

I. Introduction to the Book of Psalms

If you have your Bibles today, as I promised, we are going to start looking into the book of Psalms today. Today will be a lot of background stuff that I think you need to put the book into a proper context, kind of an overview of what we are going to get out of it. Yet, at the same time, there is a lot of deep material here just looking at the overview of what the book of Psalms really is.

From a practical standpoint, and we all probably know this to be true, the book of Psalms is the book that most people know and will relate to in the Bible. It is certainly probably the devotional book of all times. It is a book that contains the truth of life in basically three basic areas, and we will develop that as we go through. Folks will head to Psalms in a time of trouble. I think that there are so many different aspects to Psalms that meet all of our emotional needs.

Psalms is a hospital that we can go to when we are really hurt. Psalms is a nursing home when we get older and need to have care in our life. It is a care center where we can go and get those things that we need. For many of God's people in time, it becomes a bomb shelter; it protects us. It is certainly a supply center that gives us everything that we need. Certainly, it is a haven of rest for the weary Christian who fights the daily fight and stays in the battle.

That is about as far as most people go with the book of Psalms. There are two prayers in your Bible that I always get a chuckle out of that people always use at the time of death. You see it all the time in the movies. One of them is, "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done." People are drawn to say that when they think they are going to die. The other one is over in Psalms 23, and this is a really good example too.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Now, I call this my death Psalms. This is the one that you say when your ship is sinking. This is the one that you will say along with maybe the Our Father when your plane is crashing. Or maybe as you are walking to your execution, the priest is reading this so you feel like you are walking through the valley of the shadow of death as you are going to be executed. I am sure that

100% of the people that actually think that this prayer does something for them to get them to heaven probably start the prayer on earth or wind it probably in the lake of fire. There is nothing in these two prayers, especially Psalms 23, that is going to save you.

Now, I understand the practical application, and so will you when we come through Psalms 23. But the direct application here has to do with the nation of Israel, as you will see when we come through. Psalms 23 will not save you. It was not written to anybody in the church directly, but we can take the great practical applications to it, and yes, we can. But this will be the misunderstanding and the misapplication of the book of Psalms that many people apply.

My goal for all of you is to give you a total and complete understanding of the book. I do not want to leave any stone unturned here so there is no mistake on how it lays itself out to you. I want you to be informed when it comes to the things of God, the Word of God, and the books of the Bible. I want you to understand all the different aspects to the book of Psalms. There are quite a few of them. We will take our time. We will not be in any hurry. I probably look at this as the last study we will ever take together because I think if we took what, seven years with Proverbs, we have got 176 verses here. We will be here till probably halfway through the millennium if we just do what we always do. But I think that I cannot think of a better book to be in and studying the heart of God when the Lord comes back.

II. The Wisdom Books and the Heart of God

Psalms is a key book in your Bible, and I know you know this. It is one of the five wisdom books found in the Word of God. You have Job, you have Psalms, you have Proverbs, you have the book of Ecclesiastes, and then of course you have the book of Song of Solomon. You also know, or you should know by now, that each one of these books will lay out a different aspect about God. This is the beauty of the Word of God. When God put His book together, gave us His Word, He designed it in such a way that every aspect about it would give us a different understanding of who God is.

When it comes to understanding God, the Lord, Christ, the Holy Spirit of God, where would you think that all that would be found as the baseline for truth that you are going to find throughout the Word of God? That would be in the wisdom books.

➤ When you study the book of Job, you will get an understanding of the sufferings of Christ on the cross. Job is probably the greatest book in the Bible that lays out the suffering that Christ went through on the cross, typified by what Job is going through.

➤ The book of Proverbs, and we studied that a couple of years ago, the book of Proverbs is a representation of the mind of God. It shows you God's perspective on everything in life that you can get God's viewpoint on it instead of getting man's viewpoint on it.

- We talked about the book of Ecclesiastes. It shows you the mind of the Spirit, where the Holy Spirit of God is going, the circuit that it follows, and every aspect of it through the book of Ecclesiastes.
- The book of Song of Solomon. It really shows you the mind of Christ. It takes away all of the fallacies that God's people get into of how God really looks at them. Christ looks at them. It really puts into perspective, if you are going to be a good Christian, it really puts into perspective how you know not only how Christ looks at you, but how you should look at Him. Oh, it is an incredible book. It is an incredible book.
- Then of course we come now to the book of Psalms today. The book of Psalms will show the heart of God. It shows us where God's heart really is.

Yet, from a practical standpoint, these five books will really be the key to life on planet earth. I read a book one time years ago, I think it was written by Tom Malone. Tom Malone pastored a Baptist church up in Detroit, Michigan. I preached in his church many years ago. He wrote a little book on Psalms that I always thought was just a really good book. It really helped me years ago. He said, the five wisdom books of the Bible are really the key to life because you find the five key emotions, the five key aspects that we all go through in life.

- He says, take the book of Job. The book of Job is a story about an unhappy man.
- He says, you take the book of Proverbs. The book of Proverbs is a story of a wise man.
- You take the book of Ecclesiastes. Now you have the book of a worldly man.
- When you look at the book of Song of Solomon, you have a picture of the heavenly man.
- But he said, when you come to the book of Psalms, you have a picture of the happy and blessed man.

Boy, that is so true. Life is filled with these five emotions. The book of Psalms will cover all of that. It will give you everything you need to know about how to have the really best relationship with the Word of God and God that you could ever have. That is to get God's heart.

III. Structure and Significance of Psalms

The book of Psalms will be the 19th book in your AV 1611. When it comes to the Hebrew Bible, it will be 27th in that particular Hebrew Bible. Now, Psalms falls into five basic sections that are recognized by the Orthodox Jews.

- The first section will be Psalms 1 to Psalms 41.
- The second section will be Psalms 42 to Psalms 72.
- The third section will be Psalms 73 to Psalms 89.
- The next section will be Psalms 90 to Psalms 106.
- The last section will be Psalms 107 to Psalms 150.

You are going to find in history as you begin to really read books about Psalms and get a little information on it, guys like Origen, I talked about him on Thursday night in his damaging of the text of the King James Bible. Guys like Eusebius, who Constantine sent to get 50 copies of the New Testament from Origen. Guys like Jerome, who translated it into Jerome's Latin Vulgate. And guys like Augustine, who is held up as the Catholic Church's most favorable theologian. They all write commentaries on the book of Psalms. Many other people do too. Unfortunately, most of them are worthless when it comes to really helping you understand the Bible or the book of Psalms.

Psalms is interesting because when you begin to break it down, you find that Psalms actually, it may be more than this, but this for sure, Psalms covers 11 centuries of history. It was not something that was just written in a couple of days or a week. It is written over the span of at least 11 centuries. Psalms contains the longest chapter in the Bible. That will be Psalms 119. You know, Psalms contains more information on the second coming of Christ than all the New Testament books of the Bible put together. It is an amazing book.

I do not know if you know this or not, but there are 31,102 verses in your King James Bible. The middle verse of your Bible is in the book of Psalms. Now, because there are 31,102, you cannot get just one single verse. So the middle two verses in your Bible are Psalms 103:1-2. It has 15,550 verses on one side of it and 15,550 on the other side of it.

Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

Now, that is an incredible two verses. As God's people, do we even know, could we even list all the benefits of a relationship with God? Oh, I know salvation, and this and that. Yeah, come on. Could we really sit down? You see, this is why it is such a great verse. It tells us right in the verses there to bless the Lord in His holy name but not to forget the benefits.

You know why God's people get out of fellowship? You know why some of God's people do not go to church anymore? You know why some of God's people just kind of walked out and that is it? They do not want anything to do. It is simple, it is not hard, it is not that they are bad people. They have simply forgotten all the benefits that God has done for them. As a Christian here, you and me, we cannot ever forget all the benefits that God has done in our lives because the moment you do, then you will just be like everybody else. Psalms is an incredible book, incredible book.

IV. Biblical Music and Its Authors

The book of Psalms in Hebrews is called the book of praises. In English, it is called Psalms, which also is called songs, poems that were sung. This will go along with the New Testament book Colossians 3:16 and will define for us what real biblical music is. This is another thing that is lost today. Music in most churches is nothing more than music of the world. I know people talk about the fact, well, they put the name of Jesus in it or they sing about Jesus or they sing about this and they sing about that. It is not until you understand the book of Psalms what you understand what real biblical music is to God. This is a tragedy today. I sometimes wonder what God must think as He looks down into His church that are filled with people who claim to be His children but they are all singing the world's music. They are all playing the world's songs. Nothing about what real biblical music is anywhere today in most churches.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Now, this will define real biblical music for you. It is music that is based on the doctrine of the Word of God. Along with that, if you want to understand what real biblical music should be in a church, then you want to study one of the authors of Psalms, and his name is Asaph. Asaph is the chief musician of David. We know that David was a man after God's own heart, and he loved the Word of God, and so we see that the man that he picked to be his chief musician wrote 10 of the Psalms, Psalms 73 to Psalms 83. The key to Psalms songs will be the doctrine that is defined in the book of Colossians chapter 3. When you study his 10 Psalms, when you look at what he writes about, Colossians 3:16 just is so clear that the music that we sing to God has to start out of our hearts, not with our feelings, not with our emotions, but with the doctrine, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

If you look in front of you here or on the floor in front of you, you will find a red hymnal. That hymnal is called Great Hymns of the Faith. That is the book that we use. I get calls from people all the time that are checking out our church, and they always ask me what kind of music do we sing. I tell them, I said, well, we sing the old hymns, the old songs, and most people like that. I find that it is the older generation that really enjoys that. The newer generation, they have to be trained in it because they never grew up in it. But we use that book. Sometimes just take a look through it, almost without a doubt. Every song in that hymnal was written during the Philadelphia church age. The greatest period in church history when Bible doctrine was the rule of the day. Those songs are so impacted with Bible doctrine that you could just preach the songs. You will find that real Christian biblical music has to be based on the doctrine that is in your heart from the Word of God, and then the Word of Christ that is in you coming forth in what you sing and what you do.

Chris Piscano back here, I think we have his book in the bookstore. He has taken his whole life, and he writes songs out of the book of Psalms, basically based on Bible doctrine. We sing the songs that are filled with Bible doctrine. The reason why many people do not like those songs today in the new churches, you know why? They do not understand them. You know why they do not understand them? Because they do not have any doctrine in their churches. That is why

they do not like the King James Bible. They say, well, that Bible is so complicated, all the “thees” and the “thous.” You are going to throw out the Bible because it says “thees” and “thous?” Did you ever read your wedding certificate? It is filled up with “thees” and “thous” too. You are going to throw it away? We look for any excuse to get rid of the greatest book the world has ever seen. It is the doctrine that makes the difference. I mean, it is that simple. It makes the difference in music. It makes the difference in preaching. It will certainly make the difference in your life. Study his 10 Psalms, go back and look at him in the Old Testament where it talks about him.

Then we have the different authors of the book of Psalms. I think this is incredible.

- David writes 73 Psalms by name. Now maybe he writes some more, but by name he writes 73.
- Asaph. He writes 10 by name.
- Moses, he writes a number of them. He is obviously, I say most obviously, probably the first writer of Psalms, maybe not.
- Then you have the sons of Korah who write 11 Psalms.
- Then 49 are anonymous.

All through these writers are an incredible study. I know most people never get to this level in the book of Psalms. I understand that most of the commentary, if they lay out the writers, which they usually do, they never touch them. But I am going to tell you, studying the Psalms that these men write when they are connected to their lives in the Word of God are one of the greatest studies you will ever take in building not only your own life, but your family.

Now, the Bible says David was a man after God's own heart. We all know that. We know that he loved God and loved the Word of God in spite of the problems that he had in life. He writes 73 by name. If I wanted to really focus on getting God's heart and finding out what it is really all about, I would spend time in those 73 Psalms. When I wanted to find out about music, as I have already told you that I am going to look at the 10 Psalms that Asaph wrote, and I am going to find what biblical music should be contained in. Moses writes some of the Psalms, and I am going to study them because Moses is the greatest picture of a leader and ministry anywhere in the Bible.

Ah, then we come to the sons of Korah. The sons of Korah go back to a group of people back in the book of Numbers, Leviticus, and Exodus when they come out of the nation of Israel, the Kohathites. You are going to find that around the tabernacle and the temple, there were three families. You had all the tribes out here, all 12 of them, and then you had the priest class. But around that tabernacle, who was responsible for the inner workings of the furnishings, the curtains, all of the stuff in that tabernacle, there were three families. The Kohathites, they were in charge of the furniture. I do not have time today to go through and tell you how their job was different from the other two families. But I am going to tell you, here was a family that

everybody was dedicated to the service of God's temple. If you want to build your family, if you want to take your young children and develop them into a ministry with you that serves in the tabernacle of their body in the New Testament local church, the Kohathites are what you want to study, and the sons of Korah.

Then you have 49 that are anonymous. I always felt the 49 that were anonymous were there for a very good reason because it allows me to see myself without any name putting on it. It allows me to see myself into the very psalms that are anonymous. All these folks, all these authors are an incredible study to show you and me what a real relationship with Christ should be. Psalms is more than just 150 verses. Psalms is more than just a book that we all run to in a time of trouble. Psalms is the very heart of God. Within the heart of God, you find every aspect and every fiber of our relationship.

V. The Order of Books and Premillennialism

I think one of the greatest aspects of Psalms will be the placement of it in your Bible, in the order of books. In Christianity, when it comes to Christ's return, His second coming, you will have basically three teachings on it. Most of you older guys and gals know this, but for you younger ones, this is a process of learning. You will find when it comes in the Christian world, when it comes to the second coming of Christ, men will teach you one of three formats about His coming.

- The first one will be what we call post-millennialism.
- The second one we will call a-millennialism, A with millennium after him.
- Then the third one will be pre-millennialism.

Now allow me to explain them to you in a little deeper area because of where we are going to go with this.

➤ Post-millennial. Post-millennials believe that Christ comes back after the millennium. Now this will be your social gospel. This will be your Methodist, your Lutheran, your Presbyterian, basically your Protestant groups. You will find this not only in the religious world, but you will find that in the political world. This is the idea behind the United Nations, the thing that was set up after World War I to end war. We have only had about 450 wars since. This is the mindset behind everybody being worried about global warming that we are tearing up the atmosphere and destroying it. Every time, you all can see it, every time something happens out there, it is always global warming's fault. I mean the forest fires in over there in Hawaii, it is global warming. Who cares that they have been warned for years and years that their electrical system was going to start fire. It is convenient to have something to push your agenda on, see. Now maybe you are here and do not take issue with me. Maybe you say, well I believe in global

warming. Well so do I. This is not the way they do because in the tribulation the sun is going to get seven times hotter. That is global warming. It is going to get a lot hotter before it gets better. People talk about, well, we are destroying the atmosphere and they are blaming, hey, what destroyed the atmosphere is all you ladies with hairspray for all those years. You want to talk about eating up the ozone layer, are you kidding me? I walk into my bathroom sometimes in the morning and I will tell you what, you cannot breathe. I told my wife, honey, if you prayed as much as you sprayed, we would have a revival. You see, they believe and teach that we all work together. Can we all get along? We end the race problems, we end the conflict around the world, peace, all this stuff. Then when we bring the world up to a very high standard that we have solved all the problems, then Christ is going to come back. That is post-millennialism. We get the world all cleaned up, ready to go, and then He is going to come back once He is satisfied that we got everything off. You know that is never going to happen.

➤ The next one, a-millennialism, is where there is no millennium at all. That we are living in it right now. It is a spiritual thing. This will be your Jehovah Witnesses, your Church of Christ, and your Mormons, and your Seven-Day Adventists. They believe that there is no literal coming, that we are living in it right now.

➤ Then you have pre-millennialism. That is what we believe. We believe in the pre-millennial return of the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that Christ comes back and establishes a thousand year reign at the second coming of Christ. We look at what is going on in the world from a practical Bible standpoint. We look at everything that is going wrong in the world today is going wrong because we are getting close to the Lord coming back and taking the nations by force. Most of Christianity today are pacifist when it comes to war, fighting, whatever the case. I do not like war better than anybody else. But I mean the bottom line is your biggest war is coming yet with over 200 million men killed in it at the second coming of Christ. Somebody says, pray for peace, pray for peace. There will be no peace till the Prince of Peace comes back. He has got to take it by force. This is the pre-millennial return of Christ. What you are seeing right now is the world in disarray. I was talking to a couple of guys last night, Steve, Dad, and Scott, and we were talking about the world situation the way that it is. I said, there is nobody on this planet that is going to fix all the problems that is wrong with this world. There is nobody in America who is going to come in to be president that is going to fix everything. I get it. Here is what you better get down. The quicker you learn this,

the better off you are going to be. The Democrats want to reprimand the Republicans. Everything that goes wrong is the Republicans' fault. But on the other hand, the Republicans blame everything on the Democrats. So we find ourselves in one or two camps. We even want to blame all America's problems or the world's problems on the Democrats or we are going to blame one of the Republicans. It is not either one of them. The problem in America is God has turned His back on America because America turned her back on God. We are seeing in America, men never learn from history, what we saw in 606 B.C. when God took the nation of Israel, His people into captivity because they rejected God and they rejected His Word. Now we are seeing today in the New Testament with God's people, Christianity, one more time going into a captivity for the same reason. It is all leading up. It is all leading up to the pre-millennial return of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is as simple as that.

Premillennialism has been the standard doctrine in teaching all down through church history, through the true biblical line and the true church. Everybody has held to that. Not only do the Bible verses support this doctrine, but also actually, as I said a little bit ago, the actual orders of the books in your Bible clearly show you that. I know that is all rejected today. That is okay. The breakdown of some of your books, for instance, the book of Revelation, chapter 1 through 5, chapter 6 through 19, chapter 20, 21, 22, all show you the pre-millennial return of Christ. Ezekiel, Ezekiel chapter 36 to Ezekiel chapter 48, chapter by chapter, will show you the pre-millennial return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Premillennialism is what always the true church has always taught.

Now, when it comes to the book of Psalms, you will see that the doctrine of pre-millennialism is laid out by the order of the books before the book of Psalms and after the book of Psalms. It is one of the most amazing things that you will ever see. But this is Psalms on steroids. This is not your just average little diddle, little with the book of Psalms. This is getting into it. Of course, this is totally rejected today by Bible colleges, higher education in general, pastors, teachers, and most certainly Bible scholars in the colleges. They all reject it. So you know now for sure that it has got to be true because they always reject the things that are truth.

Now, the order of the Old Testament books in this particular case here, dealing with the captivity of Israel and then the restoration of the Jews. In your Old Testament, it will start in 2 Chronicles, then it will move to Ezra, then it will move to Nehemiah, then it will move to the book of Esther, then to the book of Job, then to the book of Psalms, then to the book of Proverbs. They will all lay out for you the course of history and the pre-millennial return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us pray. Father, help us today. Help us to unlock the truths in this great book. Give us the wisdom and insight and the things that we look at. Help these dear people to learn and cherish the greatest book that probably was ever written to them outside the book of Song of Solomon as a Christian. Help us, Lord. We will give You all the honor and the praise in Jesus' name for us. Take we ask it. Amen.

VI. God's Recovery of Israel: A Historical and Biblical Pattern

Now turn with me if you would to Isaiah 11. We want to look at it here. We will start in verse 10. If you do not have this marked in your Bible, you will want to mark this because this is the jump-off point to a great study. Without this verse, the rest of it really does not mean much. One of these little verses that He just stuck in here that most people never see or pay attention to, but oh wow, is it a blockbuster.

And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.

Now, verse 10 is the millennium. I want you to know that. Notice it is reference to the Gentiles seeking His rest. That rest will be the millennial reign of Christ. Now watch. And it shall come to pass in that day. Now we are looking at the second coming. And it shall come to pass in that day that the Lord shall set His hand again, watch it, the second time to recover the remnant of His people. You see that? Which shall be left from Assyria and from Egypt and from Pathros and from Cush and from Elam and from Shinar and from Hamath and from the islands of the sea.

Now, verse 11 tells us that God's hand is going to recover the nation of Israel two times. You will miss this and you are out when it comes to putting your Bible together. One little place in verse 11. I want you to know that both times the nation of Israel will be a remnant. Now stay with me. I will make this as simple as I can.

The first thing I want you to know is that the nation of Israel will be a remnant of Israel. Now the first time will be in Ezra and Nehemiah in history. You do not have to turn to it now, but if you would go back to the book of 2 Chronicles 36. That is the last chapter in 2 Chronicles. You will find that this is where the nation of Israel will now go into captivity. They go into captivity the southern tribes under Nebuchadnezzar. Three times Nebuchadnezzar comes down to try to take Jerusalem. The third time he finally takes it, then he destroys it, burns the temple and everything else. But in history it is always dated from the first one, 606 BC. So when you hear me talk about the captivity of 606 BC, two more times before he finally took it captive.

Now at the first time he takes them captive in 606, this is where Ezekiel goes and this is where Daniel goes the first time. So 2 Chronicles 36 now will be the nation of Israel going into captivity. 70 years later, Cyrus now is the king of Persia. Persia has defeated Babylon, and we now see the king of Persia allows them to go back. This will be the hand of God in verse 11 the first time taking them back to the land. So we see in Ezra they go back and in the next book Nehemiah they rebuild. God sets up His people a remnant from 2 Chronicles in Ezra and

Nehemiah because Israel has to be back in the land for the first coming of Christ, and at this time she is out.

You are going to find that Nebuchadnezzar comes down and takes the southern tribe 606, and in 2 Kings 17 and 18, and you want to mark this in your Bible. This is where Sennacherib comes down and takes the northern tribes. Now Israel is gone. Jerusalem is restored, it is gone. Temples burnt, everything is left in rubble. In fact, when Cyrus gives a decree for them to go back, you can read it in Ezra and Nehemiah. Ezra and Nehemiah, they go down there and they look at the city completely destroyed. The walls are knocked down, the temple is burned to the ground. Every aspect of the city of God has been destroyed. Well, you know what God did? First time He reached His hand down there to recover a remnant, and in Ezra and Nehemiah, a remnant of Israel goes back, and God begins to rebuild with them. They go back because at the first coming of Christ, the Jew has to be in the land. And God sets up His people a remnant to get ready for the first coming of Christ.

What happens? You know what happens? We just studied in John. Christ shows up at the first coming of Christ. They reject Him. They crucify Him, and they rejected what God did by recovering them the first time and putting them back in the land. They rejected Him. So what does God do? About 70 AD, God sends Titus the Roman emperor down. You know what Titus does? He does the same thing that Sennacherib did and Nebuchadnezzar did. He destroys Jerusalem, and now the Jews are kicked out of the land the second time. No more to be in Jerusalem. The Romans have it for a while, and then as the Byzantine Empire comes to an end, the Ottoman Turks come in, they take it over for a while. Israel is never in it again. Second time she has been cast out.

Then God begins to move. God begins to fulfill Isaiah 11, and now He is going to recover His people, the nation of Israel, a remnant the second time. It all starts around 1850, 1880. The Jews have no homeland. They are scattered through Europe. They are in America, but the bulk of them are in Europe, and they have no homeland. They cannot go back to Jerusalem. The Muslims have it, and they basically are without a country, and then God begins to move. Around 1880, 1850, somewhere in there, we have in history what we call the Zionist movement. Sympathy began to be felt for a nation that had no homeland. We saw God's hand now begin to move down through history. Let me tell you something. You miss God moving through history and God's hand moving history, you will never figure your Bible out because you cannot separate God from history. Now what I am giving you in high school and colleges and grade school is just world history, American history. Forget that. What I am giving you is Bible history. God moving down through history toward the day His Son sits down on that throne and is crowned King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

There is great sympathy for the Jews, but we have a problem. In Europe, we have a number of dynasties that have ruled Europe for centuries. We have the Russian Empire. We have the Ottoman Empire. That is the Muslims. We have the German Empire. We have the Austro-Hungary Empire. We have the French Empire. We have the Serbian Empire, and we have the English Empire. They are all got Europe locked up. They all intermarry. In fact, we went to the World War I Museum. We have been down there several times, but the last time we went, that

first movie they show you when you go in puts it all in a perspective. Probably the greatest single 25 minutes you will ever speak or take a look at history. Incredible. The Jew is stuck in all that. And God's plan, He has got to recover the Jew the second time. He cannot do that because they are all in Europe. And Europe is locked with all these dynasties.

So what does God do? He says, well, you know what I am going to do? That old guy from Austria-Hungary, Archduke Ferdinand, he is going to go down to Serbia on a goodwill trip because all these nations have made alliances together. They all have said, France and Britain, if you attack somebody else, we will attack them and help you. Everybody has got their military alliances. So Archduke Ferdinand and his lovely wife, they go down there to Serbia, and as they are coming out there and getting into the deal, going around a corner, a Serb steps up, kills him, assassinates him. This is June 28, 1914. Immediately it throws Europe into turmoil. Immediately now, the next day, Serbia declares war on Austria-Hungary. All the other nations that have alliances have to go to war to support the other. You know what comes out of that? World War I. In other words, God allowed World War I, I know this is tough for us as Gentiles to believe. I know, I get it, but I am telling you, just as sure as you can get a Big Mac with onions on it, I am telling you. God started World War I because He wanted that Jew to get back in the land, and they could not do it in Europe, and at the end of World War I, all the empires are gone. World War I destroyed every empire except one, England.

Then you know what God did? The Turks have Jerusalem. Now what happens is that England goes in there under Lord Allenby, General Allenby, and he kicks the Turks out of Jerusalem. The Muslims are gone. Now do you know who owns Jerusalem? The British. Now with all the monarchs gone, in England the only one left. A guy stands up in Parliament, Lord Balfour, and he says, you know, there was a man who helped us win World War I. His name was Weizmann, a Jew. He created a smokeless gunpowder that helped the British win World War I. Lord Balfour stood up in Parliament and he says, I think we ought to recognize the victory that this man brought to us and his people. He brought up what is called the Balfour Declaration. The Balfour Declaration said, now that England has control, we need to give Jerusalem back to the Jew. Isaiah 11 the second time. It did not happen. Two reasons. Britain was not all enthusiastic about that. Of course they thought about doing it. Then England is an island nation. It gets its oil from every place. So the Grand Mufti of Arabia shows up in Parliament. He heard about the Balfour Declaration and he says this, look, my friend, you give that land back to that Jew and you will never get another drop of oil out of my nations. So you know what they did? They sold them out. They did not get them.

The other thing is the Jews did not really want to go. I mean, they were great in Europe. They had their shops. They were making money. I mean, Germany was in a depression where it took 20 million Reichsmarks to buy a loaf of bread. The Jews are putting gold in their teeth. Which later became pulled out at Auschwitz and Treblinka, but that is another story. About that time an old German Bavarian corporal who had been wounded in World War I and had been gassed was coming under the political scene. He looked around Europe and his people in deep depression and the Jews having everything else. He says, this is Adolf Hitler. He says, the problem in Europe is the Jew. He wrote in Mein Kampf that for Europe to be survived and to grow and for

Germany to grow, there had to be an extermination of the Jew. So what happened? World War II comes along.

Now, when World War II started, just so you know, there is about 9 million Jews in Europe. At the end of World War II, there is less than 3 million Jews left in Europe. The rest of them were in the concentration camps, firing squad, buried in mass graves, all wiped out by Adolf Hitler in the Third Reich. When you look at history from that perspective of the hand of God based on Isaiah 11, what you see now is the beginning of the hand of God recovering them the second time. I have told you this many, many times. World War I got the land ready for the Jew. World War II got the Jew ready for the land. In 1948, they become a nation. Isaiah 11 has been fulfilled. Now they are back in the land. Now they are back in the land to be ready for the second coming of Christ, just like they were with Ezra and Nehemiah for the first coming of Christ. Now World Jew is ready back in the land, and he is ready to go. In 1948, they go back. In 1949 to 1970, they rebuild. Now a remnant back in the land ready for the second coming.

Now watch. The order of the books in the Old Testament show you this great event leading up to the second coming of Christ by a pre-millennial return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Keep in mind, He is bringing them back two times. Learn from history. History repeats itself. The only thing that men never learn from history is they never learn anything from history.

- > 2 Chronicles 36. In history, they go into captivity just like they will go into captivity in 70 AD. So now we have the two captivities.
- > The next book in your order in the Bible is the book of Ezra. What happens in Ezra? A small group of Jews go back and they go back to the land just like they did in 1948 after World War II.
- > What is the next book? The next book is Nehemiah. What do they do in Nehemiah? Well historically they rebuild, but in the order of our books they rebuild now in Europe, in Jerusalem just like they did in 1949 to 1970, like they did back in the Old Testament book of Nehemiah.
- > What is the next book? The next book is Esther. Now I do not know if you have ever seen this or not, and this is what I love about the Bible. Most people do not catch it. I would have never caught it unless somebody showed it to me. But the book of Esther. In Ezra they go back, Nehemiah they rebuild. In Esther they get permission to go back. Whoa, that is the wrong order. Esther should be at the beginning, then Ezra and Nehemiah. Why would you put the book of them going back third after they are already back unless you were going to try to show me something? The book of Esther is the strangest book in the Bible. I do not know if you have ever looked at it or not. It is the only book in the Bible where there is no mention of God anywhere. There is not one mention that God is doing anything. He is not mentioned. There is no name. It is not the Lord did this or the Lord did

that or God said this in anywhere in Esther. Yet behind the scenes without God ever being mentioned, you see the hand of God setting everything up for the Jew to go back to that land. You know what Esther is a picture of? Esther is a picture of the Laodicean church period that we are living in right now. Your heart can see God anywhere doing anything, but He is behind the scenes. What we all think God is doing, He is not really doing because behind the scenes all God is focused on right now is the nation of Israel. Christianity is on its course. You are going to have men and women who hold the line and do what is right. You are going to have some that go into apostasy. There are no more great revivals in America. There are no more great turning people to God. It is now you and me going through a disease-ridden vineyard picking a few grapes off that are still ready to eat. God's attention right now as we speak. Look at the Middle East. Look at the world around you. Look at Russia. Look at China. Look at Taiwan. Look at all the upheaval in this world all getting ready for one thing. A catastrophic explosion and it is all centered around the nation of Israel. When I look at Esther, I find in chapter 1 verse 5 that there is a feast in the wedding gardens for seven days and seven nights. You know what you got there? Got a picture of the rapture. You got Haman showing up who is the type of the antichrist. He tries to stop Israel, Mordecai. He tries to stop him. What happens to him? He gets hung like Judas. Oh, come on. Then a Jewish wife is told that in chapter 5 verse 1 that you need to be up and ready against the third day. Just like Exodus 19, and that third day is the second coming of Christ. It is all right there by the order of the books in your Bible.

➤ Now here is what we have got. What is the next book? All right. We have got 2 Chronicles 36 to go into captivity just like they did in 70 AD two times now. Ezra they go back in 1948, they go back. Nehemiah they rebuild, and then Esther the rapture and the times of the Gentiles are over. The next book is Job. Picture the tribulation period. Job is in the land of Uz exactly where the Jew will be in the tribulation period. Job is a type of the nation of Israel. He is persecuted by the devil for seven days just like the nation of Israel will be for seven years. Job's name means one persecuted. Job loses everything that he has just like Israel, but he gets it back double at the end just like Isaiah 61:7 and Deuteronomy 21:17 says that Israel will at the second coming of Christ. You cannot get around these things. There is a resurrection at the end of the book of Job. Job gets his kids back. There is a resurrection at the end at the second coming. Job is tormented by three friends, and with friends like these who needs enemies. They add to his misery. When I go to Revelation 16:13 with the nation of Israel and tribulation, there are three unclean

spirits like frogs that torment the nation of Israel. Come on. Oh yeah. 42 chapters in the book of Job. 42 months in the great tribulation period.

➤ Now so far 2 Chronicles 36 captivity like they go in in 70 AD two times now. Ezra they go back in 1948, they go back. Nehemiah they rebuild, and then Esther the rapture and the times of the Gentiles are over. The next book is Job and then our next book is Psalms. Psalms is about three things. It is about the second coming of Christ. It is about the millennial reign of Christ and David on the throne of Israel, and in Psalms you will find in Revelation 8:4 where it talks about the tribulation saints are praying under the altar for God's deliverance. You will find those prayers in Psalms. I will show them to you when we get there.

➤ Then the next book is Proverbs. We have come up through the millennium now we are into eternity. Proverbs is the mind of God showing you everything that God believes, knows, and is the complete doctrine of pre-millennialism laid out by the order of the books in the Bible. When we study Psalms together, you will find that the whole book will break down around those three doctrinal aspects, and I will show them to you, completely break them down with you as we go through that when we are done you will have them listed in your Bible. You will find that it deals with the tribulation Psalms. You will find it deals with the tribulation prayers concerning the second coming Psalms, and then you will find the millennial Psalms. Christ is now on the throne.

This will establish the basic context for Psalms, and I will completely break each one down as we go through it and go from there. I will lay out Psalms to three other formats. This is in a practical mindset, and this is how Psalms will lay out to you and to me and be an invaluable source of life as a Christian.

There are three key aspects to David's life found in the book of Psalms.

- You will find Psalms where David now is out of fellowship.
- Then you will find the Psalms where David is getting back in fellowship.
- Then you will find the Psalms where David is back in fellowship and he is on his way with God.

I will lay those out for you when we go through. Dr. Lee, David is typified or Israel is typified by David, and Dr. Lee, you have a picture in Psalms of Israel and three key aspects to their relationship with God.

- Israel out of fellowship with God, this will be the tribulation period.

- Israel getting right with God, this will be the prayers coming up to the second coming.
- Then Israel finally restored the second time, Isaiah 11, and now she is in the millennium. This will be Ezekiel 36 through chapter 48 chapter by chapter. Ask me sometime on Thursday night and I will walk through the chapters for you, not today. This will be Revelation 19, 20, 21 and 22.

Then inspirationally, it is me and you. This is where we find our source of comfort. Three key aspects to our life and relationship with God found in Psalms.

- Me out of fellowship.
- Me trying to get back and get right with God.
- Now that I am back in fellowship enjoying the blessings of God in my life.

There it is. It is just that simple, and that is how you apply the book doctrinally, inspirationally, and historically. I know in my own life and my own ministry. Many times when going through something, I found my strength in what David or one of the writers of Psalms was going through, and you do that by seeing the parallels and the patterns. I formed my biblical approach to music in this church through Asaph and his 10 Psalms. Why we sing the songs that we sing and make no apologies for it.

Now when it comes to me loving the Word of God above all else and more than anything else, it was Psalms 119 that showed me the way. Psalms 119 is 176 verses, and each one of them will teach you a different aspect about loving the Word of God. Psalms looks to be difficult, but in truth it is probably the easiest book in the Bible if you follow the simple outlines that God will give you. Breaking it down into three natural basic formats which we will do as we go through it.

So as we study together this great book, we will do what we always have done for over 50 years in my ministry and over 20 years here in this church, we simply let God be true and every man a liar. We simply take the book as we find it the way we find it, we make no changes to it, we do not think we have a better idea that God should have said something a better way, we just follow the simple natural outline and prayerfully allowing the Holy Spirit of God to lead and guide us into all truth. This will be a long study, probably the last one we ever do together, but no matter what happens in life over the next 10 to 20 years, the book of Psalms will sustain us and get us through.

VII. The Christian's Survival Kit

A couple of months ago up at the airport they had what they called a prepper convention or a prepper show. Now you might think that that is really nice fancy clothes, but that is not what it is about. A prepper is somebody who believes you are going to go through some great tribulation catastrophe, some apocalypse, and there are a bunch of them out there, and so they have these big shows like they have car shows, military shows, gun shows, but this is all prepper stuff, and

it was a whole big room for a table after table of stuff to prepare yourself for the apocalypse that is coming, and the place was packed. I am not kidding you, it was, I mean, they showed you how to store food, you could buy, I mean, one guy must have had 10 cases of military MREs, selling them out like hotcakes. They had freeze-dried food, stuff that I say my food will last 50 years, somebody else said, well, my food will last 20 years, but it is better tasting, they had everything there. Ammo was going out the door faster than you could get it. There were guys there to tell you what was the best survival rifle for an apocalypse, and they were selling it going crazy. They had all kinds of natural things, how to seeds that you could grow your own plants and grow your own food and all that stuff. I mean, there were guys there that had plans how to build a compound so you could defend yourself. They will take your family and build up a little bunker, and that way when they overrun it, you all get to die together.

I walk down those aisles and I am looking at all this stuff, it is great stuff, I like it, I mean, I am not, and I thought to myself, you know, I too am a prepper. I mean, I am sorry, when I just get down to it, I am also a prepper, I am just not a prepper like them, see. I am not preparing to survive, God will take care of that. I saw in my Bible, that is the big book with golden pages with the black cover, that Daniel, Joseph, Ezekiel, they all went down into an apocalypse, and God got them through just fine. He is not going to forget me. I am out for Galatians 4:19 says, "My God shall supply all your needs." I am not worried about it. If I have got to eat out of a garbage can at McDonald's, I will eat it, I do not care, that kind of stuff does not bother me. I can eat snakes, I can eat lizards, shoot, I drank water out of a river with dead people in it, I can handle it, I do not care, I am not worried about surviving. No, I want to be prepared to take the gospel right into the heart of whatever is coming. I do not want to hide from anything or anybody. You say, we all get thrown in prison, jail ministry, man, how about it? Maybe that is why God has got some of you down there preaching now so you can learn the systems, memorize the codes in the door so we can get out at night if we need to.

I do not want to be prepped and prepared to survive, God will take care of that. I want to be prepped and prepared to take the gospel right into whatever is coming. Luke 19:12 told me to occupy till He comes, and that is what I am going to do, I will pay whatever price needs to be paid. I do not care. You see, Israel was told to endure to the end. The church is told to be faithful to the end. Hey, the Christian life for me, I cannot speak for you nor would I, but it has always been just one adventure after another. I could tell you some exciting stories, some horror stories, but it has always been what is going to happen today. I have learned over the years that the greatest survival kit you could not buy at the prepper place, but there was some neat stuff there. Do not misunderstand me, my little blood runs a little that way, I get it, I would not mind taking out a few of Babylonians before the Lord comes back, but I know better. I mean, I can handle a, I mean, I can handle a rifle, I can do a 60 rounder down on top of you, I can take you out about 300 yards, I am good, but I do not even want to do because I learned that the greatest survival kit that you will ever have you cannot buy at a prepper show. It almost sounds gay, prepper show, but I do not know what I am talking about. You know why? Because the greatest survival kit of all time is what God has given me, the 10 essentials, 10 essentials in the Word of God.

- First thing He has given me is a sword, Hebrews 4:12. So I can defend myself with that.
- John 4 says the Word of God is likened to water, so I will never be thirsty.
- Proverbs 23 says it is likened to apples, so I can get my fruit.
- Hebrews 5 says it is likened to meat, so I will have plenty to eat.
- Jeremiah 23 and Isaiah 22 says the Word of God is likened to hammer and nail, so I can build things with that.
- Psalms 78 says it is like vegetables, so I got my carrots and my peas even though I do not like them.
- Psalms 119:103 says the Word of God is like honey, sweet to my taste, so I got a little sweet stuff going on there.
- Matthew 4 said it is not bread.
- 1 Peter 2 says it is like milk.
- Psalms 119:5 says it is fire, so I can keep warm at night.

What more do you need to survive? That is all I need for what is coming. Listen, there have been times in my life that I was so scared I could not spit. Not knowing from day to day what was going to happen. Yet in all of that, God in that book got me through. So based on that with what the world has to say to me, I do not think I am going to let you scare me today because I got the greatest survival kit the world has ever seen, and I believe it works. So with what is coming, I do not think Israel may need to endure till the end, the church needs to be faithful to the end. So listen up, Psalms will be a good book for all of us. Psalms will get you into the mindset understanding how God will take care of everything that comes in our lives. God never asked me to endure, though there was an enduring in Christianity. But I do not have to endure till the end to be saved. I am already saved. The church after salvation is not to endure but to be faithful, and in that being faithful in our enduring what comes our way by the grace of God. So we are going to get into it verse by verse, word by word, chapter by chapter, and we are going to get into probably the greatest book for you and for me outside the Song of Solomon, we already did that, that you are ever going to get into to help you understand everything that goes on. So be prepared. One more thing before I am done here.