye, tells you that when he redoes that, it ain't good. It isn't good.

Of course, and then on every one of the days, he says, "the evening and the morning." Day one, evening and the morning. Day two, evening and the morning. Day three, evening and the morning. Day four, evening and the morning. Day five, evening and the morning. Day six, evening and the morning. The seventh day, you will not find the evening and the morning. You know why? That's God's eternal day. That's that day, "the day," the Day of the Lord, that starts out in the morning and never has an evening to it. You can't beat that Bible. I mean, you just can't beat that Bible.

Now that's serious Bible study for serious Bible students. This is where I want all of you to be at some point in time. I know not all of you will be. I know, I know, I know. Not all of you will ever get there. I'm sorry, I wish everybody could, but I get it, I understand. But the bottom line is this: this is where the church is at. I want you to have insight, trained eye, and understanding when it comes to the Scripture.

Now I told you, we're talking about doctrinal stuff, we're talking about stuff that's dealing with Israel. I get all of that, but I am telling you the trained eye and insight does not stop looking at John chapter 11 in Israel. It will be used in every aspect of your life to keep your marriage, to keep your family, to keep your kids, to keep your own self where you need to be with the Lord. Just like they kicked that thing into the end zone when they should have kicked it to somebody and let him run off the clock and then gave the Kansas City Chiefs three seconds to do something that would have been impossible. One little mistake. One little miscue. One little play. They lost the game. It only takes one little thing in most of our lives to put us out of the game of life. God saved you and me for a purpose. There's a reason behind it. There's a purpose to it. He gave you the institution of marriage, family, all of those things for a reason. They get fractured because God's people miss the little things. He tells you that it's the little foxes that spoiled the vine. That's what happened.

We're going to hold up there. We've got enough today to give you a headache for the next month. You guys who are going to help me, please sign up. I only got two guys here, and we'll get with

you this week. Anybody else that is part of the women's deal, head downstairs right now. Sit with your teams, and I'll be down there, and we'll be out of here. It's 20 to one. We'll be out of here by one o'clock and watch the Chiefs lose at two. Let's hit it.