

I. Review

Now last week, I laid out the historical and inspirational applications for Psalms 23. You know, we've been coming through the book of Psalms, and when we hit Psalms 23, I told you how this Psalm is so misused by the Christian world system today. It really is. They quote it almost as a vain repetition using it in a canned form, and simply Christianity for the most part, not everybody, have made a generalization of what I think is probably one of the greatest Psalms in the Bible that really shows us how we build our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Today, unfortunately, God's people are missing some great spiritual truths, and Psalms 23 is certainly within that category, and Psalms like this will be a blessing to all of us as we go through life.

➤ 11 Key Areas to a Working Relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ

I thought about it last week as we kicked it off and talked about it, and I basically understand the problem today. **Most Laodicean pastors and even Laodicean Christians know the Psalm, but the problem is they've never developed a relationship with the Shepherd**, and that's where the real key is. I broke down Psalms 23 as a building block for the Christian life with 11 key petitions of this Psalm. I look at it as 11 key areas to a working relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

We talked about how inspirationally:

1. **The Lord is my shepherd**: your salvation.
2. **I shall not want**: building the trust relationship.
3. **He maketh me to lie down in green pastures**: our ability to rest in Christ.
4. **He leadeth me beside the still waters**: the stilling of the waters, and He leadeth through the paths of life, His leading in my life.
5. **He restoreth my soul**: understanding what really took place the day God saved you. Most people know the terminology. I'm born again; I was saved. But if you would pin the average Christian down and say, "What exactly took place inside you the split second that you came from darkness to light? What changed about you? What did God do to bring you into his family?" They wouldn't know. I think as you grow as Christians, every child of God needs to understand the process of what really happened the day that you trusted Christ as your own personal Savior, and He restored your soul.
6. **Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil**: the victory in and over death, that how as a child of God, we only walk through the shadow of death. God has given us the victory over death.
7. **Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me**: how that His rod and His staff comfort us. I went into that and showed you that.
8. **Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies**: we talked about Him setting the table before me in the presence of my enemies, our fellowship with Him through the word of God.

9. **Thou anointest my head with oil:** how He anointed my head with oil. That's getting the mind of Christ and understanding things from His standpoint.
10. **My cup runneth over:** the blessings of God.
11. **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

I laid out how these 11 things apply in an inspirational application—building our own relationship with Christ on a daily basis. I'll tell you right now, if you have these 11 areas working in your life, then you have something special going on with the Lord. That's why Psalm 23 is much more than just a canned prayer to pray when you're about to die or you're in trouble or your plane is going down. It shows you the 11 petitions of this great Psalm that build a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Today, as I promised last week, I want to now give you the doctrinal application. I gave you the historical—how David is using it, the inspirational—how we would use it, and now I want to talk about the doctrinal application.

II. The Theme of the Bible: A King and His Kingdom

Now, most of you who have been around here for a while know what I'm about to say. The theme of the Bible is not Jesus Christ. The theme of the Bible is not your salvation and my salvation, though admittedly that's the most important thing in my life. But when God looks at the Bible, the theme of the Bible from God's standpoint is not His Son Jesus Christ particularly, or the fact that He provided salvation, though those are two amazing things. The theme of the Bible is a kingdom. **The theme of the Bible is built around the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and the establishment of His kingdom.** You'll find this over a thousand times in the Bible; sometimes it's called *the Day of the Lord*. Sometimes it's called *that day*. Sometimes you just see it as *the day*.

There are two key days in your Bible that the whole Bible is built around:

1. One of them is **the day of Jesus Christ**. That will be the rapture of the church.
2. The other one will be **the day of the Lord**. That will be God's day, and that's the day He's looking for.

I know for you and me the day Christ died on the cross is the most important day in our world, and I get that, but I want you to understand, and this comes from getting God's mind and seeing God's perspective, that the greatest day in God's mind is not the day that He had to turn His back on His Son. The greatest day in God's calendar is not the day that the world pulled out His beard and spit in His face and put nails in His hands and His feet. The greatest day on God's calendar is when He comes down and sits on that throne, and He's crowned King of Kings and Lord of Lords. That's the day God is looking for. That's the day I'm looking for, too. But that's where you're at with it, you see.

III. Understanding Doctrine

Now, again, most of you know this, but we have new people all the time, and I want everybody to be on the same page. When you take the word doctrine, you hear me say it a lot, “Well, that's the doctrinal application, or that's the doctrine of the Bible.” **The word doctrine means to teach or the teaching.** So, when we talk about the doctrinal application of the Bible, or a passage, or a verse, we're talking about a passage, or a verse, or even a book, where its main teaching will be toward the Day of the Lord, and it will have a futuristic or prophetic application to the Second Coming of Christ. You've got to remember that. That's key.

- You have the **historical application**: It happened in history.
- You have the **inspirational application**: That's for you today.
- Then the **doctrinal application**: It will be in the future,

And time is past—historical, present—inspirational, and future—doctrinal. If you can just remember that, it'll go a long way in you learning your Bible.

➤ Doctrine Makes the Bible a Living Book

Now, doctrine in the Bible is what makes the Bible a living book. If you didn't have doctrine, it'd just be a history book, which would be invaluable. If you didn't have doctrine, it would just be a practical book on everyday living, which would be invaluable, too. But the third application, the doctrine, is like the spark plugs in an engine. It gives it life. It makes it work. **It makes it a supernatural book because He's taking things that happened past, and present, then showing you that they're going to happen again in the future.** There's only one book that does that. That'll be the Word of God. Without doctrine, the Bible is just a book, like any other book. That's why it's so important.

In the Bible, we see how the Holy Spirit of God tells us just how important doctrine will be.

*2 Timothy 3:16-17. All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] **profitable for doctrine**, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

17. That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

He says all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable, then He lists four things that it's profitable for and the first thing that He lists is doctrine. He says doctrine, then for reproof, then for correction, and then for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished, unto all good works.

➤ Every Doctrine in the Bible is a Building Block for your Christian Life

Doctrine is the most important aspect first to learning your Bible. We've talked about it many, many times in Isaiah chapter 28, verses 9 through 13, where I showed you how that is a great picture on the building blocks of the Christian life. **It's a picture of somebody building a wall. He talks about the fact that it's built on precepts, and it's built on principles.** But he starts out in verse 9, and he says, "Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to

understand doctrine?" Every doctrine in the Bible is a building block for your Christian life.

When you put them into your life and build that wall, it's building your Christian life and building the temple of God, which is your body, strong in the Word of God.

➤ Doctrine is Missing in the Laodicean Church Period

Today, within the Laodicean Church, the missing element of Christianity will be doctrine. What the devil did, and you've heard me say this many, many times, by taking God's Word, King James Bible, out of the hands of Christians, he simply took all the doctrine out of people's lives. That's why you have thousands and thousands and hundreds of thousands of God's people who are saved today, truly saved, saved for years and years, good people, but couldn't lay out the Bible if their life depended on it, because doctrine was never emphasized to them. Here, first thing you get is doctrine. We build everything around that because that's the first thing that God said.

You see the three major doctrines that today are thrown out by Christians:

- The doctrine of the Rapture,
- The doctrine of Israel, and
- The doctrine on the Antichrist.

That's why all three of them are part of the seven mysteries given in the Bible. If you get the seven mysteries down in your life, along with the seven baptisms, the seven judgments, and all the seven series, you'll understand your doctrine.

➤ God Has His Own Systematic Study of the Scriptures

I've told you this before, and you know this too, that within the Word of God, God has His own systematic study of the Scriptures. I call them the seven series. When we went through Bible Institute together, I laid all of those out for you. **God puts the doctrine of the Bible, the key things that we need to understand for the church, in the form of seven mysteries which form up the seven major doctrinal blocks for the church.**

We talked about it a couple of weeks ago on Thursday night. Somebody asked a question about the mysteries for the nation of Israel. God put the nation of Israel into 12 mysteries. Within those mysteries, and I walked you through them, you'll find the doctrinal/prophetic application of how God is dealing with the nation of Israel. It's all built around the two key elements found in the Bible, that if you don't get a handle on at some time in your life, you'll never figure the Bible out. **The whole Bible is built around doctrinally the kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven; Two completely different kingdoms: both found in Christ, and both will be established in Christ together when He comes back.**

In the last moments of life on planet earth: the farther we get from the Scriptures, the farther we get from Bible doctrine. That's why when you go to most churches today, you'll hear nice little sermons. You'll hear nice little things about the Christian life. You'll hear nice little things about this and that. Many times, they're preaching on social issues. You'll never hear doctrine because doctrine is the missing element today within Bible Christianity.

IV. Doctrinally Psalms 23 is a Tribulation Psalm

Now, Psalms 23, doctrinally, so you know, will be a tribulation psalm. You'll remember that I told you that the book of Psalms will break up into three categories. It'll break up into the category of the tribulation period, the second coming, and the millennium. You will find that here Psalms 23 is a tribulation psalm. **It shows us how God will take care of the Jew as he goes through the tribulation.**

It starts out by saying, "The LORD is my shepherd." Israel needs a shepherd. You'll find in Psalms 44:22 that in the tribulation period, men, Israel, are sheep for the slaughter. The antichrist is killing them every chance he can. Most people today have a general idea of what the tribulation is. They know it's a time that the antichrist shows up. That's basically about all the farther they go with it, unless you're in a Bible teaching church someplace. I believe understanding the tribulation is significant today. I think it's something that you all should understand because you talk and work and witness to so many people. Certainly, we're living in a day and age right before those time periods.

➤ Breaking Down the Tribulation

Making it simple, the tribulation is a seven-year period that starts fundamentally with the rapture of the church, runs the course of seven years, and then ends at the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Now, that seven-year period is broken down into two sections. Each section is three and a half years. The first three and a half years, when the antichrist shows up, he brings in world peace and safety. He makes a covenant with the nation of Israel. Everybody thinks that world peace has come, and everything is going to be just great now.

But the Bible makes it very clear that after the first three and a half years (these seven years are called Daniel's 70th week as found in the book of Daniel), that in the middle of that week, three and a half years, it all changes. This is where the Bible tells us that the antichrist now goes into Jerusalem. He sits down on the throne, and he proclaims to the whole world that he is very God. This is called the *abomination of desolation* found in places like Matthew 24, 2 Thessalonians 2, Daniel 11, and Daniel 8. This starts the last three and a half years of the tribulation period. This is where he breaks the covenant with Israel, and now he goes after the Jew for those three and a half years to wipe them off the face of the planet.

Psalms 23 will be the Jew going through the last three and a half years of the tribulation period. I want you to understand that. When you look at Psalms 23 from this point on, I want you to see where it fits into that seven-year period. It's the last three and a half years.

➤ Our Understanding of the Nation of Israel Today is Vital

Our understanding of the nation of Israel today is vital. I think that it's vital in any place in history, but certainly today. Last week, if you'll remember, I laid out for you in the book of Romans (Romans 9, Romans 10, and Romans 11), the three chapters put into the handbook on Christian doctrine that deal with the nation of Israel.

Now, for just a second, turn back to Romans 11. I want you to learn some Bible today. I want you to see this and how it fits in. You're going to be able to get some key pieces to your Bible done today if you really want that.

*Romans 11:25-29. **For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery,** lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.*

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

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

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

*29. **For the gifts and calling of God [are] without repentance.***

Now, in your Bible, he says this is a mystery. Here again, this is one of the seven mysteries that is given to us as the church. Also, he says, "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery." Not only are there seven mysteries in the Bible, but there are seven things in the Bible that we are told not to be ignorant of. Yet nobody today, for the most part, knows what the mysteries are, and just about everybody is ignorant of anything that has to do with them.

Then he says this, "Lest ye should be wise in your own conceits." That's what happened today. That's why you've got people who claim that God is all finished with the nation of Israel. That's why you've got people who teach that there's no rapture. That's why you've got people who teach that the church is going through the tribulation period. They're ignorant of this mystery and have become wise in their own conceits.

Now look, look what he says, "Blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob." **That's Christ at the second coming of Christ.** "For this is my covenant," he made this back in Genesis, "unto them, when I shall take away their sins. As concerning the Gospel," and I explained this last week, "they are enemies for your sakes." I told you that the Jew is going to be your enemy today because of his blindness, but we are not to be his enemy because we understand Romans chapter 11 verses 25 through 29. "For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance."

➤ In Christ There is Neither Jew nor Gentile

Now, I want to show you something here. What does he mean when he says, "blindness in part has happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in." When Christ came at the first coming of Christ, He presented Himself to the nation of Israel. We know that the nation of Israel rejected, but there were people who believed in Him. When we move into the church age in the book of Acts, you begin to see how that when the churches spread out, Paul spends a lot of time going into the Jewish synagogue trying to convert the Jews to Christianity.

All through the church age, it says, “blindness in part is happened to Israel.” What does that mean? **It means in the church age, Israel is still in blindness for the majority, but only in part because during the church age, you'll find some Jews who trust Christ as their own personal savior.** So Israel's blindness is in part. In the church age, you're going to find that there are Jews who you will witness to, and you will win to Christ. Let me just say this, and this is another big screw up in the Christian world. Once a Jew gets saved, he's no longer a Jew. At that point, neither is he a Christian Jew. This is the big thing today where people think that the Jews who get saved are now Christian Jews. My Bible, the B-I-B-L-E, the book that you all hold in your hand, **my Bible says that in Christ, once you get saved, there is neither Jew nor Gentile. There are only Christians.** When I got saved, I'm no longer a Gentile from God's standpoint. I'm now a Christian. When a Jew gets saved from God's standpoint, they're no longer a Jew. They're a Christian because in Christ, there's neither Jew nor Gentile. People just can't seem to get that today.

➤ Everything with God Comes Down to a Number System

He says blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles come in. What is that? **That's the rapture of the church.** In other words, right now in the church age, Israel is blind but only partly. But there are Jews within this church age who were blinded but see the light of the gospel and get saved, so it's blindness in part until the fullness of the Gentiles.

Now, I'm not going to get into this real deep this morning, but everything with God comes down to a number system. God is about numbers. You say, how do you know that? Well, look; He put a book in the Bible called Numbers. God is about numbers. He does everything by numbers. If you want to find God, you've got to get a Bible, King James Bible. Then if you want to find anything about God, you've got to go through a number system. Exodus, second book, chapter 12, verse 13. See? You must go through a number system in the Bible to find God because God is a number system.

Einstein was a great mathematician or was supposed to be. Billy Graham witnessed to him one time, and he said, “Dr. Einstein, I'd like to talk to you about God and Jesus Christ.” You know what Einstein said? He said, “I can never believe in a God that is not a mathematical formula.” When that old renegade Jew made that statement, that was probably as close as he ever got to God in his life because God is a mathematical formula.

Everything in the Bible goes by numbers. How many angels left with Satan? A third. There was a number. **Whether you know this or not, right now, heaven is incomplete because a third of the sons of God left with Satan and left heaven, so now heaven is short a third of the sons of God.** Now, I don't know how many of them that was, but it was a third of them. So there must be a final number because you couldn't have a third if you didn't know what the number was. I don't know what it is, but I am telling you this. Right now, heaven is incomplete. There's a third of the sons of God, some magical number of sons of God, that are missing. **Before God can get it all back together and move into eternity, that number has to be replenished.**

So, this is the majesty and beauty of God. He creates a church age; He has body of Christ. But in that church age, when you get born again, you now become a son of God. **Soul-winning now is**

replacing that number of the sons of God. When heaven gets complete, when the fulness of the Gentiles come in, the rapture takes place. Now, if that isn't a motivation for soul-winning! Somebody says, "Oh, I can't wait for the Lord to come back." Really? What are you doing to help them along? How would you like to be the Christian who shows up at the judgment seat of Christ and you were the one who won the last person to Christ, and when they said, "God be merciful, be a sinner," the trumpet sounded, and they're all standing there. Wouldn't that be an incredible thing? So during the church age, blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. **When that magic number gets hit, and heaven now is complete with the sons of God that left, off we go.** It's one of the most hidden things in the Bible, but it's also one of the most amazing things in the Bible. The reason why most of God's people don't get it: they don't know anything about doctrine.

➤ **God will Restore His People, but the Restoration will Come Out of the Seven Year Tribulation Period**

Blindness in part. Let me show you something about your Bible. Come back to Mark chapter 8. You're going to learn some Bible today. I mean, I could take you back in the Bible, and when all the children of Israel, remember when they put the blood on the door, and some of the Jews didn't put the blood on the door, and it tells you the number who didn't, they got killed. When they get into the land, that number had to be replaced. God does everything by numbers.

Mark 8:22-25. And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him.

*23. And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and **put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought.***

*24. And he looked up, and said, **I see men as trees, walking.***

*25. After that he put [his] hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: **and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.***

When you're reading through your Bible, you ought to catch things like this. Maybe you don't, but you should. **This is the only place in the Bible with all the healing that Jesus did that it wasn't instantaneous.** You know how you know that the Charismatics are just full of sliced bologna when it comes to everything they believe? Because their whole world and healing is partial healing. When Jesus healed somebody, it was instantaneous. He didn't have to go back to the tent meeting and give more money to have it fixed and finished off. It was instantaneous except for one place.

This is what I talk about paying attention when you read your Bible or you study your Bible. I remember 40 years ago catching that and saying to myself, "Ooh, why is that?" You know, **sometimes God will do something completely out of the ordinary to draw your attention to show you something that's really out of the ordinary; supernatural.**

Now, watch. Watch this. Incredible. He says blindness in part has happened to Israel. So, this man, and how many times have I told you that every man, woman, and child, every person in the

Bible, in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, will be a picture of the nation of Israel. So, this man is a picture of Israel and he's blind, spiritually blind, like Israel. They bring him to Jesus to heal him so he can see. So, Jesus takes him out of the city. That's key. He spits in his face, touches him the first time and says, "What do you see?" The guy says, "Hmm, I see men walking around like trees." That is an incredible study in itself. But he doesn't see clearly because this man is a type of the nation of Israel and blindness in part has happened to Israel. **The first time He touches his eyes, he gets partial eyesight. Then he does it the second time. Look at the key word. This time the man is restored.**

That man is a picture of Israel. First time He touches him at the first coming of Christ, blindness in part. Second time He touches him at the second coming of Christ, and all Israel shall be saved. You see that? That's some Bible you've got, man. I don't know how your little goofy stuff on your phone can compete with that. Incredible! So, there you have it. God will restore His people, but the restoration will come out of the seven-year tribulation period. **Right now, blindness in part has happened to Israel; so, you've got the guy not seeing clearly. But at the second coming, he's restored and he sees everything clearly.** Psalms 23, doctrinally, will be during this time period. This is what we want to look at today.

V. The Doctrinal Application of Psalms 23

1. *The LORD [is] my shepherd; I shall not want.*
2. *He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.*
3. *He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*
4. *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.*
5. *Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*
6. *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.*

➤ Christ is the Shepherd of Israel

*Psalms 23:1. **The Lord [is] my shepherd; I shall not want.***

He starts out, "The Lord is my shepherd." Christ in the Old Testament will be the shepherd of Israel, and Israel will be His sheep. The Bible makes no bones about this. You'll find it in Psalms 100:3 where he tells you that the sheep are men. Jesus Christ is the shepherd of Israel.

➤ Christ is Called the Good Shepherd in John 10

Now again, let me show you something in your Bible. Turn over to John chapter 10. Oh, this is another thing man. Wow! This is something else, man. I could just do these things all day. This is like laying on a nice cool summer day and eating strawberries out of a field someplace.

Now the Gospel of John is the unique book of the four. He's portrayed as the Son of God. In the Gospel of John, Christ will be portrayed in different fashions. Have you ever seen this? He is called the true vine, the light of the world, and the bread of life. In John chapter 10, he's called the good shepherd. Here you see Him being the shepherd of Israel and God showing you how He is going to deal with the nation of Israel in just five little verses. Everything, if you know what you're looking for.

Now, I want you to look at this, and I'm going to break this down into three sections for you. Then you need to get it in your Bible in those three sections.

1. There are Literal Doors and Windows in Heaven

*John 10:1. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not **by the door** into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.*

Now the first thing I want you to see here is that he's not speaking metaphorically. I'm not sure what that word means, but I heard somebody use it and it sounded pretty impressive. There's a literal door up in heaven. This is why people think that St. Peter, when you go to heaven, if you go to heaven, you go to the pearly gates, there's the door and St. Peter, you know, lets you in, which is not true. But there's a door in heaven.

Now there are also windows up there. You say, "Well, I don't believe that." You want to be careful with that because back in the Old Testament, when God, through the prophet, told some people that God was going to open the windows and bring down food, one of the guys scoffed and laughed and made fun of him, and God killed him for it. So be careful with your stupidity, okay? You go to Revelation chapter four; a door is opened in heaven. You go to Genesis chapter seven, the windows of heaven are opened. You go to Revelation chapter 19, a door is opened in heaven. Malachi chapter one, a door is open in heaven. Matthew chapter 25, and the door is shut, and they can't get in. There's a door up there. Don't ask me if it's a double door or a white door. It's a door, okay? I don't have any clue. I'm just telling you there's a door up there.

Then the Bible says, and this is strange. "He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber." Now, that actually happens in the Bible. That's why He put that in there. Somebody does climb up another way, and the Lord has to deal with it. See if you can find that in the Bible. That's verse one.

2. The First Coming of Christ

John 10:2. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

3. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

He just told you that at the first coming of Christ, a door was opened up in heaven. Look what happened. "But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out." You know what you've got in verses two and three? **You've got the first coming of Christ.**

You've got Him coming down through the door, dying on the cross, being buried, then He leads captivity captive, and He takes them back up through that door. That's what you've got.

Now, just like everything else in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, He skips over the church age. The church age is not there anywhere. We're dealing with Israel in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. So, we see there's a door up there. He opened the door. Somebody, Christ, comes down. He walks this earth for 33 years. They crucify Him; they bury Him. He rose again on the third day. Then He takes His own sheep by name, and He leads them out. That's the Old Testament saints going up, leads captivity captive, in Ephesians 4:8-10.

3. The Tribulation Period

John 10:4. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.

5. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

It jumps over the church age. "And when he putteth forth his own sheep," now we're in the tribulation period. Now we have seen the door. We've seen the first coming. And now in verses four and five, we're going to see the second coming. "And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice." Watch verse five, "And a stranger will they not they follow." Now who's the stranger? Well, if you go back to Zechariah chapter 11 and a couple of other places, **you'll find that the stranger there is called the idol shepherd.** That's the antichrist. You're right smack dab in the tribulation period.

So in verse one, you've got the door. Then in verses two and three, you've got the first coming of Christ. Jump over the church age, and verses four and five are right in the tribulation period with the antichrist, and then He leads them out. All found right there in that little verse, showing you that Christ to Israel is their shepherd.

➤ Christ Meets Israel's Needs in the Tribulation Period

Psalms 23:1. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Now we see Christ meeting Israel's needs in the tribulation period. This will be God in the tribulation feeding Israel as they flee into the wilderness in the last half of the tribulation. You will find this doctrinally, there again, in the book of Exodus. In Exodus, when they come out of Egypt, they're wandering through a place called the wilderness of Sin. There's no place for them to find food. There's no water. It's a picture of the tribulation, Matthew chapter 24. So God in Exodus chapter 16 brings the manna down and gives them water out of the rock. Moses does this in Exodus and Moses in Revelation chapter 11, along with Elijah, is leading them during this period of time. This is God preparing them and giving them what they need.

➤ The Lord Will Lead the Nation of Israel During the Tribulation

*Psalms 23:2. He maketh me to **lie down** in green pastures: he **leadeth me** beside the still waters.*

The key here will be Him leading me. Now, this will be found in Revelation chapter 12 verse six. In Revelation chapter 12, you find the antichrist, the devil, going out to the nation of Israel in the last three and a half years. Israel is called the woman in verse six.

*Revelation 12:6. And the woman fled into the wilderness, **where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.***

This will be Israel in the last three and a half years of the tribulation period running into the wilderness and God making them to lie down in green pastures and leading them beside the still waters, away from the antichrist. You say, "Well, Bob, how in the world do you know that is the tribulation?" Well, gee, I don't know, because it says 1,260 days, add it up. That's three and a half years, the last three and a half years. Then you want to look at Revelation chapter 12 verse 14. Same time period. He comes down and he tries to wipe out the Jew in Jerusalem. They flee Matthew chapter 24.

*Revelation 12:14. And to the woman were **given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.***

The Bible says, "And to the woman (Israel) were given two wings of a great eagle," there's God the father, Deuteronomy, "that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent (the antichrist)." Notice it again: a time, that's one. And times, that's two more. Now you've got three. Then half a time makes three and a half years. God is dealing in the midst of the tribulation as he dealt with the nation of Israel back in Exodus chapter one through 12 in Egypt. Moses was the man back there who led them out and dealt with Pharaoh, a type of the antichrist. So Moses comes back in Revelation chapter 11 along with Elijah. You'll find him in James chapter five.

➤ God Will Protect Them Physically During the Tribulation

*Psalms 23:3. **He restoreth my soul:** he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness...*

Now, doctrinally, the soul here is not the soul that you and I have as the inner soul that's inside your body. **The soul here, and you've got to remember in the Old Testament, the soul and body are stuck together.** So the word soul and body are used interchangeably in the Old Testament, but that changes when you got saved because your soul gets separated from your flesh, Colossians chapter two.

So here he's talking about their physical body, God protecting them and getting them through the tribulation to restore them at the second coming of Christ. This is what Romans chapter 11 verse 26 says, a time when "and so all Israel shall be saved." **The soul here will be the nation of Israel, a body of people who are God's people as a nation.** God doesn't deal

with them like he deals with you. He deals with you on an individual basis. He deals with them through a nation, through the prophets and the leaders that He gives them.

➤ The Leading of Moses (the Law) and Elijah (the Prophets) in the Tribulation

Psalms 23:3. ...He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

In the tribulation, God will lead the Jew after they flee into the wilderness. As I've already told you, it will be by two of the greatest leaders Israel ever had. You'll find this in Revelation chapter 11. You'll find it in back in the Old Testament, too. In Zechariah 4: 11-14, it talks about the two witnesses or the two candlesticks that God sends to Israel. In Revelation chapter 11, they're called the two witnesses. When you go back to the book of Malachi, the last two men who are mentioned in Malachi, before we get into the New Testament, which is dealing with the second coming of Christ—guess who? Moses and Elijah. Moses for the nation of Israel in these last three and a half years as he leads them through the tough times; he'll represent the law, and he'll re-establish the law of God. Elijah represents the prophets. So he will set down a righteous path based on the prophecy of the word of God and get them on the right path, the righteous path. Kind of like Jeremiah 6:16, Old Paths Baptist Church on the right path; it's incredible.

➤ The Shadow of Death: A Cloud that Passes over the Antichrist's People in the Tribulation and Kills Them

*Psalms 23:4. Yea, though I walk through **the valley of the shadow of death**, I will fear no evil: for thou [art] with me...*

Wow, okay. Now we come across one of the great, if not the greatest unknown mystery found in the Bible dealing with the tribulation period. This will be completely unknown and missed by 99% of the commentators on the book of Revelation in the tribulation period. I will be the first to tell you, I don't have all the answers for this, but I'll tell you what you have. The shadow of death.

You see, **last week I talked about the shadow of death in the inspirational application because Christ gave us the victory over death that we don't die, but we walk through the shadow of death.** That's not what you got here. No, no, no. Now here, the doctrinal application, you have something else. Now I fully don't understand what I'm about to say, but I will give you enough that you understand what I am saying, even though I don't understand everything I'm saying, I know what I'm saying. Write that down, I want to use that later.

In the tribulation, the shadow of death will be a cloud that in the tribulation passes over the Antichrist's people and it kills them. I don't understand it, please. If you're on the internet, I don't need to know what you think it is. You know, there's no way to figure it out. I'm just telling you, **in the tribulation, the shadow of death is a cloud that passes over the Antichrist's people, and it kills them.** Watch. This is a second-coming and last half of the tribulation passage:

*Job 3:4-5. Let **that day** be darkness; let not God regard it from above, neither let the light shine upon it.*

5. Let darkness and the **shadow of death** stain it; let a **cloud** dwell upon it; let the **blackness of the day** terrify it.

Then you have Jeremiah chapter two, verse six.

*Jeremiah 2:6. Neither said they, Where [is] the LORD that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, that led us through the wilderness, through a land of deserts and of pits, through a land of drought, and of **the shadow of death**, through a land that no man passed through, and where no man dwelt?*

➤ Old Testament Books Which Reference the Shadow of Death

In the Old Testament, there are over 25 passages to this shadow of death. To me, it's always been interesting to see what books they're in.

In the book of Job, you have 11 times that match the shadow of death. Job is a picture of the tribulation period. Job is a type of the nation of Israel. He's persecuted on the ground by the devil for seven days; Israel is persecuted for seven years. He's in the land of Uz, that's exactly where the Jews are going to be in the tribulation period. He has three friends show up that accuse him falsely, those will be the three unclean spirits that show up in the book of Revelation against the nation of Israel. There are 42 chapters in the book of Job, and 42 months in the last half of the tribulation period. Eleven times, in the book that is a type doctrinally of the tribulation with Job as a type of Israel going through it, appears the shadow of death, eleven times.

In the book of Psalms, I told you how the book of Psalms will be broken down into tribulation Psalms, second coming Psalms and millennial Psalms. In Psalms, you'll find the shadow of death six or seven times in Psalms that are tribulation Psalms.

In the book of Isaiah, all dealing with a second coming, you'll find four references to the shadow of death.

In the book of Jeremiah, you'll find two times. Jeremiah is the only man in the Bible told not to marry. Jeremiah in his ministry is a representation of the 144,000 Jews in the last half of the tribulation period who cannot be married; they have to be virgins. Jeremiah, doctrinally, is that picture.

In the book of Amos, the shadow of death appears one time, and the whole book of Amos is the tribulation and the second coming of Christ.

➤ The Shadow of Death Does Not Affect the Nation of Israel

Now this cloud, this shadow, whatever it is, passes over the Antichrist's people, and if they're caught under this cloud, shadow of death, it kills them. It doesn't affect the nation of Israel. When you go back to the book of Exodus, when Moses brought the plagues on Egypt, the plagues, the fire, the frogs, the hail, the darkness, all of that stuff fell on Egypt, but it never fell on Goshen where the Jews were. The shadow of death does not affect the nation of Israel. Hence, just like you don't die, I don't die, but we walk through the shadow, the shadow of death did not kill them,

but they were in its shadow. But whoever's under it that's with the Antichrist, so long, seniorita; you're gone.

➤ The Rod of Chastisement and the Leading of the Staff

Psalms 23:4. ...thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Here again, we see the parallels between Israel and the church. Like last week, **the rod here, like it was for us, will be the chastisement that they go through that will bring them back to God.** I gave you last week in an inspirational application, Hebrews 12:11, that any chastisement we go through is grievous, but it brings about the peaceable fruit of righteousness. That was the inspirational, but Hebrews 12, fundamentally, is to the nation of Israel, to the Hebrews. **It's a picture of the peaceable fruit that comes to Israel going through the chastisement of the tribulation period.**

Along with this will be Psalms 119:71, which is a great principle for you and me, inspirationally, but it also is dealing with Israel where they say, "It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I might learn thy statutes." You see, this is why chastisement in your life and my life, even though it's not joyous, but grievous, has a profit to it. It teaches us the statutes that God has for us that we didn't follow. Doctrinally, same way with the nation of Israel. Those are the parallels.

The staff will be God leading them. He'll do this, as I told you earlier, with Moses and Elijah. Moses with his staff. Remember now, he's a shepherd. Now, did you ever notice how all the key men in the early part of the Bible, and we'll put David into that, are all shepherds? Abraham, David, Jacob, Joseph, Abel, they're all shepherds, showing you the key aspect of Christ being a shepherd to the nation of Israel. The staff that he has here is the rod of God's judgment. In Exodus, he turned the waters to blood, he brought about all the plagues. **In the tribulation period, Moses with that same rod, will do the same plagues to the antichrist that he did to Pharaoh.** Egypt: type of the world and Pharaoh: type of the antichrist.

Elijah—he'll have the Book. He's a prophet. Thus, his famous saying every time he opened his mouth was, "Thus saith the Lord." **So you have the two men—the rod of God to get them right and bring the peaceable fruit, and also the word of God through Elijah to keep them right and to heal them and get them to the millennium.** Just like I showed you last week, that's what He does with you and me.

➤ God Hides the Jews in Selah Petra – The Rock City

Psalms 23:5. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

When the nation of Israel flees into the wilderness, and you'll find this in Matthew chapter 24, where they, in Revelation 12, are given the wings of an eagle, they wind up in a place called Selah Petra. Selah Petra is a rock city carved out of a mountain. It's about 50 miles south of the Dead Sea. You'll find it referenced in Isaiah 42:11 and Isaiah 16:1. Two words, Selah Petra. **Selah means rest. Petra means rock.**

➤ The Rock is Christ Who Protects Them During the Tribulation

For Israel, when they flee and God prepares a table for them, it's the Rock of their rest, where God takes and hides them. Here, the Jews hide out until the second coming, though the antichrist does find them; they're very hard to get to. It's very, very hard to make a major attack. This is where God hides them. Now, God feeds them, as I showed you earlier, with the water and the manna, Moses and Elijah, Selah Petra, rock city. **It's a picture of the rock of God, who is Christ, who protects them during the tribulation.** In 1 Corinthians chapter 10:1-11, you'll find the whole history of Israel laid out in all the things that they went through. Then he tells them that they trusted in a Rock. And that Rock was Christ.

*1 Corinthians 10:4. And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and **that Rock was Christ.***

So he sends them to the rock city. Selah—Rest; Rock—Christ. That's where God keeps them during the tribulation, till the antichrist finally attacks them, and then ushers in the second coming of Christ.

➤ Israel is the Anointed of God, Set Apart from all the Other Nations on Earth

Then he says, "thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over." In the Old Testament, and I didn't get into this last week because I was waiting for this week, but in the Old Testament, I told you last week that the anointing of the head with oil is a picture for you and me of us getting the mind of Christ through the Holy Spirit of God, anointing your mind through the word of God, God's mind. **But in the Old Testament, the anointing of oil on a man's head, is what God used to set him apart, as God's chosen vessel.** If he was going to be a king, if he was going to be a prophet, a priest. **The anointing of the head with oil is a picture of the oil, the Holy Spirit of God, giving that man the wisdom to do what God wanted him to do.** It's symbolic.

Israel is God's chosen people, His chosen nation to run the world throughout eternity. Israel is the anointed of God, set apart from all the other nations on earth. This is why you're seeing what you're seeing around the world today, and certainly in America, with all the anti-Semitism. The devil hates Israel, and the devil has got America in his hip pocket. He's using this country as he's using the Muslim nations, as he's using the Catholic Church, as he's using everybody out there to have a hatred that's unparalleled for the nation of Israel. It's incredible, and it's only going to get worse. It ain't going to get better. I don't care what this country tried to do. This country is on a course of destruction because of her rejecting the word of God (just like Israel) and her rejection of the Jews. This world, this country, the people in it, they hate the Jews. They hate the Jews because of the fact that they're God's chosen people. They don't even know why they hate them. They hate them because their hatred is satanically inspired by who is leading them, and they have no idea. It doesn't matter that a Jewish person might be the nicest person on the planet, be the prettiest girl you ever saw, the nicest man you ever met. There's an inbred hatred of this world for God's people because that hatred is fused and fanned through his majesty, the devil. **Israel is the anointed of God, and they have been set apart by God.**

➤ The Physical and Spiritual Blessings God Gave to Israel

He says, "my cup runneth over," speaking of Israel. It says in Romans 11: 29, "the gifts and calling of God are without repentance." God is not going to change His mind toward Israel. **Israel is given physical blessings in the Old Testament that no other nation ever had.** Israel is given spiritual dominance; spiritual blessings that no other nation ever got from God. The picture is Joseph as a type of Christ, the greatest type in the Bible, 152 places, and his brethren, the world. His father gave him a coat of many colors. It set Joseph apart with the father. Joseph is a type of the nation of Israel. He's also a type of Christ. That coat given to him by his father, Jacob, shows God's blessing to Israel, and his brethren hated him. That's what you're seeing today.

There's no way you're going to get around it. If you're living in America, you might as well get ready for what's coming, because it isn't going to change. This nation now is locked down and shut down. I don't know if you know it or not, but starting this week, the aircraft controllers who make sure your plane doesn't run into another plane won't get paid anymore. They've already canceled over 400-500 flights today (due to the government shutdown) because there's nobody directing them. Now, somebody wants to say, well, that's the Democrats because they want this, or that's the Republicans because they want that. You don't get it, do you? It has nothing to do with the Democrats or the Republicans, though the devil uses both of them. This nation is under God's curse. **This nation dumped God's word, this nation dumped God's people and have turned their backs, and He told us very clearly, "I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee."** Here we are. Now, what does that leave you if you're a Christian? You're a mess. But you know what? It's just like Israel in a tribulation period.

When I was in Boston, I talked to one of the guys up there about what's going on. It looks like without any shadow of a doubt that New York City is going to get a communist mayor. He's going to come in, and he's going to elevate the Muslims; he's already said he's going to do that. He's going to give free childcare. He's going to raise the minimum wage to \$30-\$35. Free public transportation. No more paying to ride the buses or the subway. If you work and you've got a child, your child's daycare will be paid for. He's going to make all the grocery stores government run. Kansas City had two government-run grocery stores. I don't know if you knew that. One on Swope Park, I don't know where the other one was. They both bellied up. The guy I was speaking with looked at me and said, "Let her burn. Let the city go down." I agree with that. You know what? I'm telling you. This thing is a mess. You guys are living in a dream world. You're so far out of reality. I don't care, you know why? Because he's never going to leave me or forsake me. **He's going to get me through everything that's going on out there, just like He's going to get the Jew through the tribulation period.** I don't care if that's what I've got to go through to get home to heaven. Let's shut down every city and turn everything over to the commies.

➤ You and I Got Our Salvation Because Israel's Cup Runneth Over

My cup runneth over, Israel. I told you last week that it's a picture of your life and my life when you get into the word of God and get God's blessings in your life because you do what's right

with the word of God and let God use you. It not only fills up your own cup with the blessings, but it overruns and gets onto people sitting next to you.

In the next couple of weeks, I'm going to show you how that also is true with this church. God has filled our cup and now it's overflowing all across this country. God gave Israel spiritual blessings that He gave nobody else. He gave them physical blessings that He gave nobody else. Then He said back in Genesis, their cup runneth over, all the nations and the families of the earth are going to get their blessings out of Israel as their cup runneth over. **You know the greatest thing for me in that—their cup runneth over? John 4:22: *salvation is of the Jews*. My Savior, Jesus Christ, was a Jew and was part of Israel's cup runneth over. You and I got our salvation because Israel's cup runneth over. No matter where they're at, God is going to use them in spite of themselves.**

➤ God's People Restored and Back in the Land

Psalms 23:6. 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 this will be God's people restored and now back in the land. This will be salvation. All Israel shall be saved. This will be after the fulness of the Gentiles come in. The land grant that was promised to Abraham to the Jews. For over 3,000 years, they had no homeland. Then suddenly, in 1948, they become a nation again. Today, the Jews may be back in the land, but they only have a fingernail toe hold on it. 95% of that land that was given to them, that is divided up to the 12 tribes in the millennium, is under satanic control through the Muslim countries.

After 1948, when they signed that occupation that they were a nation, within 15 minutes they were attacked by the Arab League. Since that time, they've been attacked over and over and over and over and over again because the devil wants them out of that land. But that's all going to change very soon.

VI. Summary

While Trump is trying to win the Nobel Peace Prize, by bringing peace to the Middle East, God is preparing for the largest battle in world history in the Middle East. A battle that will not just fix the Middle East problems, but it's going to fix the problems of the whole world. *The day, God's day, the day of the Lord*, the day Jesus Christ sits down on the throne, and He's crowned King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. The day, Revelation 11:15, where the Bible says that the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ.

I just close by saying this. America, you're wrong. You do need a king. He's coming. When he comes, there won't be any debate in Congress about it. There won't be any riots in the street, holding up a sign, saying we don't need a king. Every eye shall see Him. Every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. He's coming. He's coming. Now you've got enough to put into your Bible, you got the historical, you got the doctrinal, and you got the inspirational. Psalms 23, greatest psalm for me—historically: David, inspirationally: me, doctrinally: Israel.