

## I. Review

If you have your Bibles this morning for the last time, let's turn to Psalms chapter 37. We are going to finish it up today. I have tried to break these Psalms down into an easy, understandable format based on different subjects that we deal with. We have seen some really incredible inspirational and practical truths for the life of the believer in what we have seen so far.

You remember in our first section, we talked about where it says, "Fret not." Instead of fretting, but rather, trust in the Lord, delight in the Lord, commit thy way unto the Lord, and then ultimately to rest in the Lord. These are five key building blocks for us in our walk with God and building our own relationship. Then in verse 23, the next week we saw, "*The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and he delighteth in his way.*" There is no question in my mind, without a doubt, that this is one of the single greatest teachings in all of the Bible on our walk with God and our building our relationship. It is based on the great principle found in Genesis chapter 24, verse 27, which simply says, "*I being in the way, the Lord led....*"

I have had preachers all my life preach on that verse, and they have always taught it in the wrong format. They always said that you have to get in front of God, and then when you get into the way of God, then God will lead you. Well, that is just simply not what it is talking about. Once you go to Proverbs chapter 8 and you look at Genesis chapter 1, verse 1, you see that the way is not me getting in front of God, but the way is the way that God is going down through history and down through life, and I have to get in that way. That is where the leading is. There is no leading with God in your life without you understanding the way God is going and you making yourself a part of that.

I showed you **three care areas to have in your life** to stay within the confines of His way. The **first one**, obviously, is the **Word of God**. The Word of God was given to you as the direction by which and the insight into what God wanted you to do and wanted you to go. But the Word of God by itself is a Book, and it is a Book filled with principles, but there will be no structure in those principles without the next structure (**second one**) that God puts in our lives, and that will be the **local New Testament church**. When you have the Word of God, there has to be a structure that that Book works through, and that becomes the local New Testament church. The **third one** is where Paul talks about it. You see the example all the way through the Bible: Paul and young Timothy, Paul and Titus, Paul and Philemon. How that Paul said, in 1 Corinthians 11:1 "*Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.*" Through the Word of God and the structure of the church; you need to have **a man of God in your life that is going to direct you**. As the New Testament is set up within the structure of the church, the pastor that leads and helps you figure out everything that God is doing for you.

Last week, if you will remember, we looked at our third section, and that was God upholding you in your life journey as you go through life's trials. Here we saw the hand of God in our lives. I showed you that **there is no leading of God in your life, the steps that He wants for you,**

**without the hand of God in your life.** God has preserved you through it and will take care of you through it.

When you look at this passage that we are going to look at today, and what we have looked at, one of the things that comes out is the fact of how God keeps taking care of us. I understand that historically, that is Israel and David. Doctrinally, it is Israel in the tribulation; but inspirationally, it is the hand of God's preservation. That is what the hand of God in your life really means. It means God is going to preserve you. It means He is going to take care of you. In the Bible, you will find that there are three things that God's preservation is found in.

➤ Three things that God's Preservation is Found in

**The first one is going to be the Word of God.**

The great controversy for the last, oh, I do not know, probably 75, 100 years is the fact that, is the Bible that you have in your lap, is it really the Word of God, or is it just a translation of some unknown original someplace that nobody has ever read, nobody has ever saw, nobody has ever had? Because the original autographs were never in one book, and the word "Bible" means "books." That has been the controversy. I had to struggle with it. I had to learn about it. I had to get through it. So have many of you. Some of you young ones are yet to do that, but you will.

But I found out that the easiest way to understand it is to look at the **two aspects of the Word of God**. The **first aspect** everybody will accept: God inspired the Word of God. The Bible says, "*holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost (2 Peter 1:21)*". God inspired the Word of God. The issue today is, do you have that? All the scholars, 99% of the pastors and Bible teachers will tell you that the original autographs were inspired. But what you have in your lap is not inspired. It is just a translation that has been handed down to man that is not the perfect inspired Word of God. That is the issue today!

I am not the brightest bulb in a light bulb box. But I have some common sense. I came to this conclusion: no question about it, God inspired the Bible. There is no question about that. But the question I have is, honestly, what good is it that He did inspire it? If He was God enough to inspire it, which I believe, do not you think He would be God enough to preserve it? I believe He did. I believe history shows the preservation of the Word of God, that God brought it right down to man. What you have in your lap, if you have a King James 1611 Authorized Version, you have the perfect, absolute inspired Word of God that is preserved (second aspect) for you in the English language. Not based on some Greek manuscript someplace, based on God putting the Word of God in its final form in the English language. It is everything in that Book and that language that God wants us to have today in the English-speaking world of the Church Age. It is just that simple. Those are the two aspects: God did inspire it, but I believe He also preserved it. What good is it the fact that God inspired it once upon a time if I cannot get my hands on it?

You know the next thing you have got to consider someday God is going to judge you by this Book. It says over there of the unsaved people, Revelation 20, "*and the books were opened...*"

*And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; **and the books were opened: and another book was opened**, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. Revelation 20:12*

He is going to judge unsaved people by this Book. At the judgment seat of Christ, He is going to judge you, and I based on what we did with this Book. How can a God who is righteous, who is honest, who is holy, who is everything, how could He judge you or me or any unsaved man by a Book that we had that was not perfect? Every unsaved man, every unsaved woman could point out the imperfections of the Word of God and say, "You cannot judge me because your Book was imperfect." You and I could stand at the judgment seat of Christ and say, "No, no, you cannot do that because You gave me a Book that was full of errors, mistranslations." Trust me, in both cases, that is not going to happen. The Bible says that God is going to judge the secrets of men by my gospel.

*In the day when **God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.** Romans 2:16*

He is going to take that Book; He is going to open it up because that Book was inspired and because it was preserved. He is going to judge us with it, and it is just that simple.

### **The second thing that He preserved was the believer, you and me (the Church).**

You and I, like the Word of God, we have two aspects to us. Most people do not understand this. When you go back to Job chapter 32, verse 8, and Job chapter 33, verse 4, you will find two verses that clearly say that when you and I got saved, it was through God's inspiration.

*But there is a spirit in man: and the **inspiration of the Almighty** giveth them understanding. Job 32:8*

*The Spirit of God hath made me, and the **breath of the Almighty** hath given me life. Job 33:4*

The Bible actually says that He breathed on us, and that is what inspiration means, God breathed. He breathed on us the day we got saved. Like the Bible, after being inspired by God through His salvation, now He preserves us. You are preserved by the Word of God as the Word of God is preserved by God down through history. God preserves you. I mean, the older you get, trust me, your body goes into a state of falling apart. There is no question about that. He has not preserved my body, but He preserved my soul based on the promises of the Word of God when God inspired my salvation.

### **The third thing is the nation of Israel.**

You know, both the New Testament Christian and Israel are preserved through the preserved Word of God. It is just that simple. Even though we have seen some incredible practical principles here, Psalms 37, and I want you to understand this, doctrinally is dealing with the nation of Israel going through the tribulation period and God preserving them. Taking care of them from the man of sin or the Antichrist. This is laid out so clearly in so many different places in the Bible. Israel, as a corporate nation, Exodus 4, as a nation now, not individuals, as a nation is called God's son, as a corporate nation. That is the Old Testament. In the New Testament, your

salvation and my salvation is on an individual basis. You, if you are saved this morning, male or female, you as an individual are the son of God. That is the understanding and the difference that you see and understand. God's hand of preservation in the nation of Israel as a nation.

If you are a Jew today, the Jewish people are in deep apostasy. They are so far from God, it is going to take the tribulation to bring them back. If they die now without Jesus Christ, they die and go to hell. It is not the individual that is saved in Israel. It is the nation that God is preserving through 6,000 years of history that He is going to establish and He is going to exalt when He comes back. Right now, you and me as individuals, "*beloved, now are we the sons of God..*"

***Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. I John 3:2***

You are God's child as a son right now. God's hand of preservation is in your life just like it is for the nation of Israel. Those are **the three things that God preserves: the Word of God, you and me (the church), and God's people (the nation of Israel).**

You are going to find in the Bible, just like today, there are two lines of Bibles and there are two lines of churches. There is a false Bible and a real Bible in the line. There are false churches and a real church in the line. Most Christians today cannot find either one of the real ones. That is the problem.

So, our last section will be clearly to Israel going through Daniel's 70th week, Jacob's time of trouble, the tribulation period. But you are all going to see that there are parallels when you understand the "son" concept. Israel as a nation, God's son. Me as an individual as God's son in the New Testament. You are going to see the parallels between the two, even though what you are reading here today is about what He is doing with the nation of Israel. It is this time that we see that is developing all around us. You are living from Matthew chapter 24. You are living in the last stages of life on planet earth. You are going to see that through history, God has used the nations to set the stage for the Antichrist coming, which is right around the corner. Most people do not see it to this degree.

I talk a lot about higher education and there are some good things that you get higher education for. I mean, if you want to be a doctor or you want to be a nurse, you have got to have higher education. It is a thing where higher education in some realms is really good. But I want you to understand this. You need to see this. Maybe this will turn some lights on for you. Every problem that wound up destroying a country, whether it would be communism, whether it would be theology, revolution theology, liberalism, everything that wound up destroying a country, started on the college campus. It is just that simple.

Today, as we get close to the end times, you know what has really blossomed on the college campus? Antisemitism, against the nation of Israel. It did not start in the bars. You know where it started? It started in the universities of higher education. You see kids out there holding up Palestinian flags, Muslim flags, denouncing the nation of Israel. They are all in one of those universities. They persecute the Jews in the libraries. They persecute them on the campus. That is where it always started. What you are seeing today in the antisemitism that is against the nation

of Israel started right there and is going to carry on. It is only going to get worse. You are going to see it. You can hardly drive down by the plaza and not see somebody down there with some signs against the nation of Israel. Look at the age of the people that are out there. It is not just random people, they are organized. Somebody behind the scenes is paying for it and is leading this country into destruction. It is amazing to me; all the liberals are on board with getting rid of all this stuff. It was the liberals who let all the illegals in in the first place. Where did it start? Where did liberalism start? Where did it have its infancy foundation? It spread in the education systems of universities across this country.

Now, stay with me. Secular colleges, watch how the devil uses those. Stay with me. Secular colleges come up with ideas, philosophies that destroy countries. Bible colleges come up with the philosophies and the strategies that destroy the Bible. You see how it works? It has never been through higher education. It never was. It is through the common ordinary man who has a common ordinary Bible that he believes it is inspired by God, preserved by God, through the structure of a New Testament church, through a pastor who leads and guides his people in those first two formats. Never about higher education in the colleges. In the secular world, they destroy countries. In the religious world, they destroy men's faith in the Bible. End of story. It is so easy to see, yet so many people are blinded to that concept.

I showed you and laid out for you the key to all of this will be the end times, the 20th and the 21st century. I am starting around 1890 and then moving right up to 2026 where we are at. I have shown you the final phase. We are in the 11th hour of God's doomsday clock. It is all laid out in Matthew chapter 24 for you with the parable of the fig tree. In 1948, the turning point for planet earth was the beginning of the end when the nation of Israel, who had been without a nation for 4,000 years, suddenly becomes a nation. This is the turning point that men miss in history. Everything changed. Everything up to that point was built up to that point. Then when that happened, this is why you see anti-nation of Israel protests today. This is why you see nations turning against the Jews. This is why you see in America hundreds and hundreds of young people now against the nation of Israel. They do not even understand the issues. They protest. They throw rocks. They do all that stuff in America. If you went to a Muslim country and you tried to have a meeting like that, a protest and throw rocks, you would be killed before your neighbor would wake up in the morning. They do not tolerate it.

A guy asked a Muslim president one time over there in Iraq, he said, "You do not have a homosexual problem in your country, do you? Like we do in America?" He says, "No, we do not." And he says, "Why is that?" You know why it is? Because they kill you over there if you are a homosexual. These are the people that are standing for those nations against God's people. If you lived in that country, you would have been dead a week ago. This shows you what is really wrong in America. What, five or six generations now, maybe more, of young people raised without any kind of authority in their life that is inspired and preserved by God. We are now generations that are left to themselves and boy, the devil has a heyday with that. Believe me, this is what he does. You know what? Both God's people are right in the middle of it. They really are.

## II. Psalms 37:32-40

So let us look at Psalms 37. Let us read verses 32 through 40. This will be our last section here, and as I said, it is going to be primarily to the nation of Israel. But there are a lot of things that we can learn. Let us read it.

32. *The wicked watcheth the righteous, and seeketh to slay him.*

33. *The LORD will not leave him in his hand, nor condemn him when he is judged.*

34. *Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it.*

35. *I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree.*

36. *Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found.*

37. *Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace.*

38. *But the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off.*

39. *But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble.*

40. *And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him.*

What you have here in the final verses of chapter 37, in this last section will be a direct reference to the antichrist. I want you to see this, him going after Israel. I am going to break this down almost verse by verse for you. You will want to get these notes in your Bible. There are some things that we want to see here, and I am going to break it down for you today. Let us look at verse 32. If you just read these verses without any kind of context, they all kind of run together and what do they mean? What is he talking about? Let me show you how once you establish the context, tribulation in Israel, how you can take each one of these verses and then define it, fit it into that context. This is what you do in time with your whole Bible. You know there are 31,175 verses in your King James Bible. At some point in your life, you should have them all laid out historically, doctrinally, and inspirationally at your fingertips. Then you will see how that Bible will work for you. You say, "Impossible." No, no, it is not impossible. But for most of God's people, it is improbable. But it is not impossible.

➤ *Psalms 37:32 - The wicked watches the righteous and seeketh to slay him.*

Israel as a nation, not as individuals. Israel as a nation is righteous in God's eyes. The Bible says, *For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance. (Romans 11:29).* God's hand of preservation on the nation of Israel is there because in God's eyes He has marked them as His nation. He has given that nation as a nation now, not individuals, His righteousness. In the Church Age, you are individuals. He has given every one of you, if you are saved individually, His righteousness. That is not true in the Old Testament, dealing with Israel. Israel as a nation has God's righteousness, not as individuals. In the New Testament, America does not have God's

righteousness. But individuals who become born again do. That is you and me. You have got to see how this thing kind of plays itself out.

Verse 32. Psalms 37:32 "*The wicked watcheth the righteous.*" If there is one thing that is clear when you look at history through the Bible, and I have told you this many, many times, at some point, and I know there are young Christians, and there are people here on all different spiritual levels. I understand that. But if you have been saved 10, 20, 30 years or been around here for 10, 15 years, you ought to have a real good grasp of it now with all the things that we talk about, the things I give you and lay out. **You cannot go through life—at some point you have to have an understanding of history and your Bible.** The God of your Bible is the God of history. Just as God ordained the Word of God, He has ordained history. It is His way. It is not the way of the Gentiles. It is not the way of the Hamites. It is not the way of the Shemites. It is the way of God. God, through history, when you have the Bible, shows you the way He is going through history and what is important. I am telling you, Gentiles always get it wrong. Most pastors and churches get it wrong. The things that we make so important, God cares nothing about. The things that He really cares about, we do not even know anything about them.

This is the devil's interest in the nation of Israel. Psalms 37:32 "*The wicked watcheth the righteous, and seeketh to slay him.*" He hates the nation of Israel. The Bible shows you his hatred for them. You can couple that with the hatred for the Jews through the nations down through history that He controlled. Get there in a moment. He has used nations, the nations of this world, to try to slay God's people. That is what He has done. When you look at the Bible, you can see history. You see the nations. You see Egypt. You see Assyria. You see Babylon. You see Persia. You see Greece. You see Rome. You see Syria. You see those were nations that down through ancient history, Old Testament, that the devil drew into him, infiltrated them. They became his people. He became their god through various forms of paganism. The whole purpose was to destroy God's people. That is all.

History is really not complicated. I mean, you can get into the details of it that will drive you wacky, but you do not need to do that. You just need to know that **history is about two things.** In the Old Testament, it is the nation of Israel and the devil watching them trying to slay them. In the Church Age, he is watching you, this church, and he is trying to do the same thing with us that he did with Israel, destroy churches. It is a lot easier in the New Testament than it was in the Old Testament because all you have got to do here is take your Bible away from you and you are done. You are done! But down through history, the Bible says Psalms 37:32 "*The wicked watcheth the righteous, and seeketh to slay him.*" So you have the Canaanites, you have the Moabites, you have the Hivites, you have the Jebusites, you have the Philistines, you have Herod under the Roman Empire, the Caesars under the Roman Empire, and then you have the popes when the Roman Catholic Church comes in. He has watched through the portals, the kaleidoscope, if you will, of history. He has watched the nation of Israel. He knows they are God's people. He hates them because they are getting the inheritance that he once had, and he wants it back. He uses everything in his power to destroy the people of God through the nations. I have given it to you time and time again, Proverbs 22, and then again, Proverbs chapter 23, the two landmarks that all history is built around. One is the nation of Israel in the Old Testament,

the other one is the church, but he watches the righteous, Israel. The great example of that would be the book of Job. Job is a type of the nation of Israel in the tribulation period. Job is in the land of Uz, that is where the Jews are going to be. The name Job means "once persecuted." Job is persecuted seven days on the ground like Israel persecuted seven years in the tribulation. Job loses everything that he has, but he gets it back in a double inheritance at the end of the book, just like Israel does.

- *Psalms 37:33 - The LORD will not leave him in his hand, nor condemn him when he is judged.*

This is God's beginning to deliver the nation of Israel. The time period we are looking at here, verse 33, would start around 606 BC. That is when the nation of Israel, the Southern tribes, go into captivity with Babylon a little bit later on. The Northern tribes go into captivity with Assyria. From this point on, you see 2 Corinthians 4 verse 4 come heavily into play.

*In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. 2 Corinthians 4:4*

That verse tells us that the devil is the god of this world. Once God was finished with the nation of Israel temporarily, 606 BC, we find in Daniel chapter 2, which is defined in Luke chapter 21, verse 24, which is simply called the times of the Gentiles.

*And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until **the times of the Gentiles** be fulfilled. Luke 21:24*

Before 606 BC, there were no times of the Gentiles. It was Israel with the ability to get God's kingdom. Once they finally forfeited that in 2 Chronicles, the times of the Gentiles comes in. What are the times of the Gentiles? Now is that time and the list is in Daniel 2. It is the time the Gentile nations begin to take over the world where God had planned for Israel to take over the world. In the Gentile nations, Satan, who now is the god of this world, infiltrates into these nations. They become his nations for one purpose, to destroy the nation of Israel. Right now, the nations, including Israel are in his hands. The devil runs it all. But here is the shocker. God leaves all the nations of this world in the devil's hands except one. That one is the nation of Israel. In 1948, you began to see God reaching down and taking Israel out of the hand of the devil. Even though they are far away from God and they have no idea what is coming their way, God has preserved them. The Bible says, "*The LORD will not leave him in his hand.*" God has it. The Bible tells us that all the nations, this is tough if you are an American, tough if you are a German, tough if you are whatever. But the Bible says in Isaiah 40 verse 15 that all the nations of planet earth, God looks at just like a drop in a bucket

***Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing. Isaiah 40:15***

There is only one nation God cares about. God may preserve a nation and take care of a nation like He did in America for the first 150 years because we revered His Bible. But once we

dumped it, God dumped us. What you are seeing in America today with the anarchy and all its problems. The antisemitism and generations of young people now who do not know anything about God. The direct result, the Bible being taken out of America. It is just that simple. The last 2,000 years, every one of them including America will be destroyed. In the last 2,000 years, the devil has used his church, the Roman Catholic Church, to build a coalition of nations that will take a stand against three things: the Word of God, God, and God's people. This is where we are at today.

The last part of that verse says, Psalms 37:33 "*nor condemn him when he is judged.*" What does that mean? It means that the world right now is condemning the nation of Israel. It does not matter. It does not matter that last November or two Novembers ago, the Muslims came down and butchered 1,400 to 1,500 of them, tortured them. It does not matter. Everybody just blocks that out and says, "Well, they deserve that." This is the devil speaking. Right now, you are seeing it on the college campuses, and you are seeing it in our own government, with the senators and the congressmen. Men and women standing up against the nation of Israel, thinking that we should not help them. What he is saying here, Psalms 37:33 "*nor condemn him when he is judged*" is the fact that even though the Gentile nations right now (America included), are condemning the Jew, God will not condemn them. He has plucked them out of the hand of the devil. In 1948 was the beginning of the end. In 1948, the last sand was dripping through God's hourglass that is going to bring an end to all this.

➤ *Psalms 37:34 - Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it.*

There are **four things here**. You can see this as the nation of Israel. Psalms 37:34 "*He shall exalt thee to inherit the land.*" No question about that.

## 1. Wait on the LORD

One of the things, and this is a good principle for you and for me too, God's timing in His coming for the nation of Israel. I know we all would like to, well, maybe not all of us, but we know we get up and we say, "Maybe the Lord will come today." I know some of you have talked to me, you cannot wait to get out of this place. I understand all that. A child of God who really loves God, the Word of God, who understands it, you hate the world. You can get impatient to get out of here. But you know what? It is in God's timing. God has got some things He is accomplishing. God has got some things He is doing. But then there is going to come a time when it will all be fulfilled in Romans 11:25. You know what that time is called?

*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. Romans 11:25*

I told you about the times of the Gentiles over there in Luke. Well, in Romans chapter 11, down there in verse 25, it talks about the times of the Gentiles, but then it talks about when the fullness of the Gentiles come in. See, there is a time element that God is dealing with, but there is coming a time when in God's mind, the fullness of the Gentiles running the earth is done. But it is His

timing. For you and for me, just in everyday life, I can also tell you, you need to learn to wait on God. We too can get impatient. We too can want things out of God's timing. That will get you out of God's way. You just have got to trust Him in His timing. You will get it done the way He wants it done, not necessarily the way that we want it done, but then we accept that because we know what He is doing.

## **2. And keep his way**

Again, that way was established in Genesis chapter 1, verse 1. It was lost in 2 Chronicles chapter 36, but they find it again in the tribulation. Right now, what you are seeing is a blind man, Israel, stumbling through life. Cannot see, but he is stumbling in the right direction where God is going to heal him and give him perfect 20-20 vision when Christ comes back. That is what you have got. You have got to see this world as it is. You have got to get past all the things that are out there. Look at this thing from Psalms 37, God's hand as He leads the way of the nation of Israel.

## **3. And he shall exalt thee to inherit the land**

This will be Romans chapter 11. This will be Ezekiel chapter 40 through chapter 48. But before you get to Ezekiel chapter 40 and 48, you have got to read Ezekiel chapter 36, 37, and 38. You know what those chapters are? It's right now, for you and for me! Right now, for you and me, if you want to find where we are living, it is Ezekiel 36, 37, 38. One of those chapters in there, you go down to the valley of dry bones, and all the bones are dead and dusty. That is Israel. Then He starts to put the bones together.

The old song sung by Tennessee Ernie Ford is called "Them Bones, Them Bones." He sang, "Them bones, them bones, them dry bones, them bones, them bones, them dry bones, now hear the word of the Lord." Did you hear what I said? "Hear the word of the Lord." Ezekiel 36-37, valley of dry bones. You see, Israel was those dusty bones, but in 1948, he began to put those bones back together. You know what happens next? They get the bones, they get the flesh, but there is no life in them. So, you know what He does next? He breathes in them life. You know what comes after that? Second coming of Christ and the millennium. There it is. It is just that simple.

Israel being exalted and getting the land. That will be the land grant that was given to Abraham. For all those thousands of years, Israel was in the devil's crowd. Right now, Israel is surrounded over there. We talk about Israel being a nation. Yeah, but do you understand that? Their whole land is just a thimble of the land grant that was given to Abraham, that is their land. They are surrounded. They are surrounded by the Muslim nations, the Palestinians, all those groups, just like they were surrounded back in the Old Testament. The fight that they are going through is a fight for their survival. All the nations that are surrounding them live for one purpose and watch them for one purpose because the devil is controlling them to slay them.

When David bought the threshing floor back there in the Old Testament and on that threshing floor, he wanted to build an altar for the Lord. That parcel of ground that he purchased later on under Solomon was exactly where the temple of Solomon was built, on the Temple Mount. That temple was destroyed in 70 AD. Well, really before that, but 70 AD where Titus put the final

touches on it. So, if you would go over to the Holy Land now, and I do not know where they get that term. There is nothing holy about it. The Holy Land will not be holy until the Holy One comes back and then it is holy. But that is another sermon. You go over there right now, and you want to see where Solomon's temple was. I want to see where the Lord is going to come back because that is where He is going to come back to. You would go over there and there is a big facility built over this thing called the Dome of the Rock. That rock is the exact spot that David bought, that Solomon built the temple, that the millennial temple is going to be built on. There is only one difference, but Dome of the Rock is run by the Muslims now. They have it. Jews do not have it. Jews do not have anything. They have got a finger hold on the land. That is okay. You see what that verse says? He says, Psalms 37:34 "*Wait on the LORD, keep his way and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land.*" They are going to get it. They already got just a smidgen of it. Boy, there is a time coming when they are going to get the whole thing. God is going to exalt them, and He is going to establish them.

#### **4. When the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it**

This will be the final battle that takes place the last few months of the tribulation period at the second coming of Christ. We know it as the battle of Armageddon. We have looked at it over the last couple of months. Just as the devil has used nations, so has God. God used nations to chastise His people. He told them that in the Old Testament who were disobedient to His word to bring them back to Him. This will be the final battle on earth. Final day called the Day of the Lord. Also called His Day. Not the devil's anymore. Verse 34 says, Psalms 37:34 "*then shalt thou see it.*" That is because when the Lord comes back Revelation 1 verse 7, every eye shall see Him.

*Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. Revelation 1:7*

The whole world will be a witness to this day. The day the kingdoms of this world, Revelation 11 verse 15 the day that the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of His Christ

*And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. Revelation 11:15*

- *Psalms 37:35 - I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree.*

I need to tell you that this green bay tree found here, every Bible scholar on the planet, every Bible teacher who rejects the King James Bible, every pastor who does not know what he is doing with the Bible will tell you that it should not be a bay tree. That this is the wrong tree. Yet for those of us who believe the Bible was inspired by God and preserved of God, let me show you how important it is that it is a green bay tree. Here is where you will find the Antichrist, defined as a green bay tree. You will find this tree when you study it will show you how the devil has got his roots down into this world through the nations and the religion that those

nations follow. Baal worship in the Old Testament, Roman Catholicism in the New Testament. The example is the green bay tree.

First off, just hit the reverse button here for a moment. Trees in the Bible are like people. You will find that in Mark chapter 8, verse 24. You will find that in Psalms, chapter 92, verse 12, Psalms 1, verse 3, and he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water.

*And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. Psalms 1:3*

You will find that in Ezekiel chapter 31. When you look at the characteristics of a green bay tree, you understand why God used this to represent the Antichrist to teach you something because the invisible things of him from the creation are clearly seen. How? By the things God made.

*For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Romans 1:20*

So, God takes a tree when He wants to show you how the Antichrist got rooted into this world. He does it through you studying a creation that He made, a green bay tree.

In your Bible, 2 Thessalonians 2 verses 7-9 you find a mystery that is given to the church, and you have heard me say this before, there are seven mysteries that are given to the church. Every child of God should understand these seven mysteries. One of the mysteries is found right here. In 2 Thessalonians 2, verses 7 through 9. You know what it is called? It is called the mystery of iniquity. Do you know what the mystery of iniquity is? The iniquity is the Antichrist. The mystery is how did the devil survive for 6,000 years and get as strong as he is? That is the mystery of iniquity. But it isn't a mystery to you and me, or it shouldn't be.

*7. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.  
8. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:  
9. Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 2 Thessalonians 2:7-9*

The Bible shows you every aspect of how he got rooted into this world. One of the things that we are going to look at, the green bay tree.

❖ Here are five characteristics of the Green Bay Tree:

1.) A green bay tree is an imitation of the oak tree.

First off, the green bay tree is an imitation of the oak tree. In your Bible, the oak tree represents Christ. I do not have to think twice about it that if you wanted to find what kind of tree Christ was crucified on, I would guarantee you it was an oak tree. Oak trees are the strongest, most durable. They make the best building materials of any of the wood that are out there. It is an oak

tree. An oak tree represents Christ. We know the devil is an imitator of Christ. So here the Antichrist, the devil, is likened to a bay tree, an imitation of the oak tree.

2.) A green bay tree only grows about 30-40 feet tall. The real growth is underneath; the roots.

Another great characteristic. It only grows to about 30 or 40 feet tall. But the real growth of a bay tree is not what you see on the surface. The real growth is how far it spreads its roots out where you cannot see it in the dirt. If it grows 30 feet, it will go 100 feet underground. You know what those roots do? They attach themselves to everything that they come into contact with. You look at the devil, nobody thinks much about it. He is a person. We talk about him. He is always portrayed in comic books. There is a red suit with a pitchfork with horns and a tail. That is all the farther it ever gets. The real strength of the devil from Job chapter 40 through Job chapter 41. The real strength of the devil is not what you see. It is underneath the surface that you do not see. God said in Job 41:12, "*I will not conceal his parts, nor his power, nor his comely proportion.*" All three of those are not visible up here. They are underground here, where he attached his roots. Oh, yeah, sorry, doctor. It is a green bay tree.

3.) The characteristic of a green bay tree is it's slow to grow visibly. But the roots underneath grow much faster. They attach themselves to everything that they get.

You see those, I do not even know what they are called, but they are those, the lawn care guys have them. Those big scoops that if you want to take a tree stump out, they are really big and they put it on that, dig it in hydraulically and lift the whole thing out. You never do that with a bay tree. If you do, you will probably pull down the next five houses that are next to it. They attach their roots to everything, much farther than they grow tall.

4.) The fourth characteristic about them is that they bear no fruit. There is no fruit off a bay tree.

5.) The fifth characteristic about them is that they are evergreen. They stay green all year, 24/7, no dormant time period.

**A side note** is if you have ever seen the movies with the Roman emperors and they put the laurel wreath on their head, those laurel wreaths come off the bay tree.

These truths match the son of perdition. One, he is slow in coming up. Two, he is unfruitful, but he appears to the world to prosper. In time, he spreads his roots all through the earth, until firmly in control of everything his roots come into contact with. He controls the whole earth. Sorry, doctor. Green bay tree is what it should be.

➤ *Psalms 37:36 - Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found.*

To see this verse in action, you want to turn over to Isaiah chapter 14, two verses here, verses 6 and verses 7 that illustrate this. We are dealing now with the sudden destruction. We have seen everything leading up to this. This is the sudden destruction of the Antichrist in just one day. It may have taken him 6,000 years to sit down on the throne of God and claim himself to be God in the iniquity that he portrays to being God. But the great thing is it may have taken him 6,000

years to get there. It takes God one day to take him down. This is Isaiah 14, verses 6 and 7. Look at verse 6. This is the Antichrist, the devil.

*6. He who smote the people in wrath with a continual stroke, **WHO?** he that ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted, and none hindereth. **That is him!***

*7. The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing. Isaiah 14:6-7*

You see that? One verse, he has got control. The next verse he is gone! One day, all in one day. It took him 6,000 years to establish himself in the abomination of desolation. God takes him out in one day, God's Day, Day of the Lord. That day! On that day he passes away and he is not, and he cannot be found.

If you want more verses on this, Revelation chapter 20 and Revelation chapter 12. Let us look at chapter 12 first, verse 7 and 8. This is the end of him as far as his influence on planet earth in time that we know it.

*7. And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,*

*8. And prevailed not; **neither was their place found any more in heaven.** Revelation 12:7-8*

Let us see what happened.

*1. And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.*

*2. **And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,***

*3. **And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.** Revelation 20:1-3*

There it is. No more. Till the thousand years should be fulfilled, then after he must be loosed for a little season. This is why it is saying here in Psalms 37:36 "Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found." He is in the bottomless pit for a thousand years.

➤ *Psalms 37:37 - Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace.*

Verse 37. "Mark the perfect man" What is that talking about? Psalms 37:37 "And behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace." You hear a lot about the mark of the beast. Revelation chapter 13, verses 16 through 18 is really the definitive verses on it. It says in the tribulation period, the last three and a half years, nobody is going to buy and sell when he demands total allegiance. So on your forehead, you either take his mark, that is one thing, his name, that is another thing, or his number. We know his number to be 666. So somebody had to take one of those three. But what you do not hear, I have never heard it. What you do not hear is not only does the devil mark his people in the tribulation period, but in the tribulation, God also marks His people in their foreheads. Look at Ezekiel chapter 9, verse 4.

**4. And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, (this is a tribulation passage) and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof. Ezekiel 9:4 See that?**

In Revelation chapter 7, verse 4, Revelation chapter 14, verse 1, it is 144,000 and God clearly tells you He marks them in their forehead.

*And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. Revelation 14:1*

So you have the devil's mark and you have God's mark. You know, if you are listening out here or if you know people, that today as a human being, you bear marks of one or the other. If you are an unsaved man, you certainly bear the marks of the Antichrist and your life shows it. You are marked. If you are a child of God that is out of fellowship, the mark of the Antichrist on you is a destroyed life. It is a ruined family. It is your kids out in the world. It is everything is gone. You have lost everything. You actually thought that a life of sin and living for the world was going to really be a profit to you. It just got you marked. If you are a child of God living for God, you are doing everything that God wants you to do, and you are in His way, God marks you. Everybody sees it.

You know why God put a mark on Cain? He tells you if you are paying attention. I mean, after Cain did what he did, the Bible says God put a mark upon Cain because He did not want Cain killed. So He put a mark on him. I am not going to get into what that mark was, but it had to be something that somebody could see at a distance. In other words, when you have the devil's mark on you, people can see it. In the tribulation period, they are going to have people running around with 666 on their forehead, and then they are going to have people running around with, I do not know, let us just suppose, 777. You know what those two marks are going to do? It is going to tell you what that person is associated with. Your life today and the spiritual mark you put on your forehead shows you whose camp you are in. That is an inspirational thing you can teach and preach.

He says the mark of a perfect man. That will be Israel. Psalms 37:37 "*and the end of that man is peace.*" See that? That is them getting into the millennium, inheriting the land and getting what God has got for them.

➤ *Psalms 37:38 - But the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off.*

This will be a reference to all the nations that take the side of Satan against the nation of Israel through history and through the tribulation. Do not forget, God has a judgment for the nations, just as He has a judgment for individuals. This will be the Muslim nations. This will be the Catholic nations. This will be the unsaved liberals and in general. This will be the world system. This will be the United Nations. This will be the Gentile nations. This will be the United States of America.

- *Psalms 37:39 - But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble.*

Here is the key “*in time of trouble*”. This is the tribulation period. The book of Romans is chapter by chapter, God's handbook to the New Testament church of what the church is to believe and what they are to follow. You go all the way, Romans 1, Romans 2, Jews, Gentiles, God's righteousness, all that stuff. But when you get into Romans chapter 9, 10, and 11, you start to deal with the nation of Israel. He starts to show us the church and the greatest Book that was ever written about church doctrine and what we believe and teach about the nation of Israel. These are three key chapters that show you God dealing with them and how the church is supposed to see it and understand it. Chapter 9 shows you why Israel got in the mess they got into and lost the kingdom. Right there! Then you go to chapter 10. What happens after God gets done with the nation of Israel temporarily, goes to the Gentiles. So Romans chapter 10 is salvation to the Gentiles. But God is not done with the Jew yet. So after you get through with Romans chapter 10, we go to Romans chapter 11. What is Romans chapter 11? What we are reading right here today, Psalm 37, God restoring the nation of Israel. Romans 11 verse 26, (verse 25) says then “*until the fullness of the Gentiles become in*”, end of the Church Age.

*And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, **There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer,(Christ)** and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: **(Israel)** Romans 11:26*

Psalms 37:39 "*But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble.*" Nothing can be, nothing can be truer.

- *Psalms 37:40 - And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him.*

Now the last verse, verse 40. You are getting everything broken down, everything for you that you need to put this into a workable, understandable context. Psalms 37:40 "*And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, (antichrist) and save them, because they trust in him.*" See that? Fret not, remember? Fret not, where we started, and then trust in the Lord, commit thy way in the Lord. You see, that is where it goes back to.

Psalm 37 ends with verse 40, with the deliverance of the nation of Israel and how God established them in the land that He promised them. All 6,000 years of man's history has been built toward this one day. You remember I taught three parts a while back when we talked about the rapture. I showed you that the rapture is not a word found in the Bible. I get that. It is called a harvest, and in the Bible, you are going to find that there are three parts to that harvest, the rapture.

You are going to find in the Old Testament saints found in Proverbs 25, they are called the first fruits. Then you have the main, you and me, the body of Christ, 1 Thessalonians 4, 1 Corinthians 15, Revelation 4. This will be the main harvest. But in any harvest, you get the early fruit, then you go back and you get the main harvest, that is the church, but then not all the fruit is ready.

So, you go back a week later, two weeks later, and you get what is left. This is called the gleanings. The gleanings will be found in Revelation 11 and Matthew 25. This will be the nation of Israel, the gleaning grapes, the last taken out. The deliverance of the nation of Israel will be the third part. You will find that in Isaiah 17, verse 6, Jeremiah 6, verse 9. In Jeremiah 6 verse 9 it will tell you that this gleaning is dealing with the remnant of the nation of Israel.

*Thus saith the LORD of hosts, They shall thoroughly **glean the remnant of Israel** as of a vine: turn back thine hand as a grapegatherer into the baskets. Jeremiah 6:9*

The deliverance of verse 40, and then we will be done. It will be laid out for you very clearly in Revelation chapter 14, verses 14 through 20. I want you to mark your Bible, maybe not just this second, but I want to show you how you divide this passage up to get it to make sense. I am going to read it first and then we will come back and divide it up.

*14. And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.*

*15. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.*

*16. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.*

***We will draw a line here because two things are happening here.-----***

*17. And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.*

*18. And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.*

*19. And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.*

*20. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.*

What you have here in verse 14, 15 and 16, is the second coming of Christ, those first three verses, God comes down, keep in mind, the Jew is down in the valley of Armageddon, and they are trapped down there. The Antichrist is preparing to come in and wipe them out. As the Antichrist prepares to come in and wipe them out, the Bible says that God delivers them. Then the Bible says, in Luke 21:28 lift up your heads, your redemption, draw nigh.

***And when these things begin to come to pass, then **look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.** Luke 21:28***

Up they look and here comes the Lord, Revelation chapter 19, with the army on white horses behind Him, that would be me and you. That first angel, with a sickle, will reap the tribulation

saints and takes them out of the valley of Armageddon. That is the third part. There is the gleanings going up. Three times in the Bible, you find a phrase, "come up hither." Once for the Old Testament Saints, once for you and me, once for the gleanings. Revelation chapter 11.

The second angel comes out, that will be verses 17, 18, 19 and 20. He now thrusts in his sickle and puts all the Antichrist army into that valley, which is called the great winepress of God. Isaiah chapter 63, verse 1, talks about it. It is a picture of God putting people in a wine vat with grapes and the guy stamps on them to make wine. This valley is that wine fat press and God stamping them, destroying them, wiping them out. The Bible says the blood stains His garments. This is the complete picture of the tribulation saints going up. The first three verses show you them being taken out. Then the second angel comes out, puts them in the valley of Armageddon. The Bible says the blood runs to the horse's bridle. That is three and a half feet. This valley is enclosed with mountains, only one way in. It is 160 miles around. This bloodbath of over what? 200, 300 million men that God squashes in this valley, like grapes in a wine press. Blood comes up three and a half feet high, 160 miles around, and God delivers the nation of Israel.

### III. Summary

I am telling you, your Bible is a complete picture of not only your salvation, but the salvation and deliverance of the nation of Israel. It is important for you to get this laid out today and get it broken down because these are the times you are living in. These things are actually unfolding in your life. If you do not get killed in a car wreck, get run over by a cement mixer or something, you are going to see these things actually happen. You are going to live right up to the rapture of the church. Psalm 37 is a powerful passage that not only shows many inspirational things for you and me, but it shows God's hand in protecting and preserving the nation of Israel.