

## I. The Importance of Doctrinal Study

Inspiration is an easy thing to put into your life. Most people, unfortunately, try to do the inspirational and never get to the doctrinal, and it winds up being very shallow. Last week, and all through John chapter 10, we have taken this parable, this story here, and we have really looked at it in depth as everything that it is. I want you to be able to cross-reference your Bible back from the Old Testament to the New Testament.

Now, I am not under any illusion that all of you are going to do that. I know that is not possible. I wish it was, but it is not. It is going to take somebody who has a desire to really get into the Word of God and learn it. There are a lot of God's people, and they are great people, but all they ever want is a passing relationship with the Word of God. That is okay if that is where they are at. For me, once I saw what the Bible was and got into it, it was too late. There was no way that I was not going to get everything out of it that I could.

I get criticized, not really criticized, but on Thursday night, some people on YouTube asked me to not spend so much time on a question to get more questions in. I can honestly say I was never really interested in getting into the Guinness World Book of Records for answering questions on a Bible study night. I do not care if I only get one question done. When I am done with it, I want to give you everything that there is to get about it so you can put your Bible together one piece at a time.

You remember last week we looked at our second story. I told you I was going to break John chapter 10 down into three or four different segments. It is better to understand it. Last week we looked at our second one, and we saw how that it was a good background of God's Old Testament plan for the nation of Israel.

A couple of Thursday nights ago, I cannot remember exactly when it was, somebody asked a question at 2 Thessalonians 2:7. I talked about the mystery of iniquity. The mystery of iniquity obviously is how the devil, and I know Paul talks about when he says, "the mystery of iniquity doth already work," talking about how the Antichrist was in preparation for the Second Coming and what he wanted to do already in Paul's time. But the truth of the matter is that mystery of iniquity has been in play all the way back from Genesis 1.

It is a great study to show you how the devil works through the nations, down through the Old Testament, and down through history to keep God's people, the nation of Israel, from fulfilling the plan that God had for them. From Genesis 1:1, where the Bible starts and says, "In the beginning," to Revelation chapter 22, it is his plan to stop God's people in the Old Testament, and then later on in the Church Age in the New Testament, from fulfilling God's place or plan on planet Earth.

Getting it into a simple format is what I want to do. I want you to be able to understand it. I do not want to make it complicated. I want to make it to the fact that any idiot can grasp it because

that is what I had to do for this idiot to understand it, to put it down at the lowest common denominator that I could. Without a doubt, seeing how the hand of God, and I cannot emphasize this enough, seeing how the hand of God works down through time, down through nations, and down through history in spite of everything the devil does.

Many times when you look at it, you see the devil kind of throwing all kinds of things at you. It is just like what we are going through right now. Nobody likes the pandemic. Obviously, it came into this world to do all the damage it could do. But at the same time, you never want to lose sight no matter what is going on. God is still at work, and He is doing something. So many times we get caught up in all the things that directly affect us, we lose sight of the hand of God and what He is doing. I have tried not only in my own life but in my ministry to you to try to help always sort that stuff out.

## II. History and God's Unwavering Plan

It is one of the greatest aspects of history to understand. There is no way, and I think this is a real failure today with preachers and teachers and God's people, there is absolutely no way today that you can remove history from the Bible or the Bible from history. The two go together, and they will form for you a solid wall of truth that nothing can get through and nothing can get around. It brings back the reality of what God has done, what He is doing, and how what He has done and what He is doing is all in preparation for what He is going to do.

In the Old Testament, you see God's hand dealing with the nation of Israel. If you ever get that down in your own life where you can understand it and explain it without even getting into your Bible, you can just lay it out. You really will have a handle on some things because it will bring about into focus everything that God is doing in a world scenario of four or five thousand years where there is so much else going on.

It always amazes me that when I told you last week about Darius, Darius King of Persia, Ahasuerus in that crowd, when they went to Judah, go back. If you would look at history during that time, the historians would focus on the rise of Alexander the Great, this going on here, the demise of this, the demise of that, the great kingdoms going on all over the world. God wrote not one thing about any of that because God only cared about one thing, and that is His people going back.

You have to put those things into perspective. I am not saying you do not learn them. I am not saying they are not important to understand, but it all comes back to what God is doing and what the devil is doing to try to stop Him. Once you get that set in your mind, once you can break history down, no matter where you go, that it is God moving in a direction to do what He wants to do and the devil moving in his direction to stop it, you see that in the Bible where God puts the emphasis.

He cared nothing about Alexander the Great. He cared nothing about the defeat of the Persians or the Babylonians or the Assyrians. He did not care. He wrote not one thing about it. He cares one thing, and that is getting His people where He wants them to be to fulfill the plan in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, it is you and us, the church. The devil did the same thing in

the New Testament that he did in the Old Testament to destroy how God wanted to reach the world through you and me, the church in the New Testament, just like he did in the Old Testament.

It is the ability, we talked about this last week, and I gave you some great verses on it out of Matthew chapter 13 and Galatians chapter 5. It is the ability to separate leaven, false doctrine, from truth. The devil uses one of the great tools that his nations use down through history to keep our focus off the real thing: it is disinformation. The devil puts out so much disinformation to get us looking one way when in reality we should be looking someplace else. That is what leaven does. It takes your focus off of what God is doing, and we can never lose sight of that because, as we saw last week, it takes a little leaven, not a lot. It takes a little leaven to leaven the whole lump. In time, truth gets destroyed simply because leaven, that doctrine, gets secretly underneath the surface, put in. In time, when we wake up one morning, the great doctrines of the Bible are now gone.

All this is completely overshadowed today, as I said, by the Gentile education system, both secular and Christian. The Bible says in Romans 11:25 and again in Proverbs chapter 26 that when it is dealing with the nation of Israel, we should not be wise in our own conceit. The blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles, you and me, come in, and then all Israel shall be saved. The problem today is in the secular world and in many Christian venues, we become wise in our own conceits when it comes to the nation of Israel, and we lose sight of that.

I showed you how God gave Israel, and you do not see this today, God gave Israel three chances to get that kingdom. John the Baptist comes preaching the kingdom of heaven. They killed him. When Christ sent out His disciples in Matthew chapter 10, they were to preach the kingdom to Israel. They killed Him. But as I showed you last week in Acts chapter 7, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, those seven chapters, God honors the prayer of His Son, and He gives them one more chance.

Again, for the serious Bible student, that is why we are tackling it in institute. Probably never get back to institute, but we were tackling it before we all died with COVID. That is why I wanted, once I got Matthew out of the way, I wanted to attack the book of Acts. You have to get that book down. It is an easy format. It is not hard at all if you just use it God's way, but you have to get it. If you are ever going to be a serious Bible student on a level that really understands the structure of the Bible, the book of Acts is going to be your meat and potatoes. You have got to get that done because it shows you God's hand down through history. God's hand down through history will be the key to God's hand in your life today. But God's people never see it. You and me are just like Israel in the Old Testament. We are part of His plan in the New Testament.

So today, let us look at the next section of John chapter 10. This will be our third one, and we are going to read John chapter 10:14-30. We are going to do a lot of reading today. Here is our third section.

*John 10:14-30*

*I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.*

*As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.*

*And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.*

*Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.*

*No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.*

*There was a division therefore again among the Jews for these sayings.*

*And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him?*

*Others said, These are not the words of him that hath a devil. Can a devil open the eyes of the blind?*

*And it was at Jerusalem the feast of the dedication, and it was winter.*

*And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon's porch.*

*Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly.*

*Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.*

*But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.*

*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:*

*And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*

*My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.*

*I and my Father are one.*

Let us pray. Father, help us today to glean out of this all that You would have us to see. We thank You for those that are here today. Thank You for those that are home. We pray Your comforting hand upon those who are not well, that Father, in all the cases that You know, that we know that You can just comfort them and help them to a speedy recovery to get them back in church, back into the things of God. We love You, Lord, and we just thank You for all You do for us now in Jesus' name, for His sake, we ask it. Amen.

### III. Israel Likened to Sheep: A Prophetic Parallel

I want to start today by talking about Israel being likened to sheep. That may not seem like a big deal to somebody, but what I want to do is pull the Old Testament and the New Testament, as far as Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are concerned, I want to pull it together for you. First off, you

want to know this: sheep animals in the Bible are one of the greatest studies that you can ever take, and God uses them to illustrate and to teach us so many things.

*Job 12:7*

*But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee.*

God in the Bible will use animals to illustrate something. Once you learn what they all illustrate, it helps you break down the Bible as far as where you are at and what you are talking about and what you are really dealing with. The reason He uses sheep, and I have always thought this was amazing, the reason He uses sheep to be a picture of Israel, who are without a true shepherd, it will be because sheep have basically five characteristics about them, the real sheep, the animals. When you look at sheep and you study the habits of sheep, you will see why He used that example for the nation of Israel.

The Bible talks about dogs being likened to people over there in the New Testament, and that is so true. I am a dog guy. Most of you, a lot of you, are dog people out there, and you know that there are different breeds of dogs, and you find, you know, different, it is amazing thing, you find dogs and the owners kind of have characteristics between them. I have this guy across the street that is a 450-pound whatever, and his wife is always yelling at him and telling him what to do, and he is always bowing down to her, and he has got a little chihuahua. That is good casting because that little dog, maybe his wife ought to take the dog out because the dog is always yapping, and so is she, but it is in the family. You see things like that. You see guys who have character, guys who are strong, and that reminds me of a German shepherd. You have people who are loyal and people who are gentle, but yet at the same time, that reminds me of Labradors or Golden Retrievers. I mean, you have guys and people out there who, and so Jesus likens them to dogs. Sam Jones preached a message years and years and years ago, "Some Dogs I Have Known," and he used their dogs and illustrated them to people. So animals in the Bible are very key, and you need to learn them.

The reason why He does this is, it is a thing where He wants to show us some things that we can understand, and the reason He does it is because it pictures the five characteristics of the nation of Israel. This is what you really want to look at when you start coming through the Bible.

Back in 2 Chronicles 15:3, we begin to see where the problem started here, and we are going to talk about the five characteristics here in a second, but he says back there in that chapter:

*2 Chronicles 15:3*

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

That is a picture of the nation of Israel after David and Solomon go off the scene, and the apostasy, the leaven, begins to set in. Rehoboam and Jeroboam split the kingdom. We start to see now all the wicked kings come in, and everything begins to spiral into the ground, and that is a picture actually of modern-day Christianity in the parallels. You will note that the three ways,



shoot once. I tried to count him, at least 20 rounds. The cop shot first, shoots through the fence, and kills the guy, and the guy was just celebrating New Year's Eve by shooting his gun off. Now you know what the lesson is in that? Obey the law! That is the lesson. You have got a police officer, they are being ambushed everywhere. 63 of them were killed. Saw how many of them were killed, shot last year, and you expect that guy going out there in the middle of the night and somebody bangs off 20 rounds, and he is going to wait and see if it is "Auld Lang Syne" going to be sung afterwards? I am telling you, this country is crazy. Lawless. No laws anymore. Do whatever you want to do. They have already come out and said that the things that people do that used to go to jail for are now going to be misdemeanors. Crazy. It is just nuts, and of course, it is 346 police officers shot. That is one a day almost. Almost one a day. Incredible.

It all goes back to losing the true God. When you lose the true God, then the churches fold up, and you get a priest, a preacher who will not teach the Bible truth, and then you lose any kind of semblance of law and order. All through our study, we have seen Israel likened to sheep, and there is a reason for that. Sheep are a great study in the Bible.

Now, first off, sheep will get lost three different ways. I got this from a shepherd in Montana. I was preaching out in Montana years and years ago, and it took me out to this big ranch. You think farms in Missouri are big? These ranches where they have cattle on some parts, they have sheep on other parts, and it takes them two days on horseback to get to the outer part of their ranch. That is how big it is. It is incredible. I talked to this old shepherd, and I said, "Tell me about sheep. How long have you been a sheep herder?" He said, "30, 40 years." I said, "Well, tell me what you talk about sheep. I see you have got a bunch of sheep out here. They seem to be pretty orderly. Do you ever lose any, and if you do lose them, how do you lose them?" He said, "Well, let me tell you, preacher."

4. He says, "The greatest way you lose sheep is because they are the most curious animals you ever saw, and they go places that they should not go." I said, "Amen." He said, "What did you say?" I said, "Nothing." "They go places they should not go, and then they get into trouble because they have this curious side of them that they see something over here, and they go explore it, and next thing you know, a wolf gets them, a coyote gets them, and that is how you lose them.
5. He said, "The second thing is sheep are always looking for greener pastures. They are never really satisfied with where they are at, and that is why you have got to have sheepdogs to keep them corralled because they will always continuously try to move over the cross the creek and get to another thing, and that is where they are going to get in trouble."
6. He said, "And then they are scared of wild animals. These wild animals will scare them, and you know that will get them, disrupt them, and get them running, and then they can be picked off."

I thought to myself, what great parallels that is, not only to the nation of Israel but to God's people today. He says, "And you know with that, preacher, when a sheep gets sick, he will not follow the shepherd anymore." I said, "Amen." He said, "What did you say?" I said, "Nothing." He says, "I will tell you something else. When they get sick, they will separate themselves from the flock, and they will get off by themselves someplace, and that is where they get into trouble,

and that is how they get killed." I said, "Wow." He says, "And I will tell you something else. We keep the sheep because the sheep belongs to us." I asked him, "What is the real purpose?" When he said this, I thought, "Wow, this is a picture of everything." He says, "The sheep belong to the shepherd. We keep them, keep them healthy, keep them safe because come September or whenever it was, August, we shear the wool off of them, and we take care of them, they give the wool back to us, and that is how we make a living." I thought to myself, "Wow, that is a picture of all of our lives, a living sacrifice. We give back to Him what He is taking care of us." That is a good inspirational application for a sheep, even though in the New Testament, we are not directly like a new sheep, Israel is, but man, the parallels are right there.

## IV. Ezekiel 34: The Shepherds and Scattered Flock

Now, the greatest chapter, and here is where I want to show you how the Old Testament all comes together today with where we are at. I said some things last week that probably people scratched their head and said, "Wow, I do not know if that is really..." Well, we will show you today. We will make a note when we get there. But the gate trapped around sheep and the shepherds will be found in the book of Ezekiel. Most people do not know that. Most people would never suspect that. But it is a must-have understanding if you are ever going to figure out the first coming of Christ and get it into a proper context.

Ezekiel chapter 34, and here we will have a whole chapter, unequivocally, a whole chapter devoted to Israel as sheep and their leaders as shepherds, just like we are finding in John chapter 10. Now you want to remember this, first of all, about the book of Ezekiel. Ezekiel is written during that 70 years captivity we talked about last week. It is a captivity book, and it is written before Persia, Ahasuerus, sends them back in Esther. It is written while they are in that captivity. In fact, Daniel, who writes the book of Daniel, he goes into this captivity when Nebuchadnezzar takes them down. Also, Ezekiel does. That is why you will find in Ezekiel 1:1, he tells you that he is among the captives.

So I want to read chapter 34, the whole chapter, and you can follow along with it. Then I am going to make some comments, and I want to show you how you want to mark this back to where we are at today and show you how it all goes together, because here is where it starts. This is where the beginning comes in.

*Ezekiel 34:1-31*

*And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,*

*Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks?*

*Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock.*

*The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them.*

*And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered.*

*My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them.*

*Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD;*

*As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock;*

*Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD;*

*Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them.*

*For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out.*

*As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day.*

*And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country.*

*I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Israel shall their fold be: there shall they lie in a good fold, and in a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Israel.*

*I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord GOD.*

*I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick: but I will destroy the fat and the strong; I will feed them with judgment.*

*And as for you, O my flock, thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I judge between cattle and cattle, between the rams and the he goats.*

*Seemeth it a small thing unto you to have eaten up the good pasture, but ye must tread down with your feet the residue of your pastures? and to have drunk of the deep waters, but ye must foul the residue with your feet?*

*And as for my flock, they eat that which ye have trodden with your feet; and they drink that which ye have fouled with your feet.*

*Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD unto them; Behold, I, even I, will judge between the fat cattle and between the lean cattle.*

*Because ye have thrust with side and with shoulder, and pushed all the diseased with your horns, till ye have scattered them abroad.*

*Therefore will I save my flock, and they shall no more be a prey; and I will judge between cattle and cattle.*

*And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd.*

*And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I the LORD have spoken it.*

*And I will make with them a covenant of peace, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land: and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods.*

*And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing.*

*And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase; and they shall be safe in their land, and shall know that I am the LORD, when I have broken the bands of their yoke, and delivered them out of the hand of those that served themselves of them.*

*And they shall no more be a prey to the heathen, neither shall the beast of the land devour them; but they shall dwell safely, and none shall make them afraid.*

*And I will raise up for them a plant of renown, and they shall be no more consumed with hunger in the land, neither bear the shame of the heathen any more.*

*Thus shall they know that I the LORD their God am with them, and that they, even the house of Israel, are my people, saith the Lord GOD.*

*And ye my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men, and I am your God, saith the Lord GOD.*

Now, you are reading this, and I have already told you that you want to look for the parallels of where we are at. This is where Israel are first called sheep, and we start to see a problem with the shepherds, the leaders of Israel. It started way before the first coming of Christ. That is the first thing I want you to see. I am going to go through here, and we are going to break this down, and I am going to point out to you where it goes to John chapter 10. You should now be far enough along, some of you, to be able to pick some of this stuff out of here. Again, the whole Bible goes together with just key words. Just watch.

We know that this is the mystery of iniquity, starting all the way back here. It has been all the way through your Bible. You know that history is all about, and I have said this, God moves in a direction to do His deal, the devil moves in a direction to stop it. We know that. This is one of the great studies in the Bible. It will be the devil working down through history, through nations.

Let us break this down. Let us see what you can see here. I am going to read it in the sections, and then, thank God we will not read the whole thing again, but I am going to read the sections here, and then, I am going to pause for a minute. I am going to ask you, what do you see? Here we go.

### *Verses 1-3: The Shepherds Feed Themselves*

*Ezekiel 34:1-3*

*And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,*

*Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks?*

*Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock.*

Obviously, we see that they are not doing their job, but if I am reading this, what would be the one key word that would connect this for me, through the trained eye, to the first coming of Christ, dealing with the scribes, the Pharisees, and the Sadducees? Just look at it for a moment. One little word. It is the word "woe." You say, "What is so big about that?" Well, because over there in Matthew chapter 23, when He deals with the scribes and the Pharisees, that is the great woe chapter. He gives them eight woes in that chapter. He says, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees," eight times. That immediately connects it back to here and here back to there. So we now know that the scribes and the Pharisees in the New Testament in Matthew that He is talking to are the same crowd that He is talking to back here. That sets the context.

Verse 2 tells us they are not feeding the flock. We know that. But they are feeding themselves. In other words, they are not giving the people anything, but they are living off the people, and what they get from the people, they are living great lives while the people are not. If that is not a picture of what I said last week about the mega church pastors and all the pastors out there that teach their people nothing but living like kings while the people live just normal lives. This is where you begin to see this.

### *Verses 4-5: Breakdown of Leadership*

*Ezekiel 34:4-5*

*The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them.*

*And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered.*

Again, we see in both cases, the nation of Israel in the Old Testament, the church in the New Testament, a complete breakdown of the job of leadership. I am going to say this to you. No two people groups in the history of the world, Israel in the Old Testament, the church in the New Testament, both of them are absolutely dependent on good leadership. If they do not have good

leadership, they are going to get into a mess. You are going to see that in the nation of Israel when they had leaders like Moses and Joshua, David, they were great. When they had guys like Ahab and Jezebel and Jehoiakim, and the rest of those guys, they were terrible. They are dependent on good biblical strong leaders who stay connected to God and the Bible and preach the truth to them, even when they do not like it. They did not always like what Moses said, but it did not matter. They were the great nation that God wanted them to be because they followed a leader.

You see, it is true in the world. When God gave Germany Martin Luther, it turned the whole world toward Christ. When the devil gave him Adolf Hitler, it turned the whole world into chaos. They are dependent on people, they are dependent on leadership. This is the problem in our country today. We do not have any good leaders anymore. Nobody is leading. Nobody is going to stand up and take a stand for the truth. Everybody is so afraid they are going to lose an election or they are not going to get their power base back or they are going to lose this. They are willing to sell their birthright, which is what they should stand up for and lead. All that is wrong with this country is a lack of leadership. What is wrong with the church is a lack of leadership. What is wrong with Israel was a lack of leadership. You see it in this chapter.

This is why, I am just telling you, you do not have to be a rocket scientist. This is why I focus so much in this church on taking any man or woman or anybody who has even a resemblance of ability to be a leader and try to train leaders because Christianity has a great lack of leaders today. Men and women who will stand up and know how to lead because they know what the Bible says and they are going to take their stand for it. That is what Israel needed. But instead, the leaders are taking everything they can get from the people. They are living great lives while the people are suffering. That is what you have got today.

He says, "You have not brought back that which you have driven away." In the church today, that is restitution. There are a lot of people burned out on Christianity today. Some of you were the same way before you found this place and you realized that there is truth still. It talks about healing people who are sick. That is spiritually. I know we are going through a pandemic right now, and physically people are sick. I cannot fix that. But if you have a spiritual issue and you are spiritually sick, I have got the cure. The churches today, they do not care about your problems. I think I said last week. They do not care what you are going through. All they care about is you show up and you gave your offering and you are here. Whatever you are struggling with is your deal.

I will tell you something else. "Bound up, that was broken." That is families, that is marriages, that is people with broken lives that are all busted up because of this world, and in Israel's time, they would not do it. In Christianity today, they will not do it either. I do not care what you are going through. They will say, "Well, I will pray for you." The biggest, most callous, the biggest lie, the biggest facade, 99% of God's people's lives today is when you tell them a problem, and they will say, "Well, I will pray for your brother." They forget about you in the next 10 seconds. They do not care about the brokenness in your life. They do not care about the captivities that you have been held by. They do not care about the spiritual sickness you are going through. All they care about is what you can do for them.

*Verse 6: The Scattering of Israel*

*Ezekiel 34:6*

*My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them.*

Let me put this in a context for you. In 606 BC, when Nebuchadnezzar comes down a little bit after that or before that, Assyria takes the Northern tribes in, the Jews are scattered everywhere. A small remnant, what, 42,000 out of 200 million people, go back 70 years later, but they are scattered, they are everywhere. All over Asia Minor, for 400 years, they are scattered in every place that is in the known world. Many of them lose their own native tongue of Hebrew. They are over here in this land or that land, and 400 years later, they are not even speaking Hebrew anymore. But they are Jews. And the shepherds scattered them.

So when Christ shows up the first time, what does He do? He searches and He seeks after them. Where is that in my Bible? How about over there in Luke 19:10, "the Son of Man has come to what? Seek and to save that which was lost." What was lost? Israel, they are scattered.

I do not mean to break the heart of all you Charismatics out there that may have got the wrong YouTube channel this morning and decided to stick with it. But this is why when He shows up at the first coming of Christ, they speak in tongues. You are told in Acts chapter one and two, you are given the very nations of which they are all dispersed to. There are 10 or 15 nations there that they are living in because they have been scattered for 400 years. They no longer speak the Hebrew language. So when Jesus shows up, He has to seek them. He has to bring them back. He has to get His people that have been scattered by the shepherds, He has to get them the truth. So He gives the apostles the ability to speak in tongues. Tongues were never some spiritual utterance that nobody understood. In Acts chapter one and Acts chapter two, it clearly tells you, "We hear every man speak in our own tongue," and down a little farther, "our own language." See how it all makes sense? One passage in the Old Testament connected to the New Testament, showing you why things are the way they are at the first coming of Christ and the way they are today. But it gives you the basis to understand why it happened the way it happened.

This is why the Bible says in 1 Corinthians 14:22, "the tongues are for a sign." This is why it says in 1 Corinthians 1:22, that it is Israel that looks for that sign. That is why if you want to find the prophecy on tongues, you will go back to Isaiah 28:11, and He tells you there that God is going to speak to them in other tongues. Why? Because of the passage right here. "My sheep wandered through all the mountains and upon every high hill. Yea, they were scattered upon all the face of the earth." At the first coming of Christ, He comes back to bring them back together. But they have lost their original tongue of Hebrew. 400 years now. It is like an Italian, your parents or your great-grandparents came over here in the 1920s. And you are an Italian as it can be, but you do not speak the language anymore. See how quickly it goes? Two generations here. We are talking about 400 years, and they are gone. So when He sends His people out to reach them, it gives them the ability to speak in tongues. That is why the Bible says where there are tongues, they shall cease because there comes a time when they do not need it anymore. Why?

Acts chapter seven, He is done with Israel. See, this is how you put your Bible together. This is how you are able to rightly divide the word of truth.

*Verses 7-10: God's Judgment on Failed Leadership*

*Ezekiel 34:7-10*

*Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD;*

*As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock;*

*Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD;*

*Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them.*

You know what He is saying? Verse 7 and 8 tells us that there is an absolute complete breakdown and failure of leadership in the nation of Israel, just like there is today. Verse 9 and 10 He says, "I will require my flock at their hand." What does He mean by that? He is going to hold these leaders accountable for what they did not do with His people that was the right thing to do. He is going to hold the shepherds accountable.

This is why when you get over, we talked about this a couple of weeks ago, this is why when you get over in Matthew and He is talking about the scribes and the Pharisees and the Sadducees, what does He say? "You shall receive the greater damnation." That is in the woe chapter, by the way. He has got to hold failed, listen to me. He has got to hold failed leadership for the nation of Israel accountable. Now, the great single concept of the Bible is consistency. So I am just going to tell you right now, wait till the judgment seat of Christ where you have all these pastors who are living way beyond where they should, who are doing all the things about the Bible and taking it out of their people, not feeding their sheep, not giving them truth, not giving them doctrine, but living like they are in the millennium right now, you will wait till those bozos hit the judgment seat of Christ. It is no wonder 2 Corinthians chapter 5 says it is the terror of the Lord. There is going to be a judgment day, not only for the leaders of Israel, but there is going to be a judgment seat of Christ for the leaders of the church who did not hold up the truth to their people.

## V. Ezekiel 34: God's Restoration and Millennial Reign

*Verses 11-13: God's Promise to Seek and Gather*

*Ezekiel 34:11-13*

*For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out.*

*As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day.*

*And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country.*

What do you see there? The thing that pops out right out of the thing is verse 12 at the end, "cloudy and dark day." That is the whole book of Joel. That is the second coming of Christ. That is the day of the Lord. So what you have here, once He talked about the shepherds and all that they have done wrong, now He is going to switch and show you what He is going to do to bring His people back. So you know what you have got in verse 11, 12, and 13? You have got the beginning of the Zionist movement which leads up to the cloudy and dark day, the second coming of Christ.

Now you have what, 1880s, Theodore Herzl with the beginning of the Zionist movement, 1918 with the Balfour Declaration, 1948, the Jews become a nation. You know what God did? He did exactly what He said He was going to do right there. He brought all those Jews from all over the world after World War II and brought them back to the land and made them a nation. Why? Because a bunch of Gentiles felt sorry for the Jews that they had no nation? So the guy by the name of Lord Balfour said, "Well, let us put a declaration out there that we give the land back to the Jews." Is that why He did it? That He did it because He felt sympathy because the Gentile, no, He did it because those Jews have to be back in the land again for the second coming of Christ, just like they had to be back in the land in Esther, Ezra, and Nehemiah for the first coming of Christ. The Jews go two times back in history to the land. They go back in Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther before the first coming of Christ, and they go back in 1948 before the second coming of Christ.

You know what God did in both cases? He used the Gentiles out there to bring His people back to get them back in the land. Somebody said one time, and I believe this with all of my heart, World War I got the land ready for the Jew because in World War I, it broke up the dynasty monarchs in Europe of Germany, Austria, Italy, Russia, and all of those nations that ruled Europe for centuries. Now they are gone. So the land got changed in World War I, and in World War II, it is said where World War I got the land ready for the Jew, World War II got the Jew ready for the land, and God used Adolf Hitler to do that by persecuting to the point where they wanted to get out of Europe, and he killed six million.

My point is this. If you ever can see history through the Bible eyes, they become a nation in 1948. God's plan was to get them back. You know what God did? God killed 30 million Gentiles in World War I, 80 million Gentiles in World War II, just to get that Jew back to the land in 1948. Tell me God is not a racist. You tell me God is not prejudiced. You bet He is. It is not white power, it is not blue power, black power, it is not red power, it is Jew power. That Jew is going to rule the world someday. God cared nothing. He cared nothing about Guadalcanal, He cared nothing about Normandy and V-E Day. He cared nothing about Saint-Lô. He cared nothing about

Rommel in Africa. All He cared about was getting that Jew to the place by Gentile nations that He could bring them back that was scattered. Wow. Whole different perspective on history.

It gives a whole new meaning now when a guy makes the touchdown in a football game and looks up and gives God the glory for it, and God says, "God bless your son, make another one." God does not care. Did not care how many home runs somebody hits. Did not care how many touchdowns you make. God today cares about one thing in case you have not figured this out. That is His bride or His wife, the nation of Israel. He wants her back, and everything He is doing and has done down through history is one to get her to the land. When she did not do what is right, then He used the other nation to chastise her and scatter her, but now He is going to bring her back. That is all He cares about. All He cares about is His people being back in that land because He is getting ready to come back, which I am going to show you in just a minute.

You know all Christ cares about? You. He only cares about you. Did not care about the Super Bowl. He is not up there praying for the Chiefs who are going to be one and done probably next week. Amen. He did not care about all the things out there that everybody puts the things in. He did not care about the beautiful sunrises and the sunsets. I mean, when He sees the sunrise and the sunset, all He thinks about when that sun comes up in the morning, it is blood red. When it goes down at night, it is blood red. He does not look at it and say, "My, is not that beautiful?" He thinks of the day His Son hung on that cross and shed the blood for you and for me. That is all He thinks about. Song of Solomon chapter two says that He is right now, He is looking through the lattice. He wants a glimpse of you, His bride. He is like a nervous husband on the day of His wedding. He wants to be with His bride so desperately. He is peeking at us right now. He is looking down wanting to be with us. And God's people go through their life and do not even know about that. And the ones that do know about it do not even care about it. Nothing has changed.

God cared nothing about the Gentile nations in Daniel chapter two of Daniel's image. All they were there for was for the devil to use, to stop God, and for God to use to get His people back. The Gentile nations in the 18th century, 19th century, and the 20th century are not any different. All God cares about is His people Israel, and He has orchestrated a whole history of the world for a day coming that I am going to show you in just a second. What you and I are witnessing right now is the fulfillment of what happens. The Zionist movement in 1880, the Balfour Declaration in 1918, and then they become a nation in 1948. God had to get the land ready for the Jew and then get the Jew ready for the land. Lo and behold, 1948, God fulfilled what He said He was going to do. They are back in the land. Why? Because they have to be there for the second coming of Christ, just like they had to be there for the first coming of Christ.

Oh, and I will just throw this in. 400 years, 400 years, 400 years from the time that God shuts down the Old Testament till He shows up at the first coming of Christ. In that 400 years, the last time God spoke to them, 400 years later, Christ shows up at the first coming of Christ. In that 400 years, God speaks to no man, other than it was already written. Your King James Bible came out in 1611, and God spoke to no man for the next 400 years, either through that book, and the next time you will hear God say anything, will be the second coming of Christ at the end of those 400 years, just like it was at the end of the first 400 years with the first coming of Christ. You

will have to pay extra for that. That is history. That is history, and the Bible cemented together to show you what He is doing, so we have a better understanding of what we ought to be doing.

He says, "the cloudy and dark day." Clouds in the Bible. Ezekiel chapter one, I have given it to you many, many times. Acts chapter one, Acts chapter two, Jesus goes up in the cloud. The angel says, "This same Jesus you saw is going to go up in the cloud, going to come back in the cloud." You better study your clouds in the Bible. God's people think they are going to get away with anything, and God is so stupid and blind, but you know what, science is just now revealing it, technology is now revealing it, but all the stuff you have got on your phone that you would not want anybody to see when you send it up there, you know where it goes? In a cloud. What did they say, warehouse? Why did they pick the word cloud for all your private information to be stored in? Because He is coming back in the cloud, and when He comes, He is bringing that cloud with Him. Judgment seat of Christ.

*Verses 14-16: The Millennial Pasture*

*Ezekiel 34:14-16*

*I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Israel shall their fold be: there shall they lie in a good fold, and in a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Israel.*

*I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord GOD.*

*I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick: but I will destroy the fat and the strong; I will feed them with judgment.*

Verse 17, if you want to mark it there, will be a picture of the judgment of the nation, back there in Matthew chapter 25. Now, what do you see in this one? Last week, I am sure, last week some of you listened out there, maybe some of you here, when I said Psalm chapter 23 was not really to you, it was to the nation of Israel, but you can make an inspirational application of it. Some of you probably yawned and said, "Yeah, right, okay." Here it is, look at it. Verse 14, "I will feed them in good pasture," see that thing? Look down there, verse 15, "I will cause them to lie down." "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in what? Green pastures." There it is, right there. It is Israel. It is Israel. Now, you can make a spiritual application if you want, but doctrinally, that is Israel in the millennium. This will be Hebrews 4:9-11, the rest for God's people that they never got in this life, they are going to get in the millennial reign of Christ. Right there, you have got it. The good pasture, going to make them lie down. Everything is at peace. Just like John 10:8-9 last week that I gave you.

*Verses 23-31: The Millennial Reign Detailed*

*Ezekiel 34:23-31*

*And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd.*

*And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I the LORD have spoken it.*

*And I will make with them a covenant of peace, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land: and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods.*

*And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing.*

*And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase; and they shall be safe in their land, and shall know that I am the LORD, when I have broken the bands of their yoke, and delivered them out of the hand of those that served themselves of them.*

*And they shall no more be a prey to the heathen, neither shall the beast of the land devour them; but they shall dwell safely, and none shall make them afraid.*

*And I will raise up for them a plant of renown, and they shall be no more consumed with hunger in the land, neither bear the shame of the heathen any more.*

*Thus shall they know that I the LORD their God am with them, and that they, even the house of Israel, are my people, saith the Lord GOD.*

*And ye my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men, and I am your God, saith the Lord GOD.*

This one is loaded. By the way, this is, now we are in the millennium. This is Ezekiel chapter 40 through chapter 48, found in the book of Ezekiel here. This all will be laid out in chapter 40 through chapter 48 in great detail. Yes, we are not going to do that today, but I want to point out this to you. This is the millennial now, millennial reign of Christ that has come in at the second coming of Christ. Here it comes. Stay with me.

They go into the captivity in 606 BC. They are there for 70 years. God raises up Ahasuerus and some of the people there to get a remnant to go back. They go back in the land because they have to be in the land when Jesus shows up at the first coming of Christ, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, to bring in the kingdom of heaven. He gives them three chances. John the Baptist says the kingdom of heaven is here. Jesus sends the disciples, kingdom of heaven is here. They kill those two guys. In Acts chapter one through Acts chapter seven, Peter and then lastly, Stephen gives them the final chance to get the kingdom, and they kill him, kill Stephen, and they reject Peter. So what happens? We go into the Church Age, final rejection. God temporarily puts Israel on the back burner. What happens? Church Age comes in. For the next 2000 years, God begins to reach out to reach the Gentiles. He wanted to reach them through Israel, but that did not work. So now He is going to do it another way.

So now we get close to the end of time. God says, "I am going to restore My people, but I have got to get My people back in the land." So once they do, He uses Gentile nations again to get the Jew back in the land in 1948. And now it is all ready to go. Only this time, this time, this time, they will accept Him. Because this time He is not coming as the lowly Jesus, the shepherd of Israel. This time He is coming with the eyes of a burning fire. This time He is coming with a sharp two-edged sword coming out of His mouth. This time He is coming with hairs like wool of

fire. This time He is coming, and He is going to kick the snot out of everybody that gets in His way. And Israel is going to be saved. See how easy that is? I have just put the last 3,000 years in history in an easy, understandable format that you could, you know, it is like one of those little things you have got to get out of the box of Captain Crunch or Mahone's Crunch, now they do not use Captain Crunch anymore, and get the answer to it. It is right there. This is crackerjack stuff, man.

Here we go. All this is in Ezekiel 40 through 48.

*Verse 24: David the Prince*

*In the millennium, you have Christ sitting on the throne, and on His right hand is David, and David is the prince of Israel. You will find out in Ezekiel 44:3. He has His own gate that He comes into, He is thrown. It is all laid out for you right there.*

*Verse 25: Covenant of Peace*

*This will be the new covenant that He makes for them in Hebrews chapter 8 and Hebrews chapter 9. It is all laid out for you right there.*

*Verse 26: Showers of Blessings*

*You should have picked this one up. This will be the former and the latter rain I have told you about so many times that comes in and ushers in the second coming of Christ. "There shall be showers of blessings." When we sing it in our hymnal, "There shall be showers of blessings," it is a millennial song. It works for us because we get showers of blessings when you get saved, doctrinally. Goes right back to here, in the millennium.*

*Verse 27: Tree of the Field Yielding Fruit*

*Ezekiel 34:27*

*And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase; and they shall be safe in their land, and shall know that I am the LORD, when I have broken the bands of their yoke, and delivered them out of the hand of those that served themselves of them.*

You know what that is? That is Psalms one. "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But he shall be like a what? Tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season." Now we make it us, which is our greatest spiritual application. Doctrinally, that is Israel, right here. Now bearing fruit, as a tree of life. Now, it is personally, it is us. Spiritually speaking, I win somebody to Christ, I am bearing fruit of the tree of life. But doctrinally, right here. This is the difference between understanding your Bible or playing with your Bible. This is the difference of being a bonafide, viable Bible student. I am not saying you figure it all out, but I am saying you know you have got a goldmine, and you will keep digging.

*Verse 29: Plant of Renown*

*Ezekiel 34:29*

*And I will raise up for them a plant of renown, and they shall be no more consumed with hunger in the land, neither bear the shame of the heathen any more.*

Not the Lord Jesus Christ. You will find Him as the plant, tender plant in Isaiah 53:2. He is the tender plant that was planted at the first coming of Christ. He goes through the cross and gets good fertilized, and He goes through all the things that He goes through, and in the millennium, He becomes Israel's plant of renown.

*Verses 30-31: My Flock, My Pasture*

*Ezekiel 34:30-31*

*Thus shall they know that I the LORD their God am with them, and that they, even the house of Israel, are my people, saith the Lord GOD.*

*And ye my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men, and I am your God, saith the Lord GOD.*

Just for the slow class. "And my flock, the flock of my pasture." They are in God's green pastures now, lying down by the still waters. And they are going to dwell in the house, the nation of Israel, of the Lord forever. I mean, it is just that simple. That is how you put your Bible together. That Bible goes together in a consistent, systematic way that connects itself. It is all built on, as you saw today, not one word of Hebrew, not one word of Greek, based on the basic, simple words found in your Bible. That is why the shepherds today want to steal the Bible, steal your inheritance. So you know what they do? They steal the words out of your Bible by changing them. God's people are dumb enough to buy into it. Problem today, same problem as Israel, no leadership.

## VI. John 10: The Good Shepherd and His Flock

Now you can see how all the pieces fit to give you a complete picture and understanding of how the Old Testament will give us the reason for Christ's rejection by Israel at the second coming. The unbiblical religious leaders, the shepherds, just like today. So as we see today and last week, the Old Testament passages will fill in the blanks of what is taking place at the first coming of Christ. Now we know, now we understand, when we are reading John 10 or Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, but particularly in John 10, and we are seeing all this issue over His miracles and all this fuss over who He really is. Now we have a context to it all. The context in the weeks to come is only going to get clearer.

Now, with all that under our belt quickly here, let us define the key areas, going back to chapter 10, let us define these key areas now that we have a basis to work with, and you will see it again. You will want to get these in your Bible, just like all this other stuff that I have given you today. You maybe did not get it in as we are doing it, but I will tell you what, this stuff will be invaluable working it back and forth if you are ever going to get a handle on the Bible.

Back in John 10:16, He said this:

*John 10:16*

*And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.*

A lot of people look at this and get a little confused about it, but now that we have a context, then we know where we are going to go with this, doctrinally and inspirationally. Here is what you have got.

- Doctrinally: The sheep of another fold will be the Gentiles in the tribulation period who were evangelized by the 144,000 in Matthew chapter 22, Revelation chapter 7, Revelation chapter 14. They are Gentiles, they are not of this fold, but when they have to become a Jewish proselyte in the Old Testament and in the tribulation, so they become one fold. But we know that that did not work, did it? Because Israel rejected, and that now is not going to be fulfilled till the tribulation.
- Inspirationally: The other sheep, not of this fold, will be the Gentiles in the Church Age, you and me. When you get saved and I get saved, we become part of His body, one fold. In the body of Christ, there is neither Jew nor Gentile, we are one fold.

So there again, this is the importance of understanding what is going on in the book of Acts. What has happened at the first coming of Christ, why it got temporarily put on a back burner because of Acts chapter one, two, three, four, five, six, and seven, and then the Church Age starts after chapter seven, Paul gets saved, and it all moves toward the rapture of the church and ultimately the second coming of Christ. But God had a plan now because of Israel's rejection. These are things you have got to see.

The average Baptist preacher, forget the evangelicals, they are not even in the same league. The average Baptist preacher, when he looks at the book of Acts or you would ask him about the Acts, he has not got a clue. He thinks everything in Acts chapter one through seven is the Church Age. He thinks he sees the word "church," and he runs home to mama so fast you had to swim. He does not understand how to break that book down that the church does not even get considered Romans chapter 16 till after Acts chapter seven. So Acts chapter seven is that little intermediate period in there, boy, that if you do not catch it, you are done. You are done, you will never figure it out. That is what you have got. So we see now that the other fold are going to be doctrinally 144,000 reaching out to the Gentiles, but because of that rejection, spiritually it goes to the Gentiles.

Look at John 10:17:

*John 10:17*

*Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.*

Here is the great parallel, the great difference. Christ is willing to lay down His life for the sheep, the nation of Israel, John 10:11. Of course, this is the Old Testament passages like Isaiah chapter 53, found in the book of Psalms, found in the book of Job. Doctrinally it is all dealing with Israel. He came to die for Israel, but Israel rejected. So then it becomes part of the Church Age.

You have to ask yourself the question, and I certainly do not have an answer to this, but you have to ask yourself the question, and it is okay to ponder, but you do not ever go there and stay there. You have to ask yourself the question, what would have happened to you and me if the Jews would have accepted in Acts chapter one, two, three, four, five, or any place along the line? What would have happened to us? Where would we be? Would there still have been a Church Age? Why would there have needed to be a Church Age? How would we have got into the body of Christ? I do not have the answer to those things. All I know is this, God always has a plan that He is going to follow through when somebody does not do what is right.

It is like your life and my life. God has people this week that He wants to put you up against to give a witness for Christ. Some of us will fail that because we are not paying attention or we have got our own things going. You know what? God is not going to let that person go to hell because of our stupidity. God will send him somebody else. God always has a plan to get the job done. We just lose the blessing from it. You want to remember that. That is why you always want to focus on what God wants to do with you. He will get somebody else to do it. I am a very selfish individual. I do not want somebody else getting my millennial inheritance. God knows I need all the help I can get. I want my own. I never want to stand there and have God say to me, "Well, I had on Tuesday you would go with this guy, but you got so caught up in what you were doing, you missed it, so I gave it to Joe Schmo to do." I do not want that. But that is what He did with the Jews. He says, "I gave it to you. You rejected it three times now. It is going to the Gentiles. And I will get done with the Gentiles what I would have got done with you, but I cannot do it. So we will deal with you later. Right now, we are going to switch this thing, and the Gentiles are going to get the job done that you would have done if you had done what was right at the first coming of Christ." Now, I do not understand what all that is. But I understand how it played out. And you and me, or Joe Schmo, by the way, He took it from Israel and gave it to us. And the church now is carrying the ball.

Look at John 10:18:

*John 10:18*

*No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.*

This is one of the, you would not see this or think of this, but this is one of the great verses found in the Bible on the Trinity. You know, there are groups out there like the Jehovah's Witnesses, the Mormons, and some of these other groups that do not believe that Jesus Christ was God. They believe that He is a lesser God. But this shows you here, along with what I am going to give you, that that is not true. That Jesus was very much God as much of God was as the Holy Spirit of God is. In the doctrine of the Trinity, it is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, and all three are one.

Let me show you something. Concerning the resurrection of Christ. In Galatians 1:1 and Ephesians 1:20, and other places too, the Bible says that God raised up Jesus. In John chapter two, verse 19, John chapter, excuse me, eight, verse 11, it says the Holy Spirit of God raised up Jesus. And in John 2:19, it says that Jesus raised Himself up. Three verses that tell you that God

raised Him up, the Holy Spirit raised Him up, and He raised Himself up. You know why? Because, "I and my Father are one." He is God. If He was not God, He would not have had the ability to raise Himself from the dead. Only God had the ability to do that. Those are great, great, great things that you can use in dealing with somebody that does not believe that Jesus Christ was God.

The next thing, moving quickly here, just so you have this in your Bible, John 10:22 talks about the Feast of Dedication. That confuses the people because they go back to looking for it in the Old Testament and cannot find it back in Exodus and those and things, so they are not sure what it is. You will find this in Haggai 2:18. This is a feast that was put in at the dedication of Solomon's Temple that is not covered in the Old Testament law. It is a legitimate feast that was put in at the dedication of the Temple that they observed every year after that Temple building. You will want to get that into your Bible.

Now John 10:27-30:

*John 10:27-30*

*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:*

*And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*

*My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.*

*I and my Father are one.*

You should have this down by now, but again, I have heard many, many preachers use this passage here for the proof of eternal security, that you are in Jesus's hand, and no man can pluck you out. And in Jesus, you are in Jesus' hand, and His hand is in God's hand, so nobody can pluck you out of God's hand because you are in Jesus' hand, and nobody can pluck. I have got one even better for you. How about the fact that you are the hand of God? You are not in anybody's hand. Nobody can pluck you out of God's hand because you are not in God's hand. Nobody can pluck you out of Christ's hand because you are not in Christ's hand. You are His hand, you are part of His body. Israel is not. So you see how those things work? It is the difference between knowing your Bible and playing with your Bible. It is the difference between being a Bible student or someone who just has a passing acquaintance with the word of God. It is the fact that you understand that you have the greatest book before you the world has ever seen.

It would be a terrible tragedy if it took education to get it. It would be a terrible tragedy if it took brain cells past of amoeba to get it. It would be a terrible thing if it took years and years and years of study to get. It would be a terrible thing. God would not do that to creatures like us who were made a little lower than the angels and are basically brain dead. He gave you a book written in fifth-grade English. All you have to do is learn the key words. Learn the divisions. Establish the context. Mark them in your Bible as a Bible student. I gave you so many today. If what I

gave you today was antibodies, you would never get COVID-19 ever again. You have got a bucket load today. You need to get those in your Bible.

Then John 10:30 again, the Trinity. "I and my Father are one."

## VII. The Consistency of Biblical Truth

I am going to stop here, and you have got enough now. That is an understatement. But you see how all this information flows all the way through your Bible. Here is what you have got to do. When I teach guys how to preach, I teach them that which we are going to do here once you all get resurrected from the dead. When I teach people how to preach, I tell them to get a mind, get a thought that you want to establish. Most guys when they preach, they are all over the place. When they are done, they do not know where they have been. I do not know where they have been, and nobody listening to you knows where you have been. In preaching, you have to have one central thing you want to give the people. You know what that is. Then the rest of everything you do, every verse, every story, whatever, has to point toward that truth that you want to leave them with. You have got to start with something that you say, "This is what I want them to go home with." That is the purpose of your mind. Then everything else you do, every verse you bring in, every story, every passage, everything you do, supports that idea. Most guys, they go here, they go here, you get, it is just a disaster.

It is a thing where you have got to be focused. This is the way the Bible is put together. Listen to me. The Bible is put together around the nation of Israel in the Old Testament and the church in the New Testament. End of story. That is all it is. God has a plan for both of them. It may be different, but that is all you have got. Everything else in the Bible, everything else in history, will get on board to support those two ideas. Once you get that in your brain and you start looking at it that way, wherever you are at, to see that if you are in the New Testament, you know it is the church, and everything is to support that mission. If you are in the Old Testament, it is the Jew, and everything supports that. The rest of them will become fairly simple.

We will hold up there, and Thursday night, you may have some questions about this. You can get them to me. We will talk about it. But we will have Bible study Thursday night. Let us have a word of prayer, and then we will get out of here. Be careful going home. Stay safe. If you start to feel bad or feel sick.