



IDENTITY WARS

The Search for Home

Presentation Transcripts

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Identity Wars Search for Home Series

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Adapted Transcripts

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1. Identity Lost

Did everyone sleep well last night? I didn't get a very positive response there! Betty's going, "Yes, I slept well!" Isn't this a beautiful place? I woke up this morning and looked out the window and there was a horse munching grass, and it makes the same noise I do when I eat I think, making a lot of noise. So it's really, really good to be here. I know that a lot of us have been really excited and looking forward to coming to the camp, and we really believe that the Lord is going to bless us. We are hungry for food, aren't we? Spiritual food. I think that, as we look around at the hills around us, particularly in this part of Australia, it's indicative of soul hunger. The dryness that we see around us indicates there's a dryness. There's a famine in the land for the Word of God, isn't there? This is what I'm certainly experiencing. So, we've come here together because we want to be blessed, we want the reign of the Lord's Spirit to fall upon us, we want to be nurtured and to grow. So that's what I'm hoping will happen for us as we fellowship together.

When you think about the plan that God has to save us, it's not actually a very complicated plan; it's actually quite simple. Do you believe that? It's not very difficult. But there are reasons that make it difficult for us as human beings. And in the first two presentations today, this morning, that I want to look at, I want to explain why it often seems so difficult to simply accept what God is offering us. Because what God is offering us is not difficult; it's not hard. And yet, what does the Bible say? It says, "*Straight is the gate, narrow is the way, and few there be that find it.*" Why? Why is it so hard for so many people? This is what we'll look at today. And as we go through, I want to share with you some of the things that I believe my Saviour has shown me through my Bible study. It's brought me immense joy, immense freedom - freedom from much of the tyranny that is experienced in life: the tyranny that I'm talking about are pride, the tyranny of jealousy, the tyranny of depression, the tyranny of guilt, the tyranny of all these things that always seem to come upon so many of us. As we spend time looking at these things, I pray that we'll be blessed. If we can kneel once more before we begin, and then we'll commence.

Father in Heaven, it's so good to come together as Your children, as your family. And Lord, we know that You're sitting on Your throne, and from Your throne comes out this crystal-clear water that flows out, Your Spirit flows out,

and flows over us. We want to open our hearts to Your Spirit. We pray that you would fill us with that Spirit. And Lord, may we have an ear to hear what You want to say unto us, Your people, that we may eat and drink the food and the water that You have for us. Bless us now as we present. We thank You in Jesus' name, Amen.



You see the sermon title “Identity Lost,” and obviously that’s a very familiar picture from Genesis, chapter 3, where the serpent is instructing Eve concerning his philosophy on life, and how life operates. And we’re going to spend a bit of time looking at that today. But I want to come down, further down in the conflict between good and evil, in the place where it most dramatically took place, and that is in the book of Matthew, chapter 4. If you’d like to turn your Bibles to Matthew chapter 4 - I will bring it up on the screen, but it’s good to read it out of a book - Matthew chapter 4: 8, 9. I want you to note carefully: Satan is putting a proposition to Christ, and I want you to note carefully what he’s saying to Him. This is what Satan is saying to Jesus in the wilderness:

“The devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.” Matt 4:8, 9.

Now first we know - when Satan says "all these things I will give you," in terms of the kingdom of the world, what is he saying about his relationship to those kingdoms? He owns these kingdoms. He's saying, "Look, Jesus, I know that you've come here, you want to reclaim these poor people on this planet - I've got an easy way for you to do it: just bow down and worship me."

Now, I don't know if you can imagine coming to someone and someone saying that to you. If someone said to you, "Look, I'll give you all this stuff - all you got to do is bow down and worship me" - I mean, what would you think about that person? That they're a little bit insane! But doesn't that reflect that he really is insane? Isn't Satan really insane? "Bow down and worship me" - what on earth was he thinking? "Just bow down and worship me." How desperate is Satan to gain eminence or preeminence over Christ, and he'll get it any way he can! But, thank the Lord, he never will.

"Fall down and worship me." But, also, when we look at the kingdoms that Satan is referring to, and we're talking about the time when Christ was on earth, what was the ruling kingdom of that time? Rome! Do you know how Rome started as a nation? Do you know the history of Rome? This is the story that is told anyways, the story of two brothers: Romulus and Remus. Now the myth says that they were suckled by a wolf - we know that isn't true - but these two brothers, Romulus and Remus were in a particular locality and they wanted to start a little kingdom of their own. Now what they did is that they didn't have enough womenfolk in this particular area, so they invited all of the neighbours over to their particular part of town and they had a party, and they got everybody drunk. And while the men were all drunk, they killed most of them and took their wives, because they needed some women so they could start a new town. Is that a good way to start things? And then after, Romulus and Remus couldn't decide who should lead. So what Romulus did is, while Remus wasn't paying too much attention, he took a big rock and cracked his skull and killed him. These are the kind of kingdoms that the world is based on, these kinds of principles. Is that a good way to start a kingdom? Brothers! These are supposed to be brothers, and that is the way it started.

So, when we look at the kingdoms of the world today, what was Satan actually offering Jesus? Was he offering him something very valuable? Disease, famine, jealousy, hatred, anger, killing, war, strife - and this is what Satan was offering to Jesus, wasn't it? But that's not what Satan showed Jesus when he said he

showed him all the glory of the kingdoms - he showed him the palaces, the pillars, the thrones, the crowns, the gold - he showed him all those kinds of things, and he hid all the other things in the background. It's like, I guess you could say, a second-hand car salesman. Have you ever tried to buy a car at night? Some people are smiling. Why don't you buy a car at night from a second-hand car salesman? You're all smiling - why not? You can't see the defects! And whatever Satan did, I don't know what PowerPoint presentation he was showing Jesus, but he was hiding the defects. He was doing the second-hand car salesman deal and wanted to show, "Look, it's a good deal, Jesus. All you have to do is bow down and worship me, and I'll give it to you!" But Jesus knew - He knew all that was in the heart of man, and that's largely because - at another point we'll talk more about this - that He became one with us, didn't He? And it says in the Bible that Jesus knew what was in the heart of man. And so Jesus knew what Satan was doing, and he knew from the temptations that man experiences that man is in a not very good situation.

I'd like to look briefly at some of the results of our philosophy of life. Satan here is claiming to rule the world. Let's have a look at some of the statistics of this philosophy for life, because I proposed to you that it is Satan's philosophy of life that dominates the world today. It is his method, it is his way of doing things, that dominates the world. And he said that "All this I will give you, if you will bow down and worship me." He claims ownership to this world. And notice some statistics: some of you may be familiar with this statement, but it really bears repeating:

DEPRESSION

In her opening address, the World Health Organisation's Director General Dr. Gro Harlem stated: "... initial estimates suggest that about 450 million people alive today suffer from mental or neurological disorders... Major depression is now the leading cause of disability globally."

Why should people be depressed? Should we be depressed? Do we have any reason to be depressed? I mean, there may be physiological reasons, or chemical imbalances that physically cause some people to feel depressed, but in terms of emotionally, in terms of what God has done for us, should we feel depressed? And yet it says 450 million people - and that was a statistic taken before the financial crisis set in, before many people were having their homes taken off them, before the G20 promised to do all the things that they

promised to do - well, we'll see what happens with that! That's a lot of people, isn't it? Maybe 600 or 700 million that are depressed. Is that indicative of a good way to live? No.

I want you to notice some other statistics. And again, this is from ten years ago, so it's probably a lot higher now:

DEPRESSION AND SUICIDE STATS:

1 million suicides every year.

10 to 20 million attempts every year, or up to 38 attempts every minute.

Every minute, 38 people in this world attempt to end their life. You just think about that for a minute. And in that minute, 38 people will have tried to kill themselves. What is so terrible about life that people would rather choose death instead of life? That is a very sobering statistic, isn't it? And I don't know how many of you have been touched by those around you who have committed suicide, but I have. One of my close friends committed suicide, and it hurts. It stings, the sting of death. Why would they do such a thing? Why would they end their life? It's tragic, and it's sweeping through Australia. I think I've got there:

Suicide in the US for males between the ages of 35-49 is the number three cause of death.

Australia's youth suicide rate is the highest in the world.

Did you know that? Why in Australia is the youth suicide rate so high? The demands, the expectations that we put on our young people, the need to strive, the work ethic that is placed upon us. Why do our young people, more than any others - maybe it's changed in the last ten years, I don't know. But in speaking to some of the young people that I've worked with in churches, [there was] one young lady who was going to a state school. And in one year, while she was there, four of her friends committed suicide. 16 years of age, young ladies. They ended their lives. This is in a state school system. But it's a silent killer. How often do we hear about these things? We hear about it here and there, but it is like a cancer that is destroying our nation, wiping out our young people.

This is evidence of a philosophy of life that you cannot live on. The Bible does say, doesn't it, that "the wages of sin is death." We know that that means permanent death, but also the philosophy of Satan's kingdom is also death. And we're not even speaking about the people who are not willing to commit suicide, but they do it in other ways: drugs, alcohol, gambling - ways of blocking out the pain of a philosophy of life that does not satisfy, that makes us feel empty. And these are very, very sobering statistics. And they reveal, as I said, the effect of an overwhelming reality, that this world is following a way of life that does not lead to life, but leads to death.

I want to go back to the beginning and try and trace through why this situation has come about, why we are in such a state that so many people would rather choose death than life. It's a sobering thought. If you would turn your Bibles to Genesis chapter 3, because this is where it all began. **Genesis 3: 4, 5**. This is the story of a serpent and a woman. The serpent, we know, is Satan, because it says in the book of Revelation "that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan." So this is Satan speaking to Eve, and this is the first time that Satan speaks in Scripture, and this is his philosophy on life. Notice where it says:

"Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die."

Now what had God said previously? We'd better read that. What had God said? "*You shall not eat of the tree, otherwise you will die.*" But the serpent says, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (Genesis 3: 4-5).

"*You shall not surely die.*" What is Satan inferring by that statement? What is he inferring? Well, basically, if we look next, some conclusions:

SOME CONCLUSIONS FROM GENESIS 3:4-5

Every object, or every person or created being in the world has a certain power in itself.

That's what Satan is basically saying. If you cannot surely die, as Satan is proposing, that means you don't need to take notice of what God says; you don't need to worry about what He's saying, because you have life. The only reason you would need to take note of what God is saying, is if you were dependent on Him for life. Is that true? If you didn't need Him for life, then it

doesn't matter what God says. So this is the first thing that Satan is inferring. Every object or every person or every being has power or life in themselves.

The second thing that he's suggesting is that:

There are objects of power that we can acquire to more fully empower ourselves.

The more that we have, the more that we possess, the more that we control, the more powerful we are, the more life that we have. This is basically what Satan is saying in these particular verses.

But when we look at the Scripture, we see that the Bible says something very, very different to what Lucifer is proposing, or what Satan is proposing in these verses. Come to Psalms 36:8-9. Notice what it says:

“They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house, and You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures. For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light...” Psalm 36:8-9.

What an important text this is! It says, *“They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house...”* It is God that feeds us day by day, moment by moment, *“...and You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures.”* This is the river of life, that comes out of the throne of God. *“For with You is the fountain of life;”* from God, who sits upon the throne flows forth, He is the fountain, the spring, from which life flows. It does not come from any other source. This is what the Bible tells us. From God, and God alone, life comes. This is what the Bible is telling us. And in Your life we see life. A very, very important text.

I want you to notice another text - another couple of texts:

Revelation 22:1[John is looking in vision]: “And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.”

So this river flows forth, and it's from this river that we receive life.

Ezekiel 47: 7, 9 It would be very interesting to read through this chapter - we don't have time to read through all of it now, but just

notice these verses. This is speaking of the temple that was in the vision that Ezekiel saw, and from this temple flowed forth a river. Notice what it says, *“When I returned, there, along the banks of the river, were very many trees on one side and the other. (9) And it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the river goes, will live.”*

Wherever the river goes, there is life. Does that make sense? Wherever the river goes. [It’s] very, very interesting, if we look at these things. Notice:

Acts 17:24-25, 28 “God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. (25) Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath...” Every breath you take comes from where? It comes from God, “...and all things...” What does that include? Everything - everything that we possess, everything that we have comes from God. (28) “...for in Him...” Notice how it uses the word “in Him.” “...we live and move and have our being.”

How do we understand that we live *“in Him?”* Other than we live in the river? We’re all swimming in the river of life. Are we not? And as pastor Des said last night, God is in the midst of that river. And we are in that river - we’ll look at this later on - through Christ we’re in this river, and it says “for in Him we live and move and have our being.” Coming from the Father, through the Son, and out this river flows, and we’re swimming in this river. The breath that you breathe is the life of God which is given to us, it flows out of the Father to us, through the Son.

This is what the truth of the Word of God would tell us. Does that make sense? Are we clear on that? There is one life, flowing forth from the Father, through His Son, and it flows out to us, and we have life through the Son. This is what the Bible is teaching us.

But when Satan said, “You will not surely die,” he was saying, “No, I disagree with this. Life does not come from one source; life comes from within me, life comes from within you; life is everywhere; life is a force that all of us partake of; we don’t need to be in any particular relationship with anybody to have life

- we just have it." This is what Satan is trying to tell us. And this is the philosophy that rules the world today - that there is life in each one of us, apart from God.

I want you to think for a moment when it says, "He gives to us life and breath and all things." Did you have some good thoughts this morning? I heard an amen - Did you think about how lovely it was to wake up? Did you hear the birds sing this morning? Did they inspire you? Did you have thoughts of praise to God this morning? You did? Well, where did that come from? Did it originate from in here [inside you], or did it originate from up there [God]? It comes from God, doesn't it? All things, everything, every thought that we have that is good, comes from God. It's in the river, the river that flows to us. There are good thoughts in the river. And as we open our hearts to God, those good thoughts come into our lives and become a part of us. Does that make sense? Every time you think good thoughts, they come from God. And He's offering them to us, "My child, I want to give you blessing, I want to bless you with thoughts of peace, thoughts of joy, thoughts of happiness." And every time you think those thoughts, God is near to you. Can you see that? Every time you feel love for your spouse, it is God that has given you that thought. Every time you feel love for your children, it is God that has given you that thought.

Now I want you to think for a moment. From a worldly perspective, what is the greatest love that the world speaks of? In human terms. Man and wife? Well, my observation is, a mother's love for her children. That is being portrayed in most circles that I see - a mother's love for her children is perceived as the greatest and most protective form of love that there is. But do you know, according to the Scripture, there is no such thing as a mother's love? I'm not getting any response! No reaction! (laughter) Thank you, Deborah! That's the reaction we wanted! There is no such thing as a mother's love. When we talk about a mother's love in worldly terms, we're talking about something that originates in the human heart. But what originates in the human heart? What does the Bible say about the human heart? The human heart is desperately wicked! There is no good thing in it! A mother's love cannot originate from a mother's heart. It can only originate from the Father's heart. The mother can receive that. God has given to a woman special gifts to be able to receive that love in a certain way and express it in a way that we see it as a mother's love, but it does not originate in the heart of the woman. Same with a father's love - it does not originate in the heart of a man; man is selfish! Man is corruptible!

Man desires only for himself. So, whenever you see love manifested, the Spirit of God is present. Amen! Wherever we see love manifested, it is the Spirit of God, and it's come from the throne of God, it is flowing out from the throne of God through the river, and somebody has responded.

Now, do we see love demonstrated in people who do not believe in God? [Yes]. But who is it that's giving them that love? They don't even know that it's Him! What a tragedy! To be touched with the feelings and the thoughts of God, every day being held in His arms, being given good thoughts, being given good feelings, and they don't even know that it's Him! What does it say further on in the book of Acts? It says "if haply they may feel after Him." Or, in Romans: "The word is nigh thee in thy mouth and in thy heart."

It's near us - we don't have to send up there, we don't have to go down there, it's here, right here with us!

But the problem is that because of Satan's lie, that "you shall not surely die," when somebody is nice, when somebody does something good, where do most people believe that comes from? Themselves! When somebody says, "I'm not a bad person," what are they saying? "Huh - I'm a good person!" And they're saying that it's coming from themselves. "I would never do that!"

But what about for those of us who profess to believe in God, and we see someone doing wicked things - are we tempted to say "Oh, I would never do something like that! This is evil what this person is doing! I wouldn't do something like that!" Are we in danger? What are we saying? Are we saying that we're better than them? Are we saying that we are righteous, and they are unrighteous? When we say those things, we need to be careful. Are we saying that it's coming from us? Are we familiar with the statement that says, "*But for the grace of God, there go I!*" Have we heard that statement about the derelict in the gutter? Do we really believe this though?

There is no difference between any of us. All of us in the human family are in the same boat. All of us are stamped with the same lie. All of us are motivated by the same principles in this world. It's only God and His Spirit that makes the difference between whether someone does something good, or whether someone does something bad. And the more we recognize this factor, as we said, as Deborah read this morning, even Mahatma Gandhi understood this: prayer is an acknowledgment of man's weakness. Even he saw that principle,

even though it was confused with other principles, but he recognized that principle. When we pray, it should be an acknowledgment of our weakness. Did we pray this morning - "Lord, please don't let me say anything silly to anybody today. Please do not let me become offended by 'other people's stupidity'. Please don't let me be impatient because other people do not seem to understand that I have a program that I need to run today, I have things that I need to do today, and if they get in my way, please help me not to get upset." Some things that we can think about, isn't it? I want you to really, really think about that.

Isn't it beautiful? You know, people say "Where is God?" Well, every time you have a good thought, God is there, through His Spirit, He sends His Spirit to us, and He is there. Many Christians say to me, "You know, I feel that God is far away. I feel empty. I feel like God is far away from me." Do you know that that very thought itself is proof that God is right there? Isn't it? If you feel far away from God, and if you have a desire to be close to God, does that thought come from within the human heart? No. That thought comes from the throne of God. That thought means that God is reaching out to you. If you feel far away from God, and if you have a sense that you need to come back to Him, you should rejoice! You should be happy! God is calling you. The only reason you'd be "Oh, I feel far away from God," is that you feel that you are not performing correctly. That you need to make some effort to come back to God. And there needs to be effort, but we need to understand where that effort is. The effort that we need to make is in believing God's Word. That's all there is to it! And allow Him

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Romans 2:4 says, "It is the goodness of God that leads you to repentance."

It's not the badness of man. Now we could spend all our time talking about the wickedness of man and how bad he is, but that doesn't lead you to repentance. Romans 1 lists out a complete litany of sins of mankind, but it says that that doesn't lead them to repentance. Showing them their faults, showing them that they're sinful, doesn't lead someone to repentance. The Spirit can do it in a certain way to lead us to repentance, but it's the goodness of God that leads us to repentance. When we see His goodness, that has come from Him.

Now, the beautiful thing is that this understanding (and we're going to spend a lot of time over the next few presentations looking at this) that life flows forth

from God, and that we receive life from Him, is a beautiful, beautiful theme, because that life is not only physical life. When we think of life, we typically think of physical life, don't we? That the heart beats, that there's a recognition in the eyes, and that we have breath and eat, we're alive. But there is much more to life. What about spiritual life? What about emotional life?

I want us to look at a couple of other verses. In terms of life. Let's think again about why people commit suicide. What is often the thing that people say before they end their life? "It's not worth it," or "I'm not worth anything, I'm just garbage." I've heard young people say this, "I'm just garbage, I'm not worth anything, nobody cares. Nobody cares about me. Nobody knows what I'm going through." Has anybody ever felt that? Yeah. I have. "Nobody cares, nobody knows about what I'm going through. I'm not worth anything." And then some people start to think, "Well, you know, if I ended my life, nobody would notice anyway. Nobody would care." But the fact is, that's not true at all, from what we've just said.

Notice this next verse. This is Jesus explaining to us the principle of His Father's kingdom. It's a beautiful verse, I want this verse to stay with you. It says:

"Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God." **(Luke 12:6)**

Is that true? How many sparrows are there in the world? At least hundreds! Millions! Billions? Every sparrow, God remembers. Why? Because they are in the river of life, aren't they? And it's His Spirit that keeps them alive, isn't it? When one sparrow falls to the ground, how can our Father not know that it falls to the ground? Because it's His Spirit that gives it life. When a Sparrow falls to the ground, He knows. He remembers the sparrow. He is constantly thinking about the sparrows. But notice: "But..." Now Jesus is inserting the word "but" here. He's making a contrast to the sparrows. "...the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value and many sparrows." (Luke 12:6, 7).

Now some of us have varying degrees. For my brother Mark, that's a big zero! But God still knows that! Except for a few in the face, sorry Mark, it's not zero. I don't know how many hairs I have on my head! Do you know how many hairs you have on your head? Again, is this true? Is this just a figure of speech? Does God actually know the number of hairs that you have on your head? Yes. Do

you believe that? Are you sure? Isn't that an intimate detail? What's God saying here? God knows you intimately! Does that mean that God is thinking about you? So, when someone says, "Nobody cares," is that true? It can't be true! God cares! God knows, God feels. Every day He's sending out thoughts of love and joy and peace - every day. A massive wave of love flows out of the throne of Heaven. And what do we do with it? What do we do with that wave of love that flows over us? Do we allow fear, pride, jealousy, to squash it out? You know the Scripture talks about Christ being crucified afresh? Every day? When thoughts of love come to us and we turn from those thoughts and we choose thoughts of anger, are we not crucifying Christ afresh? That's what it means! When we choose sin over Christ, we are crucifying Him afresh, are we not? When thoughts come to us to be loving, to be patient, to be kind, but we allow anger to boil over and say, "I can't help it, I'm angry," we are crucifying Christ. Can you see that? When we have anger without a cause. The Bible says there are reasons to be angry, Jesus got angry, didn't He? He had a cause to be angry. When they wouldn't allow the children to come to Him to bless them, Jesus got angry. He had a cause, He had a reason to be angry. Think about that: when we allow fear to dominate us, when we allow passion to rule us, we are crucifying Christ afresh. Because we are rejecting His Spirit, and we are allowing the spirit of the Evil One to control us. It's a solemn thought if we think about it...

All right. This is how God thinks about us right now. If you're feeling discouraged, right now God is thinking about you. He has plans for you. He's preparing a home for you - specifically for you, according to what you like, and what you want, in a righteous and a godly manner. He has plans for you, He wants you to prosper, He wants you to do well. Now when you hear that truth, how does it make you feel? Does it make you feel good? The One who made the heavens and the earth is thinking about you right now. He has plans for you, He thinks about you. How much does God think about you?

Notice. "Many, O Lord my God, are Your wonderful works which You have done; and Your thoughts toward us cannot be recounted to You in order; if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered." (Psalm 40:5)

When we talk about something that is more than can be numbered, we call that "priceless." God's thoughts towards you are what determines your value

as a person - not your education, not your nationality, not your intelligence, not your assets, not your looks - that does not determine your worth. But God's thoughts towards you determines your worth. Is that true? But it's so hard to believe that - because of Satan's lie that "you shall not surely die" and how much it affects us. You'll be amazed how much that lie affects us.

The Word of God says God thinks of you more than can be numbered. He never stops thinking about you. He's always thinking about you. The test for us is to believe that or not to believe that. Because if God is thinking about you all the time, and He is the source of life, then should we worry? So why do we worry? Jesus says, why do you worry about what you will eat and what you will wear? Why do you worry about this? Why do you worry about that? These things the gentiles seek after. They are the things they worry about. And "gentile" is a nice Biblical word for the word "pagan." When we worry about life and food and clothes, we are pagans. Oh, no response - no one here must worry about those things - that's good! That's good! Nobody worries about it. Amen! *Pagans* worry about food and clothes and money. But not *God's people*; they don't worry about these things, because they know their Heavenly Father provides all these things. And if they lack for something, the Bible says, "*If you ask Me anything, or if you ask anything in My name,*" what did He say He'll do? He'll do it! Do you believe it? It's not hard, really, is it? If we believe, "*to him who believes, all things are possible.*"



All right. (Audience: aaawww...) Ah, isn't it nice? [The photo of Adrian, his wife and baby]. That was a very, very special day. I want to illustrate for you God's thoughts towards us. That, of course, is a picture of myself, my wife, and my first-born son, Michael. And it was a long day. Or a long night! This is the Sydney Adventist Hospital, and the labour was about eleven hours, which was fairly long. And I can tell you that when Michael was born, I had a profound new respect for womanhood. What my wife went through to give me a son was quite intense. And her ability to deal with that kind of pain must've been from God. Isn't that right, Darling? Because I can tell you, from my point of view, men have it in nature a desire to fix things. We want to fix things. If something's wrong, when a wife comes to her husband, "Honey, I have a problem with this," instead of putting his arm around her, he tells her how to fix it. He doesn't get it! Put your arm around her first, then you fix it! But no - we just fix it. And there was my wife, in immense pain - I couldn't fix it. I couldn't do anything about it. That was hard; that was really, really hard. And I remember praying to the Lord. At that time I said, "Lord, I know there is a reason why You have allowed my wife to suffer like this. But at the moment, I don't see it! I don't understand it!"

I say this to people, and some of you that have heard me present before will remember this story that - I have a picture, this is not the picture, this is where I'm smiling, but there's another picture when Michael was just born, and Lorelle's holding Michael, and she's beaming, and I'm sitting next to her, and I'm a little bit.. [knocked out facial expression]. And that's where I say to people, "Look, you have to understand; it was very hard for me." And all the ladies shake their heads and go, "Deary me, this guy needs a life!" But I want to tell you something: in the emotional realm, in the relational realm, when you're watching someone you love more than anyone else on the face of the earth suffering like that, it causes pain. It causes trauma. It takes energy - it saps you of energy. Is that right, guys? Yeah. And there's nothing you can do! And you're praying, "Lord, let it end! I can't bear to see my wife in this kind of pain." Interesting, isn't it?

And I was "had it" and she was beaming. She'd given me a son. Beautiful, isn't it? And as I held my son, I prayed a prayer. And this is the way the prayer went: I said, "Lord, I know that my son is stamped with my nature" (Oh boy!), I have a rebellious nature - I don't know about you people, but I have a rebellious nature. When somebody says to me, "Do this, Adrian," my first initial response

is, “And who are *you* to tell *me* what to do? What do you mean, ‘do this’? I want reasons, I want explanations. Don’t tell me what to do!” It comes from my good Dutch heritage, and my Celtic heritage on the other side. I’ve got a double whammy of insubordination.

I said, “Lord, my son is stamped with my nature. He could grow up and desire to have nothing to do with me, my God, my faith, the Word of God. Lord, I don’t want this to happen. I ask you, whatever happens, I don’t want anything to come between me and my son. And I just want him to know me, to know *me*. That we can be friends. That I can be his father and his friend. I don’t just want to be his father, in a worldly sense; I want to be his friend.” That’s what I prayed.

Four years later, I was walking and I was thinking about these things, and I was reading stuff in the Bible about my Father in heaven. And I was praying, asking the Lord for wisdom and understanding concerning Him. And all of a sudden, I began remembering when Michael was born. And I remembered the prayer that I prayed. It came back to me very vividly. It was like I felt the Lord say to me, “Do you remember the prayer that you prayed?” I said, “Yeah, I do, I remember very clearly, ‘I don’t want anything to come between me and my son, and I just want him to know me.’” And like a flash, my Father in heaven said to me, “Adrian” - no I heard in my head, I heard the name, “Adrian, *that’s* how I feel about you.” Wow! Is that true? That *is* true, because if we believe that every good thought comes from the Father, that the desire that I had to be close to my son, for him not to be apart from me, did not come from within *my* heart; it came from the *Father’s* heart, didn’t it? So the thoughts that I was feeling were thoughts that came from my Father in heaven. They were coming through me, and I was expressing that feeling of not being separated. And God said to me, “Adrian, this is how I feel about you.”

Now I must say that for the next ten minutes, I began to fight. Isn’t it silly? “But Lord, I’m wicked! But Lord, all the things that I’ve done!” When He came close to me and He held me close and He said, “Adrian, I don’t want anything to come between you and me, I just want you to know *me*.” I began to struggle. Isn’t it silly? Why did I begin to struggle? Why did I begin - “But Lord, I’ve done all these bad things?” I did what Peter did; I fell at His feet, and I grabbed hold of His feet, but I said, “Lord, depart from me. I’m not a good person. How could You love me?” See, even there, in that situation, I was still believing the lie of

Satan. I was still being defiant. God said that He loved me, but I was saying, "But no, how can you love me?" My selfish heart was even denying Him and His love to me. Can you see that? Do you see what I'm saying? "No, You can't love me. I'm bad. I've decided that I'm bad. I've passed judgment on myself that I'm bad. What You're saying doesn't make sense, it's not right, Lord." That's what I was saying emotionally. I wasn't using words, but that's what I was saying emotionally.

After ten minutes, the Lord, I guess, in some sense He tapped me on the shoulder and said, "Have you finished yet? Are you going to trust My word? Or are you going to have your own opinion on this subject, as to whether I love you or whether I don't love you? Are you going to trust Me or trust yourself?" I said, "Lord, I'm sorry," I asked forgiveness, "I choose to trust Your word. I choose to believe that You love me. I choose to believe that I will live with You forever. And that nothing will come between us. I choose to believe that, not because I feel it, not because there's anything in me that says that I deserve it, nothing in my history indicates that I deserve it, but simply alone because You said it." Why is that so hard? Why is that so hard to do? I don't understand. But it's hard because of the serpent's lie, to trust in ourselves and to make our own opinions and to pass our own judgment. But thank God that I accepted that. I can tell you that from that point forward, my experience with God - and I'm speaking as one who was already telling other people about God and His love and the truth - but from that point forward, my walk with God deepened; my joy in God deepened. And it has become more and more precious.

I love to go walking and - now we're living on just the other side of Ballarat, there's plenty of sheep. I go walking in the fields. I love to go walking in the fields! I love to hear the breeze in the trees. I love to look out over the horizon and see the hills. As I walk, I walk with my Father, and He walks with me, as the hymn says, *"...and He talks with me, and He tells me I am His own. And the joy we share as we tarry there," [I can tell you] "none other has ever known."* That's the joy that I experience knowing that God is my Father, trusting alone in what He has said rather than what I feel. Because what I feel often is contrary to what this [the Bible] says. And I've learnt that by trusting in what this book says, over what my feelings dictate, is the road to happiness. To simply trust in what my Father says, trust His word, without saying, "But, but, but, Lord! But, Lord!" It's a joy, and it's a joy that all of us can have.

I'd better move on. Satan said - this is the problem with Satan –

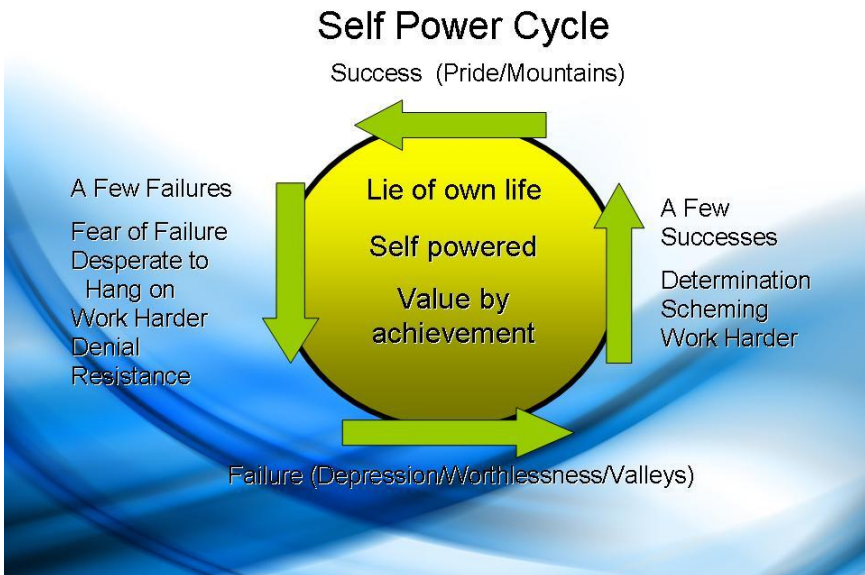
in Isaiah 14:13, "I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north."

Notice how he said, "*I will exalt my throne above the stars of God,*" He says, "*I will be like God,*" he goes on to say, "*I will be like God.*" He wanted to be like the Father, the source of life. He wanted to be like Him, having His own independent life source, dependent on nobody. In essence in doing this, he, forfeited the joy of being a son of God. Because if you are independent, if you have your own life source, there's no need, there's no value in being a son; there's only value in yourself, in what you can do and what you can produce. And so, in rejecting God as his Father, Lucifer rejected the joy of being a son of God. He opened a torrent of feelings that he never dreamed would come. He was forced into a situation where, every time he did something - and you just think about this - and I still do this today: when I do something that I feel really good about, often I'll ring my father. Do you ever do that? See what my father's going to say; waiting for the word. What's my father going to say? What's he going to say? Sometimes my father says, "That's really good, son," and I feel really good.

What is the point in achieving and doing great things, if there's no one that you look up to put their hand on your shoulder and say, "Son, daughter, I'm really proud of you." That's the main reason why you would do anything! Because that's the only place where true happiness comes from; that when your Father in heaven puts His hand upon you and says, "This is good." That's where the joy comes from. But when you do things for your own achievement, your own blessing, and there's no one to put their hand upon you and tell you it's good - well what good is it? What good is it? You can say, "Well, I've done a good job,"

but isn't that a hollow - I find myself - it's a hollow feeling. How long can you sit there and convince yourself, "I've done a good job, I've done a really great job." There is no satisfaction in achievement unless there's someone to tell you that it's good.

When you read in the Bible, in the creation, who is it that specifically created the heavens and the earth? Was it the Son? Yes, the Son created the heavens and the earth. The Father gave to the Son to create the heavens and the earth.



But it says in Genesis 1, and God looked around and saw that it was good. Isn't this the Father putting His stamp of approval on what the Son has done? "*Son, this is good. This is really good, Son.*" Isn't it a joy then, for the Father and Son? Yes! This is what's going on - joy is what's going on there.

But Satan, he did not have this anymore. He had no one to put his hand around him. So he comes into the cycle of worth, what I call the cycle, the self power cycle:

[It's] the lie that you have value in yourself - the thing is that when you're motivated by self, when you do well, you are proud in your achievements. "I've

done well.” But what happens when you fail? When you mess up, when you do bad, do you feel good? Depressed! Yeah. “Oh, I messed up, and everyone saw it. Everyone saw me mess up. I’m no good.” You will find that in most cases, life is a cycle, oscillating between pride and depression. The pride is like mountains, the mountains of pride. Up on the mountain and the valleys of depression- we feel discouraged. We try and please people. This is the cycle that most people go through.

When I do well, there’s a kind of satisfaction in what’s being done, and when we mess up, we can get depressed. We go around in a cycle, around and around and around. I think that if most of us examine carefully, a lot of us have been affected by this principle - most of us are in this situation, even as Christians. We can work hard. When we bring people to Christ there can be the danger of pride. When we don’t do well - when we sing up in front and we drop a note, oh... Have you ever heard that when someone sings, and they say, “Oh, you’ve done a wonderful job!” and they say, “Oh, I missed a note, and I did this, the piano went wrong...” Have you ever heard people talking like that? What’s the focus? The focus is on everything that I did wrong- this went wrong, and that went wrong, and this person coughed, this person sneezed, and they put me off, and I went wrong, and... Terrible! This is the cycle.

This is the cycle that we get enslaved in. We can talk about this. When we have a latent view that we have life in ourselves, we will get stuck in this cycle, oscillating between pride and depression. This is what will take place.

I’ll make a bit of a comparison now. We’re just going to summarise briefly, between the two kingdoms: Satan’s kingdom - his philosophy of life, and God’s kingdom and the truth about life, because this is not a philosophy. This is the truth, as the Bible teaches us.

A Comparison of the Two Kingdoms

Attribute	God's Kingdom	Satan's Kingdom
Government	Family	State - Territorial
Currency	Character	Assets
Citizenship	Sons and Daughters	Performance & Achievement
Value	Relationship to God	Personal Achievement

God's government is a family-based kingdom. His government is a family kingdom - a Father, and a Son. I mean, it's very obvious, isn't it? It's a family-based kingdom.

Satan's kingdom is about area: you live in this area, you're in my area, you belong to me, you will do what I tell you to do. Because he can't claim a family kingdom, because he has no rights to be a father. He didn't make us, he didn't create us. So, the only way he can get us to follow him is to put a circle, like this, and he's put it around the universe, and he says, "You're in my universe, you will follow me, and if you don't follow me, I have an army. I will force you to follow me." That's all he can do, is use force. Satan's kingdom must use force, because he has no right to rule over anybody. So, he has to use force; that's why we have armies and kingdoms - to force people to do this, to pay taxes, to feed the army, to keep everyone in control. It has to be that way in Satan's kingdom.

The currency of heaven is character. Do you trade heavily in that currency, sharing the love, joy, peace, the flowing of the river that flows through? Is that a currency you trade in, sharing love with each other and enriching one another, embellishing one another with the currency of heaven which is love, joy, peace, patience, long-suffering?

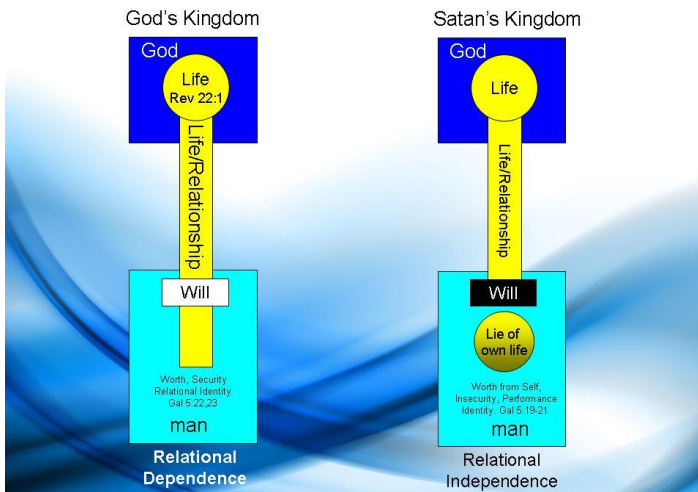
Or, the currency of assets, whether it be intellectual assets, or physical assets: houses, lands, status - that's the currency of this world, isn't it? If you have stuff, you're important. That's the currency. Everything is done with money. We know that the Bible says that the love of money is what? The root of all evil.

Have you ever been in a situation where you wanted to do something for the Lord, and you just said, "I don't have enough money," so what are we saying? Do we say, "Father, I want to serve You, where do you want me to go?" Or do we say, "O holy bank account. Can I serve the Lord?" Who do we pray to? God or Mammon? Who decides where we serve the Lord - God or money? "Oh, I can't go, I don't have enough money. Money has prevented me from serving Him." Wow... Really, is that so? O holy bank account - I didn't know it was that important! Our bank accounts are soon going to be swept away, aren't they? Very soon! Some people are already losing large amounts of money. Superannuation being siphoned off, being swept away, all going into the big bankers' pockets. It was always going to be that way, wasn't it? So, anyway...

Citizenship - what entitles us to be citizens in heaven? Sons and daughters! That we believe that we are His sons and daughters. We accept. When He says, *"As many as received Him, to them gave He the authority to become the children, the sons, of God."* That's how you become a citizen in God's kingdom.

In Satan's kingdom, it's by your performance and your achievement. The things that you do, the things that you achieve. The people who rule this world are people who have status, who have money, people who have self-importance, they've made it in some way. They're the ones that gain recognition, they're the ones that appear on the six o'clock news. And also performance in terms of killing and destroying and maiming - that also gets some news too, doesn't it? It becomes noticeable. You can be famous, or you can be infamous. Either way, you'll get on the news. That's the way the world operates.

Your value in God's kingdom is your relationship to God. That's what makes you valuable. In Satan's kingdom, it's your personal achievement. What have I achieved? Let's just think about this for a moment. When you get to ponder your life, when you feel that life is maybe going to disappear, what is the question that you ask? Is it "Have I walked with God?" or is it "Have I done anything?" What question are we asking? What have I achieved in life? What have I done? If that's the question that we're asking, then what's going on? Is that the question we really should be asking, "What have I done?" And there's an area, of course, where that question may be valid, but if we're feeling like, "Well, I haven't achieved anything in life, there, I feel like I'm no good," well, there's a serious problem. You may be in the wrong kingdom. But have I walked with God? Have I known God? Have I felt the joy of His presence? Isn't that enough for us? Is there anything that can be better than to know God and to be in fellowship with God, and to receive love and joy from Him? What else better can there be? To have His arm around us saying, "I love you, you are My child?" Can there be anything better than that? Nobody's saying anything. For *me*, there can be nothing better than that. That's all that I need. I don't need any more than that.



We see then in God's kingdom that God is the source of life, Revelation 22:1, and flowing forth from God's throne, life, relationship or blessing flows down to the will. The will decides whether that blessing comes into us and fills us, or the will decides whether it's rejected. It's the power of the will that decides whether we receive or whether we don't receive. As we receive that life, we receive worth, security, and we have a relational identity. We are known as a son or a daughter of God.

You know how people often introduce themselves, "Oh, this is Dr. such-and-such, he has a PhD in this, he's done this, he's flown here and he's spoken there, he's done all these things..." He's known by what he *does*. But I can say to you that my name is Adrian Ebens, and I am the son of Abel Ebens. That's who I am. All the things I do are irrelevant compared to who I am. And I am a son of the Father in heaven. That's who I am. And nobody here can take that away from me, which is great. And I have a relational dependence. And Galatians 5:23, because "*the fruit of the Spirit is what? Love, joy, peace, patience,*" all of these things. That flows into the life. But with Satan's lie, "You shall not surely die," rather than looking here (Gods Kingdom) for a blessing, you will look in here for a blessing - you will look in within yourself. You will no longer look up here - the will has been affected by the lie, "You shall not surely die," and all these blessings get blocked.

This is where Christ is crucified in the will. He is crucified. The rejection of the life of God through His Spirit flowing to us. The worth comes from within ourselves, but then that means we must - if our life is here (Gods' Kingdom), - this is another whole topic, but just briefly - when our life is secure here, do we need to be afraid for our life? If your life is secure here (Satans' Kingdom), do you need to be afraid for your life? Yes! Because you now have to protect it. You need to defend yourself; you need to look after yourself. But in this kingdom, Jesus slept in a boat in the middle of a storm. Why? His life flowed forth from the Father. It was given to Him. He trusted God in heaven to provide it. But here [the other kingdom], no: walls, padlocks, protection, guns, rifles, bullets, to protect myself! Barbed wire! Insecurity! And Galatians 5:19: anger, envy, wrath - all the fruits of the evil and the wicked one, because we block the blessing. This is essentially what happens in these two kingdoms. We become imprisoned by this false identity, what we call the mountains and the valleys. We're going to speak some more about the mountains and the valleys.

God had a big task to do. Now that the human race - when Adam and Eve ate the fruit of the tree, they embraced this lie - they embraced the lie of the serpent. They believed in a life inherited within themselves. You and I have been stamped with this lie. Do you realise that? We're stamped with this lie that you shall not surely die. Whether we know it or not, we act - everything around us acts in a way, built upon a system of a belief that life comes from within you, not from above. This is why it's so hard to believe God, because we're stamped with this lie, "You shall not surely die. You have life in yourself." We don't think about it, we just act it out. We like to have independence. Why do people here find it hard to maintain a regular prayer life? (Don't put your hands up!). I know over the years I've found it hard. But lack of prayer life, lack of spending time with God in prayer, meaningful prayer, means that you're tainted with the lie. "Oh, it's ok, you know, I find it hard to pray, I find it hard to fit prayer in to the rest - I've got to work. I have to work, but prayer and Bible study, well, if I can fit it in, I'll fit it in. But work is important. Prayer and Bible study, well, if I can fit it in, I'll fit it in." Huh? That's crazy! That's not the way it should be! That's going back to the 'O Holy Bank Account'. "I need to provide." Well, of course we do, but are we trusting in ourselves?

God now had to reach the human race. And just briefly, He needed to:

A BIG TASK

Help them recognise their desperate situation.

Because we've been cut off from God. Once they ate that fruit, the life source had been cut. We're not going to go down all of how God dealt with that right now.

Influence human race in right direction without force.

God couldn't use force. If God, when He came to Adam and Eve, and He said, "What have you done?" Did Adam respond, "Oh, I ate the fruit, I'm sorry, I made a mistake, please forgive me." Is that what he said? What did he say? "The woman whom You - *You* gave to me - this is a conspiracy, God, You and her got together and You pulled me down." That's the way the human heart works, isn't it? Blame everybody else. Inherent powers - "No, it's not my fault, I didn't have anything to do with it." So how can God come to us, how can God come to Adrian and say, "Adrian, you have a problem." What problem? I don't

have a problem! You're attacking my performance! And if you're attacking my performance, you're attacking my worth. And if you're attacking my worth, I'm not worth anything. That's why Cain said, when God came to him and said, "What are you doing?" And he said, "Oh, my punishment is greater than I can bear. It's all too hard, You're making me feel bad. You're telling me bad things about myself. I feel awful now. I want to die." That's the human heart. The human heart, in many cases, would rather die than to trust God and believe His word. That's terrible! No wonder the heart is wicked. Many people would rather die than accept the fact that we can't live without God and we need Him. That's how terrible this situation is. God needed to:

Show them that they had a wrong perception of His character and kingdom and to show them that He really loves them.

They didn't understand that God... we can't go on, there's so many things that we'd look at here. But now that they have their own life source, and God has a bigger life source, God's like a threat. He's like a big ogre - He has a big life source, and I have a little life source, and every time God comes to me, oh, I've got to do the right thing. It completely changed their perception of who God is. They needed:

A way to remove their guilt and insecurity and to restore their true identity and value as children of God.

A way to reclaim their sense of purpose and destiny.

A life support system to give them time to choose and decide. We're going to go into that shortly.

There must be a penalty for their rebellion

All these things God had to do in His ability to bring us back to this channel of blessing, this channel of life, river of life.

Closing Prayer:

Father in Heaven, we just thank You, we just thank You so much that Your words told us that You love us. Your love is incredibly. Your word tells us, but there are things in our hearts and minds that tell us because we don't always do the right thing, because we fail, that we're not worthy of Your love, that we don't deserve

heaven, that we don't deserve good relationships. Lord, these are all lies. We know that we don't deserve these things, but Your word says that You're going to give them to us anyway, if would just but trust You, believe You. Help us to believe that we are Your children, that we belong to You. And that You will just give us all those good thoughts, those good feelings, if we just accept the word of God. We just thank You and we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

2. The Rise and Development of Tyranny

What I want to go through now is the development of Satan's system and how it would develop through the Scriptures and what would be the ultimate culmination, which basically culminates in Revelation 13 with the leopard-like beast and the image to that beast which dominates and controls the whole world. It is the spirit of tyranny originating from the lie of the serpent that causes this beast power to arise, and I want to show, as I understand from Scripture, why this beast power must arise, is arising, and will and must dominate the world.

It's because of a philosophy of life built right back on the principle of Satan's lie, *"You shall not surely die."* That's where we want to go. But we just want to recap briefly and try and pick up a few points along the way. Here's a summary of what we looked at.

(1) Satan attacks the foundation principle of God's kingdom that God is the source of life.

He attacks this head-on with his statement, *"You will not surely die,"* and in fact, *"You, yourself, will become like God."* In other words, having your own life, and God is afraid of you realizing that truth, what He calls truth, that you'll be like Him, you'll be equal to Him in exactly the same way knowing good and evil. But he introduced the concept of the power within, and if you do a quick survey of world religions and world beliefs, [you'll see that] nearly every religion believes that man is either immortal or divine. You survey all of the belief systems or even the New Age beliefs, [they teach] that there is a power within men. Everywhere, this philosophy dominates the world and it all extends from the lie of the serpent, *"You shall not surely die."*

Now, that does not mean that those of us who believe that when man dies, he goes into the earth - that does not mean we are immune from this lie. If we were immune from this lie, we would not experience the difficulties that we have now, if we were immune from this lie. We are not immune from it. It's one thing to believe that when you die you go into the earth, and it's another thing to understand what that belief means and how to fix you in your life. That's something again, that we'll come back to a bit later.

(2) By embracing Satan's lie, Adam and Eve lost their identity and their value.

They lost their identity because as children of God we realize that who we are, is exactly that - children of God. That's how we are known, that's how we are defined, and our value as individuals comes from the fact that our Father loves us. We draw our value from no other source. You know that you are being influenced by Satan's philosophy when you are placed in a situation in your life where you can't work, and you are not happy about it. Have you ever been put in a situation where you've been laid on your back and you can't work? Are you completely relaxed about it, if you are not being lazy and you are wanting to work, and you are wanting to please, and you are wanting to do what God wants you to do, but you are being laid sick - are you content? Or are you frustrated? What makes you frustrated?

If you get to the end of the day and you haven't achieved anything that you want to achieve, are you angry and frustrated, or are you content? As long as you've done your best, and you've done your best, but people have rung, problems have happened, things have occurred, things have gone wrong, and you haven't achieved anything that you wanted to do that day. Are you content? Or are you frustrated? What draws the frustration? If God is your Father and he loves you, does it matter whether you achieved anything that day? Does it really, really matter? If you pray to God to guide you through that day and to help you do the things that you need to do, do we not trust Him that He will answer that prayer?

These are things that we need to figure out. If we pray, "Lord, guide me today" - that's what I prayed, I said, "Lord let me be efficient in your service today, lead me to someone today to speak about Jesus, give me opportunities, let me be efficient in my work." If I go through the day and I achieved nothing, then is it not God's will that He's allowed that to happen to me? I'm praying, am acting in good conscience, and then things go wrong. He's testing; do you trust Me? Maybe that day He wanted me to become efficient by learning to trust Him. That's efficient, isn't it? To learn to trust. We could become very efficient if we could just learn to trust.

So, these are the two things [so far in our summary and in our second point we see that Adam and Eve lost their] identity, value and family relational models and ended into the cycle, the cycle of fear and pain. There is one problem, one

big problem with Satan's kingdom, and I know I experienced this a lot when I played a lot of sports. When you get to the top of the pile and you are better than everybody else, can you relax? Why can't you relax? Because there is always somebody wanting to take your crown. Once you get to the top, the fear actually becomes greater because you have to defend; you have something to defend now, and protect, and you have a lot to lose. When you go in as the underdog - and Australians love underdogs, we love the underdogs - when you go in as an underdog, you've got nothing to lose, so there is no fear. But when you've achieved and you have all these titles after your name, fear kicks in.

I remember reading about the Australian kick boxer. He won the world titles over in Thailand, and I read it with interest, because he said when he got the belt, and he went home with the title belt, and he sat in his hotel room in Thailand, he said, "I felt ripped off, because I still felt as lousy as I did the day before. I didn't feel different. I thought that once I achieved this title that I would feel something, that I'd feel great, that I'd feel good, that I'd feel wonderful, but I didn't. I still felt as lousy as I did the day before." Because now he had to defend that title; it didn't give him that joy. Now always on the expectations, now he had to be the champion and he always had to act that way. Now everyone would be attacking him to get his crown, and now he is someone. [These attackers would say] "Now if we can get him, now we'll be somebody," and then they will find out the same truth in the hotel room that night. It wasn't worth it after all; all this effort and sacrifice, when all he really needed was a Father to put his arms around him and say, "You are my son, I love you, go on and enjoy life, go on and be happy, you don't need to prove anything."

(3) Adam and Eve only lived because Christ became the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

We didn't touch on that point last time, but when Adam and Eve sinned and they ate that fruit, you know, many people read the verse that says "In the day that you eat thereof ye shall surely die." Have you ever heard people say, "Dying you shall die?" That's a lie; that's part of the inherent life source thing. There is no life in men. When Adam and Eve ate the fruit, they were dead. Instant death - but why didn't they die? Have you ever had a laptop where you're connected to the power, and you pull the power out, and it keeps

going? Why does it keep going? It's got a battery, another power source. Mankind, on a blink of an eyelid, [with] another power source. Jesus immediately stepped in and, as it were, He put his hand around that broken life cord, and He put His hand on it and He held it together. Jesus is the one that holds the channel of life; He keeps the river flowing through the human race. Through Him and through Him alone that life keeps flowing. That's the only reason our hearts beat; that's the only reason the grass grows; that's the only reason the birds sing. It's because Jesus stepped into the position to keep that life flowing to us.

That's why it says, every loaf of bread is stamped with the cross of Christ; every leaf of grass says from God, *"I love you,"* because Jesus stepped into the gap. He wrapped Himself around that broken life source, and He held it together, in a blink. Of course, it was already prearranged, wasn't it? He was the Lamb slain from before the foundation of the world. The Father and the Son agreed together in their counsel, that if man should fail, that Jesus would step in and guarantee their lives, to give them probation and time to choose which kingdom they would follow. Beautiful, isn't it, that Jesus would step in and that He would do that for us.

(4) To reclaim a sense of identity and value, the human race embraced a performance and achievement-based system. Gen 10:8-10.

We are going to have a look at that in this particular program. But now we weren't receiving - Adam and Eve weren't receiving directly value from being children of God, and they believed that power was coming from within. The only way to get value is to go through a continual process of reminding yourself that you have power. So, you achieve things, you do things, you climb up the ladder, you succeed in sports, you do all these things to constantly show yourself, *"Yes, I have it, I have it, I have it."*

You noticed Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel chapter 4, notice when he speaks about his achievements. He doesn't say it as a statement; he asks it as a question,

"Is this not great Babylon which I have built, for the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?"

He is asking the question, *"Is it enough now? Self, can I rest now, can I have peace now, have I done enough? I have conquered the world, I made the*

hanging gardens of Babylon, I've done all of these things, and yet, is it enough?" The resounding answer from self is "No, it's never enough, it's never good enough. You must continue to fight." That's why the Bible says there is no rest for the wicked. The lack of rest is the lack of peace that comes from knowing that you are loved, knowing that you are cared for by a Father. That's why there is no rest, in that particular case.

We are going to have a look at this performance and achievement-based system that the world operates on. We are going to see how it's developed and how it's grown.

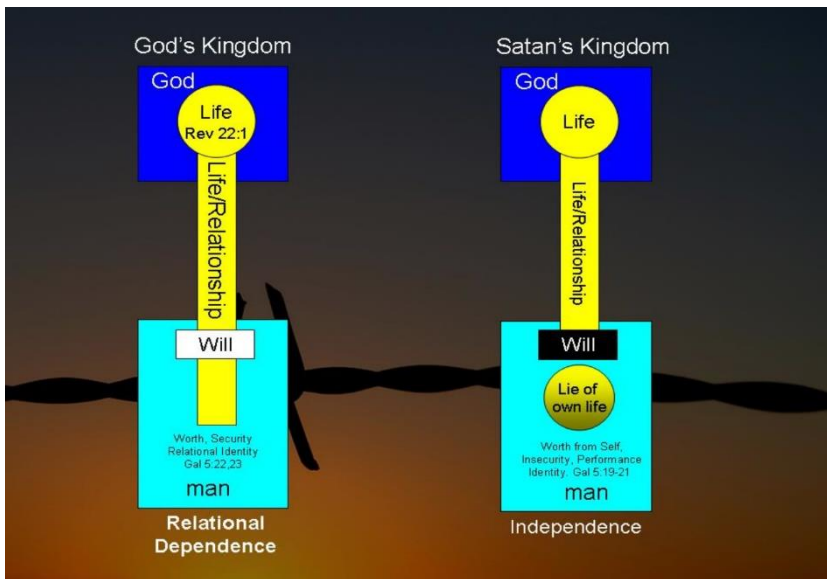
(5) The human race became locked in the cycle of worthlessness.

This is why man could not just simply go back to God. Because man now believes he has life in himself, why would he feel the need to go back to God and ask for help? He doesn't know; God now is a different person from who He was before: God is someone who is a big power source, and I'm a little less power source, so I have to be careful of Him. I'm not coming to him as a Father anymore; I'm coming to Him as an enemy. The carnal mind is enmity or an enemy against God. I either have to make war with Him, or I have to placate Him and do penance, or do all kinds of religious activity to keep Him at bay. Keep Him happy; keep God happy, and then I'll be okay. So, this lie completely changed who we understood God was, so there is no going back. We couldn't go back. In the next session, we'll look at what God did to restore our true understanding of who God was, and that, of course, was by sending His Son.

We looked at the two kingdoms, the comparison. We won't spend a lot of time on this, but basically the difference between the two systems is based on the differences of life source and where life comes from. We remember again we said that, as it says in Revelation, in Psalms, all the verses that we looked at, that there is life that flows forth from God, from His throne, and it flows down to us. The key for us is the will. As one author puts it. It's the kingly power of man. It's the will.

Everything depends on the right action of the will. The expulsion of sin is the act of the soul itself through the will, because once the will opens to God, God's life comes into us, and sin is removed. It is taken away, it cannot stand; it is burned up in the fire of God's love. It's God's love that is fire, and we need to be burned up in the fire now before the fires come at the end of time - to burn

up our sin now, the refiner's fire that takes away our sin and the lie. We have all of the principles here of love, joy, peace, that just simply flow out of us. It is no longer us who live, but who lives in us? Christ, through the life source. But in Satan's kingdom the will is blocked by the lie; it becomes blocked through the lie, "You shall not surely die." It stands with the first Adam, and we have this lie. The stuff comes from here [the center of the human heart], and basically for Christians what that means [is], yes, we still need God because He is a bigger life source, so we can ask Him to help us to do things that He can perfect our program; if we can get God as an ally, if God can be on my side, then I will be undefeatable. It's a different God. Most Christians serve this God, the God who we placate, the God who we do work for so that we can have His power to achieve my agenda.



That's what Judas did. That's what Peter did. He wanted Jesus to fulfill his agenda and he saw God like this until after the resurrection, then it all changed. A different God emerged, the true God of the Bible, and it all comes from one little lie.

Let's turn to **Genesis 4:8-13**. We are going to look at the origin of tyranny. Let's just go back a bit to Genesis 3. I want you to notice something. After Adam and Eve had eaten the fruit and God met them in the wilderness, what was the

first emotion that Adam experienced when God met him? Fear! Fear is a big part of this whole process. Because remember now, God is a big power source, and I'm only a little power source, and Adam knows he's done the wrong thing, and now because Adam is trying to protect himself, he does what he can to protect himself and sort of keep God at bay. It says in Genesis 3, verse 10, "*I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid.*" Can you imagine when God heard Adam utter those words? How do you think God felt? His own child, afraid of Him. Can you imagine your children being afraid of you? They see you, and they run. That's what Adam did. He saw God coming, and he ran. Wouldn't that break the Father's heart? Why are you believing these lies about me? Why are you doing this? It's sad. God knew, of course, but emotionally we ask the question.

So fear becomes a big part. Fear is what drives Satan's kingdom ultimately. Fear, and the converse of that is pride. That's, again, part of the cycle: pride, fear, pride, fear. We stay in the cycle. It's fear which drives us. The Bible tells us in Luke, chapter 1 that Jesus came to deliver us from fear. That is one big reason why He came. But notice now, we'll have a look at Cain.

Genesis 4:8-13 "Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; (5) and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against his brother and killed him."

I'd like to spend a whole lot of time on this story, but we've got to cover a number of points, and of course, everyone has to eat today. Why did Cain rise up and kill his brother? Any ideas? [Response from congregation about Abel not willing to join Cain in his rebellion]

Yeah, I like what you say there, but he wasn't willing to join in his coalition, the coalition of *the willing against God*¹, because God had given the sacrifice of the lamb to symbolize what Jesus would do when He would come. Cain said no and has the audacity to say, "Well, Lord, I recognize that You are there, and I need to deal with You because You are in my life, so I can't get rid of You, so okay, I got a plan. I'll bring my fruits and vegetables, and I'll offer that to You."

¹ The word coalition denotes Cain's attempt to draw others into his rebellion, and when they refuse, to kill them. Coalition of the willing is a reference to George Bush who said, "You are either with us, or with our enemies." He became the leader of the Coalition of the "Willing," as it was termed at the time

That was his plan. “You do it my way, I’ll meet you half way.” The audacity to even suggest something like that comes from the lie that he must have believed he had some kind of bargaining power. We don’t have any bargaining power with God. We’ve got nothing, except to trust, that’s all there is to do. But Cain starts to bargain with God, and he changed the worship of God. He brought a sacrifice without blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins. There is no forgiveness; there is no acknowledgment of the lamb. Every time Cain saw the lamb being slain, he’s saying, “You are saying I’m that bad that I have to kill a lamb? I’m not that bad, I’m all right. I’m okay. Don’t tell me I’m bad.”

But every time Abel sacrificed the lamb, and God consumed his sacrifice, and Cain is standing there with his fruits and his vegetables and nothing but flies, the anger starts to rise up in him, and the fear starts to rise up in him. “God is not accepting what I’m doing. He’s accepting my brother, but He is not accepting me.” He starts to stew and he starts to think about what’s going on, and each time his brother is sacrificing and praying to God, it reminds him of the path that he has trodden, and eventually Satan leads him to the point where he would do the unimaginable - because when a person kills another person, that is a moment of insanity, isn’t it? It’s insane. It’s Satan taking full possession of a person to kill another person. What you have to overcome, what you have to suppress, to be able to do that! I guess also when you hear war stories about what men have had to overcome the first time, they looked down the barrel of a gun, and they shot someone and saw them fall to the ground, what they went through, the trauma that they went through of having killed someone. What they had to suppress! It’s not a natural thing to kill people. Then eventually, after killing second, third, fourth, it becomes second nature. Their nature becomes hardened, it becomes callous, to survive. That’s why they often say that people that work in an abattoir where they’re cutting up the beast - after a while they have to move them into another area, because they’ve become so callous and so heartless, that they’re just ripping up animals, killing them; they don’t care anymore, that’s what happens.

But we see here that Cain rose up and killed his brother. It says,

“Then the Lord said to him, ‘Cain, where is Abel your brother?’”
 He said, “I do not know.” Is that true? It’s a lie. He is telling God a lie. He is going to convince God. **“Am I my brother’s keeper?”** It’s

a whole story, I'm tempted to go in, but... And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground. So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you till the ground it shall no longer yield its strength to you."

The life, the symbol of taking a life out of Abel, was in symbolizing the taking of the power out of the soil. Because it's God's life that grows the fruit and the vegetables and everything, and that taking of life was also symbolized in the taking of the power to produce food. And then it says, "*A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth.*" I just want to spend a bit of time looking at these words: "a fugitive and a vagabond." And then it goes on: "*And Cain said to the Lord, 'My punishment is greater than I can bear!'*" I want to come back to that, but let's look at a fugitive and vagabond.

"A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth."

A fugitive means to waver, to stagger, to shake, to be up and down. Because of what Cain had done, you think about it for a moment, as Cain saw his brother dead on the ground - this is his brother, this is the one that he had played with growing up, this is his parents' son, and he's killed him. Do you think Cain felt good about himself? Do you think so? Do you think he really felt good about himself? Satan would be saying to him, "You are a murderer, you are a killer, you just killed your brother." He'd just filled him up with all of these things so that he begins to waver. His insecurity begins to grow. [He begins to] stagger, to shake up and down. This is what sin does to us. It makes us insecure. It makes us shaky; it makes us unstable. We can't make clear decisions. "*And a vagabond,*" again: to waver, to wander, to flee. To flee the conviction of God's Spirit. To disappear, to deplore, or tossing of the head in scorn. It's got the pride aspect to it, as well. "Ahh! It doesn't matter." To bemoan, to flee, to get, mourn, to make to move, to take pity. We might say to patronize, "Oh, poor, poor thing, you'll get over it." Remove, shake, skip for joy. Interesting. That's what all of those words mean - to be sorry.

This is the mind set of Cain, and it's this mind set and Abel's mindset that are in the great controversy. We are either one of two people; we are either in the spirit of Abel or in the spirit of Cain. The spirit of Cain and Abel are symbolized all through the Scriptures through the two covenants, the two women. All the

way through we see the two, two, two - the two that are seeking for position, and it's representative of the two systems. Abel believed in God's life source system, and trusted that life came from God alone; his sacrifice of the lamb was an acknowledgement of his dependence on God.

Cain bringing his fruits and offering his fruits and vegetables and whatever he grew was not a symbol of death but was a symbol of life. In other words, he did not want to die to self. He brought that which he had produced. "Take this, God, it's the best I can do. Here is your talent, I preserved it in the earth, have it back." He didn't grow it; he didn't develop it in any way.

This is the curse of the serpent's lie. This is why there is no rest for the wicked. Those who continue to believe this lie will constantly be cursed by a desire to rule, a desire to compare oneself, a sense of depression, up and down, feeling up and down all the time, constantly seeking for approval from other people. This is what it means to be a fugitive and a vagabond. This is the curse of the serpent that falls upon us, and Cain manifested the spirit. We can say a lot more, but it's also interesting that Cain was the first one to go and build a city. He built a city. He was scared, fearful that someone might come and kill him, so he had to put people around him. People live in cities. It's a funny thing: people live in cities because they're afraid to go out in the bush. Yet, where is the most dangerous place to live? In the city where people would take your things or destroy your house or be killed. Cities are very dangerous places.

Particularly, a couple of years ago I was over in Los Angeles. That is a dangerous city. I never want to go there, not at all. But this is the curse of the serpent. We want to take it to the next level now. Obviously, Cain, his spirit lived on, and of course, Cain had children, didn't he? I want you to look at **Genesis 6:1-4**, I want to show you a formula for tyranny. It lays it out very clearly for us. This leads out to the destruction around the time of the flood. It gives us a very good outline of exactly how this took place, so that we can see it happening again in these last days.

Gen 6:1-4 "Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God..."and the sons of God were those who believe in the principles of God's kingdom, that life comes from God and they engaged in the sacrifice of the lamb. These were the sons of God. It says: "...They saw that the daughters of men..." The daughters

of men are those who were born to men who were followers of Cain and rejected God's principles, but, "...they were beautiful, and they took wives for themselves of all they chose."

Why does it say that the wives of the daughters of men were beautiful? What's the point being made here? You know it says in **1 Peter 3:6-7**, it says that the women, they should seek to have a meek and... what does it say? We better have a look at it. Can anyone quote it? *"A meek and quiet spirit, focused on the inward."*

The daughters that were born to men who followed Satan's principles, would they feel good about themselves? Would their fathers be blessing them? Would their fathers be encouraging them and nurturing them? No, they wouldn't. So the daughters of men became insecure, how do you compensate for insecurity? You try and make yourself look beautiful on the outside.

When you are in the channel of blessing, you are covered; you have a symbol of covering, Okay? But when you are not able to be in that channel and you are not covered with a blessing, you are uncovered, and let me say this, but particularly for women; the more uncovered they are, the more evidence they show that they are cursed. Does that make sense? So we shouldn't scorn women who are in that situation, we should pray for them, because they are manifesting that they don't - really, inside, they don't feel that they're worth anything; they feel worthless, they feel empty, and they feel that they can gain attention from someone by undressing, because when women undress, men will look. It's human nature, but ladies, it's no different. It's just animal nature; it's just like a dog. There is nothing special about it in that human nature element; you think that's special. Well, it's not that special. When you uncover like that, men will look, but it doesn't make you important. It's really sad, and we are seeing more and more today as our society continues to go downhill. You see the women uncovering more and more and more and more. Because their families are being destroyed, they are being pulled apart, the curse is coming upon the daughters of men, and they are uncovering, showing that they are cursed, not blessed. It's interesting.

The most prominent women in the world are those that are the dancers, and the movie stars who undress. That's what they do. You know, people, poor people, I feel really sorry for them, people like Britney Spears and Paris Hilton. These poor ladies - you can see that they are so worthless, so lacking in any

kind of value in themselves, that they have to act in such an unfortunate way. It's terrible. But this is what happens to the daughters of men, and this is part of the curse. Another whole presentation, we won't go there. So we see a combining of the sons of God with the daughters of men. A marriage that is made in hell, unequally yoked. We cannot be unequally yoked. We are going to spend a lot more time on this in presentations tomorrow.

“...that they were beautiful; and they took for themselves of all whom they chose. And the Lord said, ‘My spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh.’”

Notice that as soon as God's sons married the daughters of men, immediately God says it's going to finish. It's doomed. Within 120 years, it'll be over. It says, *“Yet his days shall be 120 years.”* And then it says, *“There were giants...”* That word giant, if you look it up, a lot of people talk about big, physically big men, and I'm sure they were physically big, but the word in the Hebrew is actually tyrants. There were tyrants on the earth in those days. Also afterwards:

“When the sons of God came into the daughters of men, they bore children to them, those were the mighty...”

- and that means powerful, warrior, tyrant – “...men who were of old, men of renown” - and that word means “memorial of individuality” - men that were seeking to be known by what they did. See the combination: a marriage that is forged incorrectly produces children without blessing. Without the blessing of heaven, it produces tyrants. That's what it produces. When a man is not blessed by God through (and we are going to look at the family system, how God set up the family system to do this) when he is not blessed, he will become on the road to tyranny. Because the desire, the need to be valued, the need to be recognized by people, becomes so great they will do anything to achieve it. They will, as it were, sell their souls to the devil, so that they can attain positions.

Those who attained the highest positions in this world in many cases have sold their souls to achieve those positions, and that's why it says in the book of Daniel, Daniel chapter 4, that God sets over the kingdoms the basest or the lowest of men. It is the lowest to the most worthless individuals that occupy often the highest positions, and that's not true in every case because God has his men in different places, but in many cases we see this to be the case. We

know this to be the case when you look at all the financial troubles that are going on in the world today. Men are working evil to bring populations under control and to dominate them, because of their need to be valued because of their lack of blessing. This is the formula for tyranny: a bad family relationship that produces insecure children that then desire power through the lie of the serpent. This is how tyranny arises.

Notice what it says in Genesis 6:5, 6: “Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”

Now, when the thoughts are only evil continually - now, think about this - where do good thoughts come from? That means that the channel of God’s love has been blocked completely, completely cut off! No good thoughts are coming into the minds of these men, because good thoughts come from God. They have completely embraced the lie of the serpent, no good thoughts, and their thoughts are only evil continually. Okay? And it says, (6) *“And the Lord was sorry that he had made men on the earth and the Lord was grieved.”* This process that happened in the antediluvian world is happening again. It’s happening again. We are coming to a time period where the tyrants of this world are soon to grasp for themselves all the treasures that they believe exist on the earth. That’s what is about to take place. That spirit of tyranny has originated from bad family relationships and from the lie of the serpent.

Now we come to Nimrod [Genesis 10:8]. Nimrod is an interesting character. Notice again, the words are important, study the words. This is Nimrod, it says, *“Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty...”* - and that word “mighty” means warrior, tyrant, a self-willed person - *“...he began to be a mighty one on the earth.”* He was a mighty, or a warrior tyrant, a hunter - that means to chase, he is constantly chasing power, he is chasing men to control them and to subjugate them. It says, *“He was a mighty hunter before...”* - and that word [“before”] is better translated “against” anger that word can be translated “against the Lord;” therefore it says, *“Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord,”* or against the Lord. And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Babel, or Babylon.

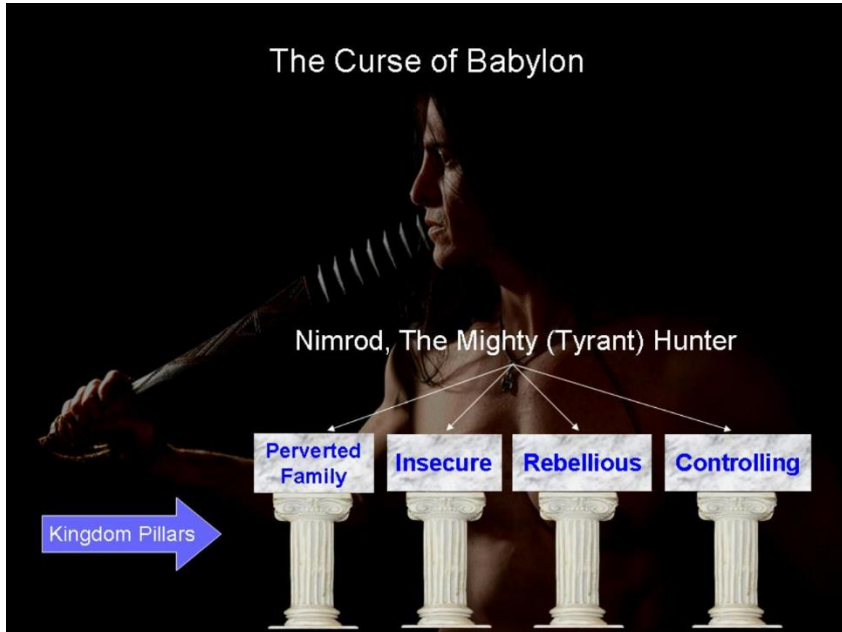
I want you to notice that this is the first place in the Bible where the word kingdom is used. First time, and it’s whose kingdom? Nimrod’s kingdom. It’s his own kingdom. This is the first time a man has come to the place where he

no longer recognizes God in any kind of capacity of sovereignty. He completely rejects His leadership.

I want to show you what Nimrod taught those who were under him. We'll come to that statement a bit later. I'll just come back a bit to that statement here. Who was Nimrod in terms of genealogy? Let's go back a little bit. He was the son of Cush, he was the son of Noah, and then Ham. What happened to Ham? Why was Ham cursed? He did something very evil. It tries to be discrete in the Bible: it says that he saw his father's nakedness. The sad part is, it says that when his father awoke, he said he knew what his younger son had done to him. What his son did was not very nice at all. In doing what he did, he had carried over the evil thought processes from before the flood, and he had violated his relationship with his father. It so violated that relationship that it brought a curse upon him and his children that would never leave. Terrible.

This is what happened in that family. Because you have to wonder, did Noah just... he was upset and angry and so he damns his son Ham and his children for the rest of their life just because he was angry? That he was embarrassed he got caught at because he was uncovered? There is a lot more to it than that. That curse was an inherent curse that came with what Ham had done to his father. He had rejected his father's authority, he had acted toward him in a way that was completely inappropriate and he bore the curse of that, and that is, not having a father, the assent of his father's love anymore, and feeling what he did was completely vile, I'd like to - and this is slightly aside, but just pigeon hole this thought.

Most of the men who are the movers and shakers on this planet are part of a group called the Bohemian Grove. Most of those men are homosexual. It's the shame of what they do that binds them to evil. It's the shame of their wickedness that completely breaks the curse, it breaks the blessing of God. It smashes the blessing of God. It breaks it completely. That's why the basest of men rule in this world. Satan binds them and he holds them to himself through shame. This is what happens. If you do the study and do the research, these are the ones who rule the world in most cases.



If we look at the foundation of Babylon, the curse of Babylon, he came from a perverted family. If you study history, it actually indicates that Nimrod married his mother after his father died. He is a bit of a sick puppy, isn't it? He married his mother. Why? Because she was beautiful and she was powerful, and in Satan's kingdom that's all that matters. If you have beauty and you have power, from a man's point of view, does it matter? In those days they were living a bit longer than they do today, so he married his mother. Perverted family relationships. With the mother/son relationship is the dominant relationship. It's the mother/son relationship. Do we see mother/son relationship being pushed heavily on us today? Mary and Jesus, uh, we could go into that, couldn't we?

A mother/son relationship is a relationship that Satan pushes most heavily, and that's why we see the Madonna and child in many, many places. The other thing is that Nimrod was insecure, because it [the Scriptures] called him a tyrant. A tyrant is always insecure. If you need to yell and rant, and jump up and down and scream, you are insecure. That's basically what it is. He was rebellious, because he says "his kingdom;" he formed his own kingdom, he rebelled against God, and he was controlling because it says that he went and

started dominating other nations. This is the spirit of Babylon, and it is this spirit that is well alive today. This is the spirit that is going to bring about Revelation 13 to its culmination, to its finish.

This is from Josephus; this is what Josephus says about Nimrod and his beliefs:

“Now it was Nimrod who excited them to such an affront and contempt of God. He was the grandson of Ham, the son of Noah, a bold man, and of great strength of hand. He persuaded them not to ascribe it [Strength] to God, as if it was through his means they were happy, but to believe that it was their own courage which procured that happiness. Do you see the lie of the serpent coming from within yourself? He also gradually changed the government into tyranny, seeing no other way of turning men from the fear of God, but to bring them into a constant dependence on his power.”
(Josephus, Antiquities, Book 1, Chapter 4, paragraph 2).

He had to control them, and see, this attitude must be reproduced today. Those men who are in control, who have the spirit of Nimrod - they can't stand people worshipping, obeying, free. I just want you to think for a moment, just think about this. A man who has a loving wife and loving children has his own kingdom in this world. Amen. I want you to think about that. We'll come back to this. When you have a loving family, with the husband at the head of his home, and his position is respected and honoured by his family, and his wife, in submission to her husband, and the wife is respected and loved by her children, you have a kingdom which no man can touch. He can take your body, he can kill you, but he can't take your kingdom.

This kingdom Satan hates. Wherever families arise where there is love, where there is respect for the husband, where there is appreciation for the wife, and where their children are in submission to their parents, there is a kingdom that Satan cannot overtake. This is the demonstration of God's kingdom, and Satan hates it, and if you read the literature, you read what the bankers say, you read what Rockefeller says. They hate families who are like this, because they can't control them. They have to break families. The whole feminist movement was orchestrated by the Rockefellers to destroy families, and we sit and watch television, and we just suck in all this rubbish that these men are putting out, and our families are being ripped to shreds. Our sovereignty as families is being

completely eroded in western nations particularly. Anyway, you can see I'm pretty fired up about that subject. This is Nimrod and his system.

I want you to notice this statement; this is from an author, A. T. Jones.

“With the setting up of Nimrod’s kingdom, the entire ancient world entered a new historical phase. The oriental tradition which makes that warrior the first man who wore a kingly crown, points to a fact more significant than the assumption of a new ornament of dress, or even the conquest of a province. His reign introduced to the world a new system of relations between the governor and the governed.”

A new relationship was introduced when Nimrod came between the governor and the governed. This is Satan’s kingdom taking place, taking shape:

“The authority of former rulers had rested upon the feeling of kindred, [between father, mother, and children] and the ascendancy of the chief was an image of parental control. Nimrod on the contrary was a sovereign of territory, and of men just so far as they were its inhabitants, and irrespective of personal ties. Hitherto there had been tribes – enlarged families – Society; now there was a nation, a political community – the State.” A. T. Jones, *Empires of the Bible*. 1904, page 51.

That is a very telling statement, because that is the situation that we are in today. I have no personal affiliation with Kevin Rudd, yet he is the leader of our country. I submit to the laws of the land, because that’s what God requires me to do, as long as they don’t conflict with the laws of God. But his leadership has nothing to do - he is not my uncle, he is not my relative, he is not. But he is the leader of this country, the state of Australia. Now, we are told to respect these men in leadership, but this is not the way God originally designed it. Many people think that because this is not the way God originally designed it, we should overthrow these governments. Not so, this is not the way God wants us to operate. But we need to recognize what power is operating in these governments, in these systems.

All right, just to get on this covering here briefly, that the foundations of Babylon, and the spirit of Babylon:

1. **Perverted family relationships:**

Ham's act toward his father resulted in cursing his genealogy and laid the seeds for Nimrod's perverted family structure. Because Ham had nothing to give his son, and his son had nothing to give Nimrod, Nimrod became insecure.

2. **Rejection of family blessing and authority structure:**

Dominion ruled by territory rather than the affection of family ties, which you just read. The forming of his own kingdom apart from God.

3. **Insecurity, worthlessness and confused identity:**

The loss of the family blessing caused Nimrod to seek worship by becoming a mighty one. The name Babylon means confusion. He became confused in his identity. He saw himself as the one that should be worshipped, rather than the God of heaven [being the One who should be worshipped].

4. **Controlling:**

The attribute of tyranny is the spirit of the need to control others by force, since there is no connection via family ties to cause respect. The desire for empire is reflected in the list of territories attributed to his ownership.

The attribute of tyranny is the spirit of the need to control, because when you are fearful, the only way to stop that fear, in a human sense, is not to be surprised. Stop any surprises - and the way to stop surprises is to keep everybody else under control. Then you have no surprises. That's the way most operate. No surprises, then I'm in control. But if you get surprised, then you will look like you are out of control. There can be no surprises, so everyone must be controlled. That's what the leaders of this world, the men of this world, the kings of this world, are planning to do, but they're going to get a big surprise from God's people in their family kingdom. All right.

So, we see that the principle of Nimrod leads to this.

- The spirit of Nimrod:
- the spirit of desire for rulership

- the insecurity
- the perverted family relationships

Those are the four key elements - the rebelliousness, the tyranny; they lead to someone who wants to dominate the world, and we see that everywhere today. As it says in Titus 2, notice what it says:

Tit 2:3-5 “The older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine...” or wine “...teachers of good things (4) that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children (5) to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.”

Isn't it interesting that the beast in Revelation 13 speaks words - of what? Blasphemy! Where does blasphemy come from? It comes from a home environment that has not done what God has asked them to do. That the word of God be not blasphemed, because when children are raised in a home where family principles are not followed, insecurity is developed in the heart of that child so that they become a blasphemer, that they do not acknowledge the God of heaven as the source of all life. They see themselves as the center of the universe and they, *they* then must then rule.

Do we understand the importance of this verse? The importance of husbands and wives, the way they conduct themselves in their families, to prevent blasphemy from occurring. The only reason that the beast power can arise in the last days is because of failed families. Does that make sense? It's the failure of the family that allows the beast of Revelation 13 to arise. Do you think it's an accident that the church of the Middle Ages wanted their nuns and priests celibate? That was no accident; that was part of the plan. That was the way it was meant to be. The primary relationship of the church at that time was a mother and a son, not a husband and a wife; a mother and a son. This was all part of a plan. Satan has planned this from the beginning, [so] that he would have his kingdom in this world.

Study that verse, Titus chapter 2: “...*that the word of God be not blasphemed.*” Blasphemy comes when homes fail, when divorce occurs. Now, there are times when we can't avoid these situations from happening. We are not always in control of what's happening. But when it happens, the children that come out

of that relationship - their exposure to tyranny is immense. This is the thing we really need to think about.

This tyranny grows under the king of Babylon in the time of Nebuchadnezzar. Notice what it says. I'll just mention the point - it says there was a vision concerning Nebuchadnezzar, that he was a great tree:

World Dominion Under Babylon:

Dan 4:20-22 "The tree that you saw, which grew and become strong, whose height reached to the heavens and which could be seen by all the earth, (21) whose leaves were lovely and its fruit abundant, in which was food for all, under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and in whose branches the birds of the heaven had their home (22) It is you, O king, who have grown and become strong; for your greatness has grown and reaches to the heavens, and your dominion to..." where? "...the ends of the earth."

By the time we come to Nebuchadnezzar we come to the point where a single man is able to dominate, and his influence reaches to the entire world. And so we enter into the period of world dominion, and this all comes from the lie of the serpent through bad family relationships where tyranny occurs, [and] rejection of God as a true life source. This is what's going to happen every time.

And we see - this is the verse I mentioned before - in Daniel 4, and verse 30.

Daniel 4:30 "The king spoke, saying, 'Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?'"

He is asking the question. This is his kingdom. I want you to briefly notice the images of Daniel 2. Have you ever thought about the ruling families of these kingdoms, what they were like and how they ruled? You look at Nimrod, the founder: he married his mother. Babylon and sun worship required prostitution. Part of the worship service was to go down and consort with one of the temple prostitutes. That was part of the religion. That was your duty, to do that. That's perverted; this is all designed to destroy the family. We see Cyrus from Medo-Persia. He had to be hidden from his father who wanted to kill him. Is that a good family relationship situation? Yeah, really good!

Phillip of Macedon told his son at age twelve to get his own kingdom, as there was not enough room for both of them. You know what the story was? Because Phillip of Macedon - this is Alexander the Great's father - and there is nothing great about Alexander, because he was a tyrant. But Alexander's father was trying to break in a horse, and he couldn't do it. So Alexander broke the horse in, and his father was so angry that his son made him look bad he said, "Go away, go and find your own kingdom, there is not enough room for both of us." I mean, how insecure is that? He sent his son away, because he felt that his son made him look bad. These are the ruling men of the world.

Alexander, himself - he was bisexual. He slept with male and female. After the death of his wife Roxanna and the child of both were all murdered, Alexander's mother was murdered. You study the annals of history, and you see the families of these ruling men and women. It's tragic! Tragic! Terrible family relationships, and the reason these men reached for these heights is because their insecurity drives them to control, drives them to leadership. Someone who has his own family already has his own kingdom. He has nothing else to conquer. No need to conquer anything because he is happy in his family.

You go on to the times of the Grecians and just have a look at some of these. The king of the North Antiochus Theos after having been defeated by Ptolemy Philadelphus made peace by putting away his family and promising to marry Philadelphus's daughter Berenice. "No worries; we'll make a pact. I'll get rid of my family and marry your daughter. No worries." I mean, what kind of despot is that? Doing away with his family. After Philadelphus died, Antiochus Theos put away his new wife, because the other guy died, so he could get rid of her, and he recalled his former wife, Laodice. Laodice, having learned well from her husband, murdered him. So, "I'll teach you, husband!" - bang! Knocked him off. Having learned well from her husband, [she] murdered him to make sure she'll not be put away again and that her son would rule the kingdom. She also murdered Berenice and her son just for good measure. This is the family relationship system of Daniel chapter 2. These are the ruling families. This is how they operate.

Rome - I mentioned this before - Rome was founded by Romulus, who murdered his brother by smashing his skull with a rock. We needn't go over that story again, down to this point here. As you read the annals of Roman leaders, you study about Julius Cesar, and you read their stories as families:

Brutus, Cleopatra - a complete and utter mess! Then you have the so-called Christian Constantine who drowned his wife in a hot bath - went a bit overboard with the baptism thing, I think, and he murdered his son, he murdered his own sons to prevent them from succeeding him, he was so afraid of his sons taking over that he murdered them. This is what Satan's kingdom does to people.

The medieval church did little to represent families - having their priests celibate and presenting the model relationship as Madonna and child rather than husband and wife. This is what that statue is all about. I don't know if you've ever thought of that statue in that light, but that statue is an image to a smashing of the family system. That's what it represents: a total destruction of the family. It's this system that rules the world. Is there any wonder we have families being torn apart? These are the butchers that rule the planet. They come from this kind of families.

As it says in Daniel 4:17: Worthlessness rises.

Daniel 4:17 "This decision is by the decree of the watchers, and the sentence by the word of the holy ones, in order that the living may know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest of men."

God sees what men will do when they reject him. He knows that they're going to rise to the surface, and these are the ones that rule the earth today.

Now we come to the final rise of blasphemy in Revelation 13:11.

Rev 13:11-16 "Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke as a dragon (12) and he exercised all the authority of the first beast..."



When you're reading this passage, think about the family background that these people have come from. What causes them to act like this, because this thing here I got it like a beast here, I got him in his true colors, not a lamb's; I got him looking like a beast breathing fire. This is made up of people, isn't it? Individuals from broken families - that's what that beast represents. Tyrannical families.

(12) "And he exercised all the authority of the first beast in his presence and cause the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast whose deadly wound was healed (13) he performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men."

That's another whole presentation, but we know from the Bible that when fire came down on the earth, that was a symbol of the true God. This beast power will try and confuse people as to who the true God is and makes some kind of sign that the whole world believes it's the true God, so that this beast power can take worship for itself.

(14) “And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast...”

Notice how it says, “...*he was granted to do.*” Who grants the power to the beast to do what it’s doing? Where does our life come from? God has allowed this to occur, so that we can see the fruits of Satan’s lie, “*You shall not surely die.*” There is no other way for us to learn. Wouldn’t it have been good if we’d just accepted God and said, “Yes, we believe it, you are right, we are not going to do this?” No, we have to learn the hard way. That’s why we’re going into this situation of the last days. We have to see what happens when Satan’s lie is allowed to prosper. This is what happens.

(15) “He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.”

There is the tyranny again: “You don’t do what I tell you? I’m going to kill you.”

(16) “He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads.”

And boy, are we seeing this come together, aren’t we? This is coming together - this whole system. But I want you to think about this, think about the spirit that drives this kind of system. What is the spirit that drives it? The dragon drives it, but what’s causing this to come about? Broken family relationships coming from a misunderstanding of who God is. That’s what’s causing this to come about.

Those who want to be representatives of God need to have their families in order, need to follow family-based principles. If we are living in homes, and we are yelling and screaming at each other in our family situation, we’re going to become part of this system. It doesn’t matter what you believe. If your spirit is like this, if you are yelling and screaming at one another, if we are manipulating one another to get control, we are going to become part of this. It doesn’t matter what you believe. Is that right? You can profess whatever you like, but it’s what you do at home that says what kind of Christian you are.

Now, this grace, there is always grace; we make mistakes. A righteous man falls seven times, but we need to always keep in the back of our minds, *Lord it’s my family that’s most important. It’s my family relationships that are most*

important. Nothing is more important than this. Not even your job is more important than this. That's a big statement. It's a big statement, but if your family is not more important, if your job causes you to send a message to your family that they're not important, change your job, because if a man loses his wife and children, he is nothing. He has absolutely nothing and he is cannon fodder for the beast power.

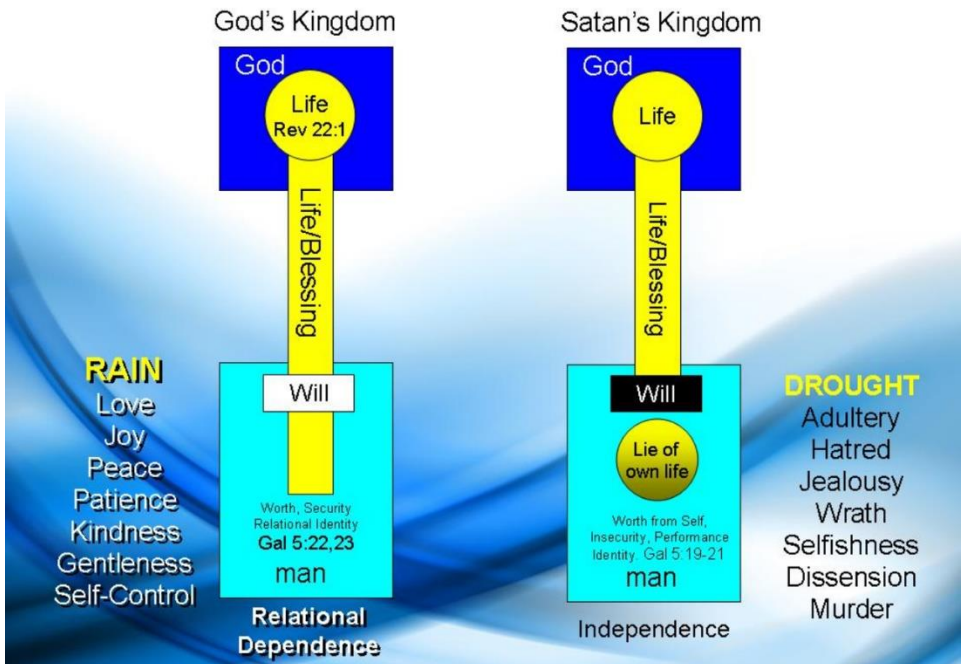
That's what's happening to families today. Families being torn apart, divorce everywhere. It just becomes cannon fodder for the beast power, because I've talked to so many men when they split up with their wives, and they're wandering around, "Who am I? What am I? What do I do? Where do I go?" It's such a terrible situation! There is no blame attributed to anybody who's been through this situation, but it's good that we be aware that this is not an accident. This is on purpose, from Satan, and those who want to rule this world.

I'd better leave it there. Thank you for listening. Let's just bow our heads and we'll pray.

Father in heaven, Lord we looked at the rise of tyranny and how it occurs. It occurs with the breakdown of the family. And Lord, I just pray for our families here today. We pray that You would protect us, that You'd put Your arms, Your loving arms around us and protect their families. Lord draw us near to you, so that we can allow Your Spirit to flow through us. Let us love one another. Our first missionary station is our own home: our husband, our wife, our children. Are we showing to them the love of Jesus? It doesn't matter if we show the love of Jesus to people. That's out of the home. If we are not showing it in the home, it means nothing, it's hypocrisy. Lord, let us be like this. It's so much harder to be loving in the home, when no one else is watching. But Lord, we need to become like You. Help us to draw our value from You, dear Father, and allow Your mercy to flow through us so we can occupy the family values that You have given us. We thank You in Jesus' name. Amen.

3. Identity Reclaimed

In this presentation, we are going to look at Identity Reclaimed. We looked in the last couple of presentations at God's kingdom as opposed to Satan's kingdom and how the basic differential between the two systems is God's principle that all life flows forth from Him. We have that life through a relationship with Him. That's the only way that we have life, and we're going to look more in the coming presentations on how that we can protect [the flow of blessings], God has set up a system to protect this flow of blessing to us.



But Satan introduced the lie to Adam and Eve "you shalt no surely die," and that initiated the belief that we have life in ourselves, so that we don't look up here [to God] for life and blessing, we look here [within ourselves] for life and blessing and what we can obtain, and of course what we noticed is, that actually shuts the will to the blessing that comes from God. It not only shuts

out many physical blessings, it shuts out the most important blessing of all, and that is, a sense of worth, a sense of value.

The lie of the serpent causes us to feel worthless, and we looked in the initial presentation where if we look around the world today, many, many, many people are depressed, discouraged, suicidal, because we've been affected by the lie of the serpent, which says that happiness and joy come from what we can procure from within ourselves, and of course, when we unblock the blessing, all love, all joy, all peace, all these things flow to us freely from God, from the throne of God, out through his Son, and down to us, and love, joy, peace, can be freely ours, if we will but acknowledge where it comes from.

But to acknowledge where it comes from, means we must identify clearly who God is and clearly identify who we are. That's why I call this series Identity Wars. There is a war over our true identity, as to who we are, and as to who God is. What is the true identity of God, what is the true identity of ourselves? This is the war that we have entered into because of the lie of the serpent. The serpent says that you have life in yourself. That's your identity. Whereas the Bible teaches that God is the source of all life and our value and sense of worth come alone from him and nothing that we do ourselves. Anything that we do is only out of the sheer enjoyment and pleasure of living in God's kingdom. Not because we need to, not because we have to, to prove ourselves, but simply enjoying our relationship with God.

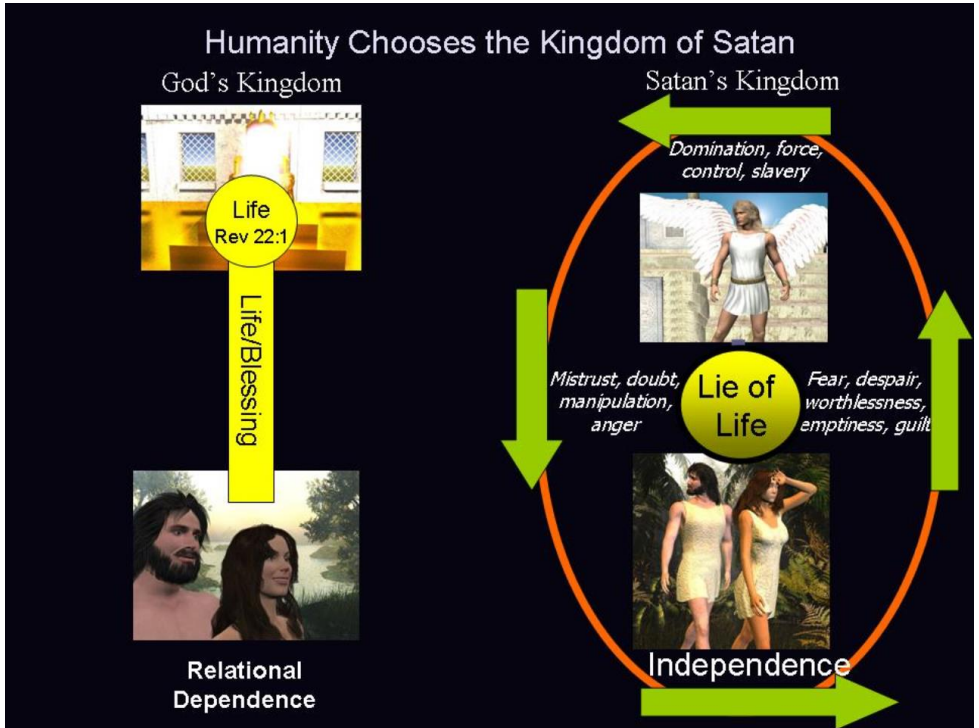
When we are open to the blessing of God, we are filled as I said, with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, self-control. Do you ever hear people say, "you know, I really lack patience, I need to really work on being more patient," That's working out of this kingdom, you have to work at things. In God's kingdom the thing you have to work at, is believing that you are a child of God, and that God will give you these things... freely! As the Bible says, "Christ in you, the hope of? Glory! Is Christ loving? Is Christ patient? Is Christ joyful? Well, if Christ is in you, then aren't those things going to manifest in your life? That's the only thing, but why it's so hard for us, is that we're still confused by this lie, "I have to produce, I have to bring forth, I have to bring fruits and vegetables to the Lord like Cain did, so that He will acknowledge me." We are going to talk a bit more about how Jesus's overcomes this. Remember we talked about the river, the river of life that flows down into the universe,

out of the throne of God? It brings with it, water, it brings with it, life. Wherever the river flows, Ezekiel 47 says, there is life.

That is symbolized by the rain that comes, when we open. We had a reading here just before about the latter rain. The receiving of the latter rain, I might suggest to you, briefly comes, and will come very easily with the true understanding of God and the true understanding of man. It's that simple. Then it will flow! And the river will come! That's as simple as it gets and we can go a lot more into that. Rain will come to us, but there is drought and in Galatians 5:19 it talks about what happens to the natural man who chooses to believe like Nimrod that he has life in himself. You get adultery, hatred, jealousy, wrath, selfishness, dissension, murder, and all of these things arise out of fear of protecting yourself, because the first emotion that Adam experienced when God came to him was fear.

Out of fear comes everything else, fear of not being liked, fear of being overrun, fear that other people will take advantage of you, fear of being attacked, fear of death, all of these things. That's what brings the drought. A continual resistance, when you block the water through the will, blocking, and believing in the lie in yourself, and there is no water, when you have no water, you get a drought, don't you? That's what happens, and Victoria is well attuned to drought, I can see that. We understand these principles.

We also looked at the fact that humanity chose Satan's kingdom. Some people ask me, "You know, Adrian, why do you keep going over this stuff? We know this?" I keep going over the stuff because it's based on a principle called repetition and expansion based out of the prophetic books of the Bible. By the time we finish this, hopefully these charts will be well imbedded in your thinking, and if that is a bit frustrating for some of you who think a bit fast, I'm sorry. Other people are taking it in a bit more slowly.



We see that originally, Adam and Eve were in this relationship, and remember that their life, their joy, their peace, everything came from God, but when they chose against God, they chose to believe the serpent's lie, they became locked into a cycle, an independent cycle. Do you know, there is nothing more dangerous than a person who will not take counsel from those that are deemed to be in authority around them. Someone who places themselves in a position of being completely independent from counsel from anybody around them is a dangerous, dangerous, individual.

Why? Does anyone know why? No? Well, if they can't be guided, they can't be led, they're just going to go on a track, and if they're not guided by God, they can't be told, nobody can be told, "hey, maybe you're making a mistake here, maybe," because we are all sinners, we all make mistakes, but if someone can't be told, they're in a dangerous, dangerous situation. But this is what happens in Satan's kingdom, you can't be told. You cannot be told, "maybe there is a problem, maybe we need to look at this," but let's word it this way, how many

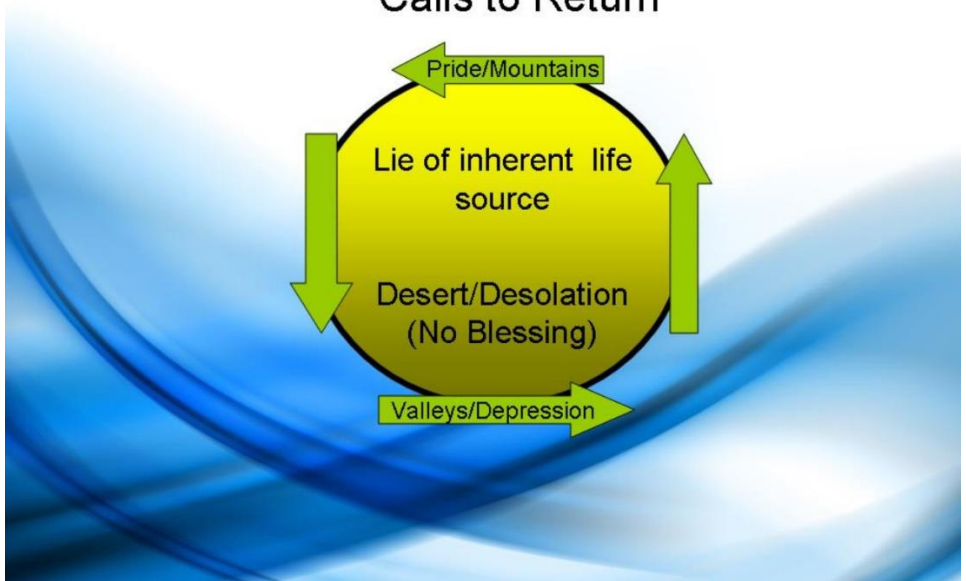
here like to be told they're doing the wrong thing? Anybody? Vince? No, of course you don't! How many here like to be told, "you are doing the wrong thing?" Do you like it? Even when they say it really harshly? I find it hard, I'll be honest; I'm probably with everybody else that didn't put their hands up. When someone comes and says, "look Adrian, this is wrong, you are doing the wrong thing, and what you preached before is garbage, it's total garbage." I sort of get a bit defensive when people start coming on like this.

I don't like to be told, and it's something that's in human nature. We don't like to be told, but fortunately the Spirit of God has ways of speaking to us and telling us that maybe we got a problem; it's probably better than other people pointing our faults. It's a challenge, to learn. But the reason why we find it hard it's also related to the lie. If I have life in myself, why do I need to worry about other people? Why do I need to take their advice on board? Why do I need to listen to my parents? Why do I need to take their instruction on board? You know, I said this the other week, when I turned 13, 14 years of age; all of a sudden, my father became extremely dumb. I couldn't work it out. He got this disease, and he just suddenly, he didn't understand how life worked anymore. He just didn't have a clue how things worked. I did not want to be told.

Now, unfortunately, my assertion of resistance toward my father intensified his desire to control! And to dominate! See I wasn't smart enough to work out that if I cut my dad a little bit of slack, he might've gone a little easier on me, and interestingly enough, when I turned 21, 22, 23, all of a sudden, my dad got smart again. It was really funny, it was quiet amazing, I started to see, "hey, my dad is not so dumb after all, he is had a bit of life experience," and, yeah, but I had changed in my understanding of life and after my first son was born, I went to my father and said, "Dad, look, I'm really sorry for the way I treated you over the years, it must to have been hard at times, because I didn't like to be told when I was wrong." That's because of the lie. It's an extension of that lie.

If I had realized that there were many blessings to be had for me through my father I would've been a lot more careful. But then again, it goes back generationally, doesn't it? My father didn't have a lot to fall back on. He was never told by his father that his father loved him, so he didn't have a lot to fall back on, and considering, my dad did really well. I'm really proud of my dad. I love my dad, but you'll hear more about that another time.

Drought Builds Barriers to God's Calls to Return



Once we come into this cycle of drought where this lie say, "It's O.K. You can make it, you can work it out," you get locked into what I call the mountains of pride and the valleys of depression and these mountains actually isolate us like a cocoon, we become cocooned in this system and we come into a situation of drought. Now, I want to suggest to you that this is going on [in the human heart] I'm talking about the human heart, O.K.?

When the human heart comes into a drought situation, it becomes desolate. The heart becomes desolated, and we can go into a whole subject talking about a complete system that desolates the human heart. Do you know what it's called? It's called the abomination of desolation. It desolates the human heart. It takes away from us the channel of blessing. It presents to us a false view of God, a false view of ourselves and it causes desolation. Just put that away, that word, abomination. I know many of you understand what that word means, abomination of desolation, but think of it in terms of the human heart, and the

desolation that comes to the human heart. The desolation of relationships, the desolation of family structures, this is what Satan is trying to accomplish. It's to block us into this system, so that we can't get out. That the only way out is death, and I might mention to you, that is the only way. The only way out of this system is death. Either rejecting God all the way, and then dying and losing eternal life, or accepting Jesus and dying to self. That's the only way out of this system. You must die. There is no other way out. Does that make sense?

We looked at this concept of the mountains and the valleys. When we are in this situation, what is God going to do to reach us? How does he reach into this human heart that is desolate? When we think about the fact that we cut off God's ability to water, He can't get seed in, He can't grow anything in the human heart. It's become a desert, and this is what God says, this is what God says regarding the human heart:

Jer. 13:23 "Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil."
"

The human heart becomes incapable of responding to goodness, or doing good things, because there is nothing in the human soil that responds to God anymore. It's become desert. So how is God going to fix this problem? Let's have a look at a few more texts:

Jer 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?"

That is rendering from one of the modern translations, but I believe it's more correct. The human heart in and of itself is beyond cure. You cannot cure it, you cannot reform it, you cannot go to self-help people to fix the human heart. The soil has no response, as the Bible says in Romans chapter 3, there is none that seek after God, no, not one. If you are seeking after God it is because God is drawing you. You are not seeking Him, He is seeking you. That's what's going on.

I just quoted this:

Rom 3:10-12 "As it is written: There is no-one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no-one seeks God. "

You know, there was a point in my life when I was reading in the book of Romans, and I was in a joyful experience with Jesus, just fairly new in my experience, and I came across this verse and it says, *“There is no one seeking after God,”* and I broke down and wept, because I knew that I was in a relationship with God, not because of me, but because of Him. He was the One that drew me. He was the One that drew me to Himself. I thought that it was me who was making all the moves toward God. Not so, He was making all the moves toward me, through His Spirit. Beautiful verse.

When you understand this the correct way, and again, in the two kingdoms, in God’s kingdom this is a beautiful verse, a wonderful verse of promise, *“there is no one good, no, not one.”* People say, *“that’s a good verse?”* That’s an attack on human nature, but what that verse says, is that you don’t have to produce goodness because you can’t. That’s good news! You don’t have to produce it! You don’t have to make yourself good, because it comes from God. Does that make sense?

Some people are looking at me like “huh?” What’s he talking about? We cannot produce it from within ourselves; we can only receive it from above. The effort that we must exercise is in opening the will to the Fountain of blessing and allowing the Spirit of Christ to flow through our lives. That is freedom. Freedom from trying to prove, freedom from trying to perform, freedom from constant guilt and frustration that, *“I can’t do it.”* God already knows you can’t do it. If you read the Scripture carefully, that’s why He sent His Son. We’re going to go on, I’m getting ahead of myself.



This is a good illustration of the human heart. A desert. Can you grow anything in that? You can't. Then you have mountains and you have valleys that block the way, that prevent God from reaching us. He can't reach the heart because there is a mountain in the way. He can't get to us because there is a valley that He can't get over so that He can get to us. You see? This is what the serpent's lie does to the human heart. It's no accident that God allows deserts to form. This is the Sahara Desert. I believe one time this was a very, very beautiful place, but now it's become a desert. God is showing in physical form, in the physical realms around us what happens, in the physical realm as to what happens in the human heart: desolate. Nothing left. Nothing left.

This is where, if you've been noting carefully, some of you've been picking up the verse where we're going to go to next. This is the message of hope. What is God going to do? What did He plan do to? How would He reach us? We are completely isolated from Him by this lie, we have no interest in Him, we have no desire to seek for Him, we are completely cut off from him in terms of human thinking. But God had a plan to reach the human heart, and that message comes to us in Isaiah chapter 40. Listen carefully to what this says:

Isa 40:1-5 "Comfort, yes, comfort my people...!"

Someone who has a desert heart needs comfort, don't they? Where there is nothing but pain.

... Says your God. (2) "Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned; For she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins..."

Very interesting meaning in these passages, we don't have time to cover all that. Now we come to the interesting part:

(3) ... "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare ye the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert...'"

What have we been talking about? Desert.

... "make straight in the desert A highway for our God.'" (4) Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places

smooth; (5) The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

Now, in the context of what we’ve been talking about, about mountains and valleys and deserts, can you see what this verse might be alluding to? When it says *“The voice of one crying in the wilderness,”* who is that voice? Who was the one who claimed to be the voice of one crying in the wilderness? John the Baptist, who came in the power and the Spirit of who? Elijah! This is the Elijah message, to bring down the mountains, to raise the valleys, to make straight in the desert a highway. A highway for what? Isn’t it the river? What’s the highway for? It’s for the river to bring life back into the desert, the desert of the human heart which does not respond to God. This is what this message is. It’s a message of comfort, to comfort God’s people.

This is a very, very exciting chapter, this whole chapter from here on. Notice what it says,

A Message of Hope and Comfort

Isa 53:1-5 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? 2 For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. 3 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. 4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

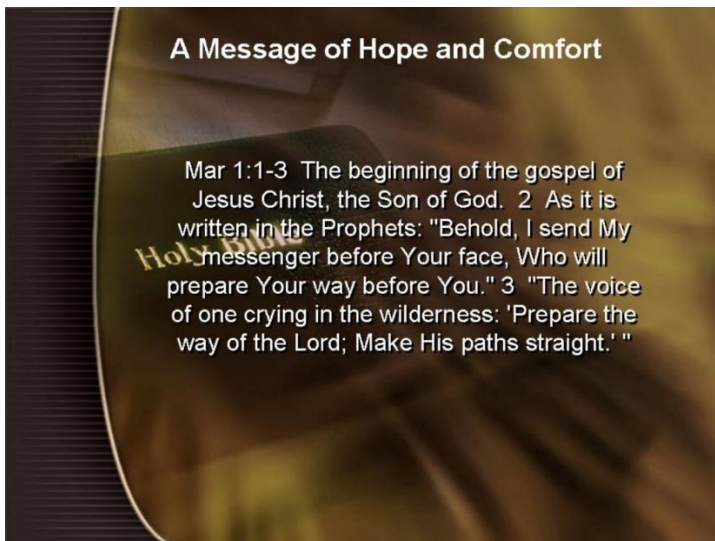
Isa 53:1-5 “Who has believed our report? And to whom has the

arm of the Lord been revealed? (2) For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of..." where? "...Dry ground!"

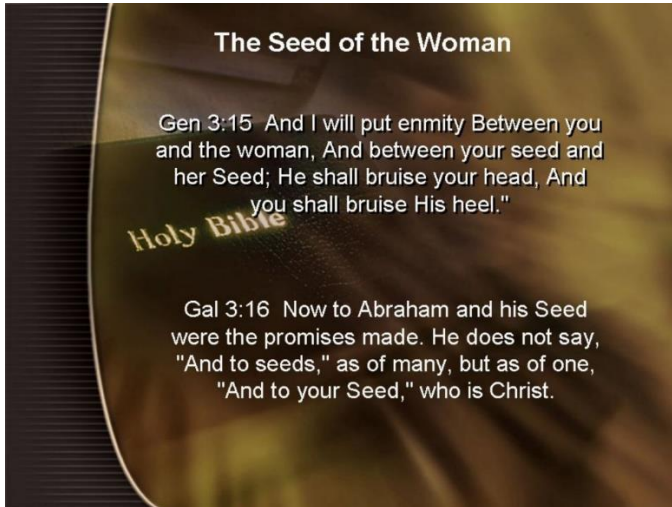
This tender shoot, who is this referring to? This is a prophecy of Christ, and it says that Christ will grow out of a dry ground, or a desert. That's interesting, isn't? This tender shoot, this beautiful, fresh, tender, shoot grows up in the middle of the desert. Very interesting, and then it goes on:

"...There is no beauty that we should desire him, he is despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.
"

I'd like to spend a lot of time on that particular passage, but we need to move on. Now notice, what it says, we were speaking to this issue before:



This message, the message of Elijah is to prepare the way for the human heart to be reconnected to this channel of blessing. Remember, we've been cut off by the lie of the serpent. God needs to find a way to reconnect the human spirit, or humanity with this channel, and the way He's done it is through His Son. We're going to look at how he's done it through His Son. How He's reconnected us to the channel of blessing, to the river of life.

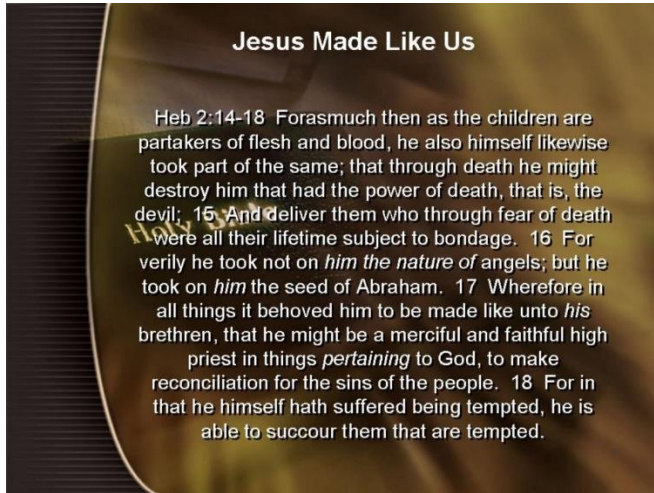


This is a prophecy also of Christ, is it not? [Gen 3:15] It's referring to a seed. A seed that is planted in the human heart, that grows up as a tender plant and brings life back to the desert. Can you see what's going on here? That the only way that God could reach us was to come like us, to come into our human experience as a seed that had life, and in that life was the connection to the Father that would then open again the floodgates of the river of life and to reconnect us to heaven. Can you see it? It's a beautiful picture.

Our next passage:

Gen 3:16 "Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ."

Christ is the seed, planted in the human heart that grows. And I want you to notice, this is a familiar passage to many of us, Hebrews 2:14-18. When Jesus came, there is much discussion about what Jesus was like. When he came, was He truly like us? Or was He not like us? Could He truly come, could someone of such purity, someone of such majesty muddy himself in a wretched human experience? Could He do this? Notice what the Bible says:



Heb. 2:14-18 “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same... “

Now, I want you to notice, when it says “*He also Himself, likewise,*” Do you think the author is trying to make a point? He is saying, “It’s the same people, It’s the same,” “*He also himself, likewise took part of the same,*” I think he is trying to make a point.

“... That through death he might destroy him who had the power of death, that is the devil, and deliver them who through fear of death [here is that fear issue again] were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”

That fear of death relates to the lie, doesn’t it? We became afraid of death because we have to protect this life source that’s inside of us. That’s why we have fear. But Jesus came to deliver us from that fear by getting us to focus our attention on where the really life source is, not here [within us], up in heaven, from the Father.

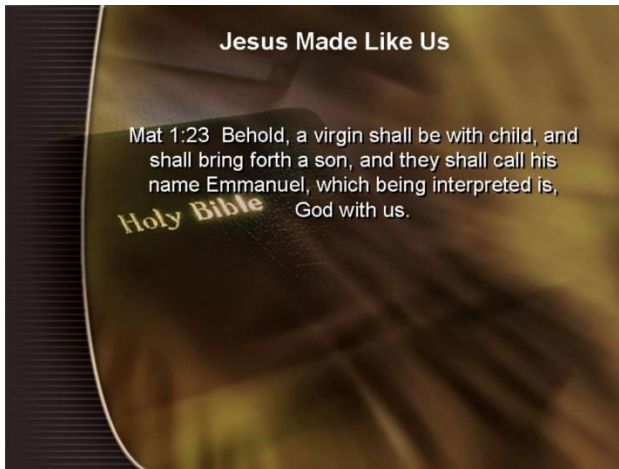
(16) “For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed...” (of who?)... Abraham. “

He was made like Abraham, He had in his experience, in his nature, a nature like Abraham’s. That’s what it says, doesn’t it?

(17) “Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made unto his brethren.” (in how many things?) All things.

If God is going to reconnect the channel, the river of life to the human heart, doesn't he have to come to where the human heart is? Doesn't he have to come into the desert? Doesn't he have to plant the seed in the desert? That's where He has to go to reconnect us to Himself. If He came, and did not come to where we were, If he came to the rain forest, and we are all out in the desert, what good is that? He can plant the seed in the rain forest, and of course it'll grow. But we needed it planted in the desert, because we are all out in the desert as human beings. We've cut ourselves off from the river of life, so Jesus had to go out into the desert.

Is it interesting to you, that when Jesus began His ministry, the first thing he did was to go where? Into the desert! Isn't that interesting? He achieved something in the desert that was very, very important, which we're going to have a look at.

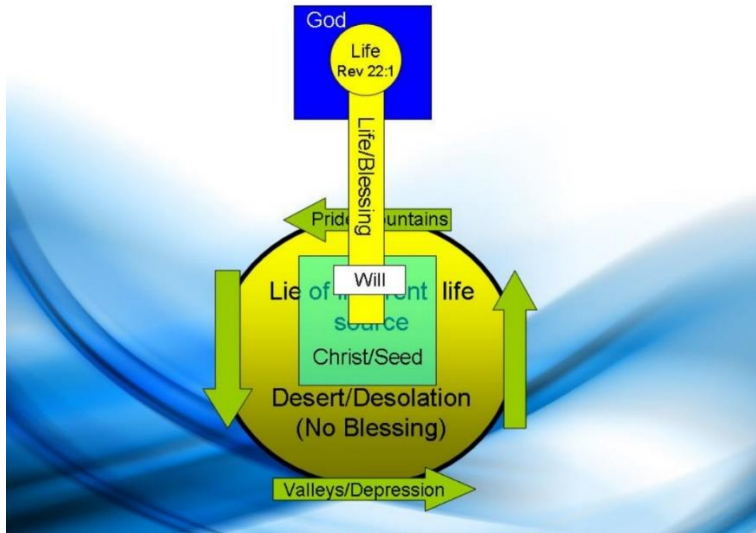


Isn't that a wonderful thing? That God would be with us, and that He would enter into our experience. One of the best joys that I have is knowing that Jesus knows how I feel, that He knows how I feel, when I struggle, He knows that struggle. When I feel rejected, he knows rejection. When I'm persecuted, He knows persecution. He understands these things. When I suffer physical pain, Jesus has suffered physical pain. A lot more physical pain than I have. He knows how I feel. That gives me comfort, that when Jesus asks me to do something in

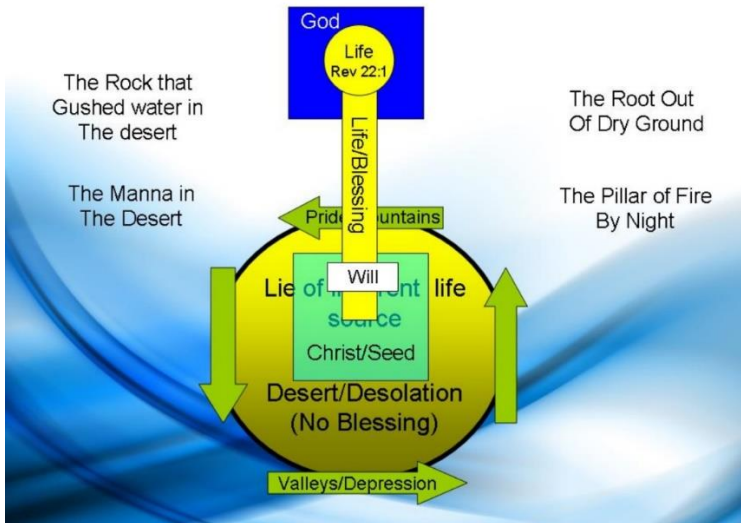
the Scriptures, He is not asking me to do something which He himself knows nothing about. That is a wonderful thing. And I would like to suggest to you that dwelling on these thoughts brings a lot of peace. That He knows how we feel. He knows our experience.



Now, we see God as in heaven on his throne and we are down here, but how does God reach into the center of this desert from where He is in heaven? This is in an illustrated form how I understand that takes place. That God's life flows down into the center, and Christ is planted right in the heart of the human experience and reconnect us to God. Can you see how that works?



Christ had to come right into the heart of his enemies. He went behind enemy lines, and the seed was planted in the desert, and a miracle occurred, because in the middle of the desert, this plant begins to grow, because it is still connected to the life source. It could grow in the desert. Jesus was the only one that could grow in the desert, and to begin to bring back life, an oasis in the desert, where people can draw water, and start to reclaim the desert and bring back the garden, the garden that was taken from us. This is how God has reconnected and opened again for us the channel of blessing, the life flow of blessing. Jesus is the key for us to be reconnected to the Father, through this process. Does that make sense? Can you see that? This is how God did it, in sending His Son He sent Him right where we are.



We noticed, symbols, there's symbols of this all throughout the Old Testament, the children of Israel, where were they? When they left Egypt, where did they go? Into the desert, they were in the desert, and the Rock, the Rock was in the desert, and what came out of the Rock? Water. That's a symbol of what we are talking about here. The water flows out of the desert for all the people to drink so that even though we are all in the desert, we can come to the Rock and the water flows out of the Rock and we can have life, through Christ the Rock.

The manna, the manna is a symbol of Who? Who said He is the bread of life? You have bread falling in the desert. Could there be a more beautiful symbol than that? God now is able to give life to us through His Son. He's reconnected us so He can rain bread from heaven. Jesus said, *"I am the bread of life."* Beautiful! And as we mentioned before, He is the root out of the dry ground. What about the pillar of fire by night, in the midst of a desert? In something like the Sahara, how much wood are you going to find in the desert to get fire and warmth? Not much. But the fire, Jesus, through the fire and the light, all of these symbols, and if you notice carefully, and I'll just do a very quick survey.



If you look carefully at all the elements that the Bible speaks about that reflect this flow: Water, fire, light, bread, oil, breath, all of these things symbolize the connection to God. All of these symbols are found in the Old Testament Sanctuary service. This fire on the altar, this water in the laver, this bread on the table of shew bread, this oil in the candlestick, this light in the candlestick, this incense on the altar.



Do you see how it's all connected, to reconnecting us, can you see it? It's a beautiful thing. All to reconnect us, and it's all heading us in one direction. It's

the Most Holy Place. And what's in the Most Holy Place? The throne of God, the crown around the edging, what's in the Ark of the Covenant? The Ten Commandments. The object is to bring us back to the Ten Commandments. Tomorrow we are going to explain why. Why the Ten Commandments is the focus. We'll look at that tomorrow. So you'll have to come back tomorrow for that one.



Jesus breaks the cycle. In Christ we have the One who can break the cycle of worthlessness, this cycle of pride and depression. He is able to break this cycle

for us. Now that God has sent His Son, and His Son now is imbedded in the human experience. He's taken our nature upon Himself. He's reconnected us to the channel. God can now begin to flow His blessings to us once again, and He can now speak to us through His Son. Notice what God speaks to us through His Son:

“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” Matt 3:17.

You know, this is what the Father has been wanting to say to us all along. In speaking this to Christ, who's become one with us, the Father is speaking this to you and to me, and in accepting that statement, the cycle of worthlessness will be broken. This is the key. Can you see it? By accepting that you are a son or daughter of God, simply because God says so, through His Son, worthlessness will vanish. You are a child of the King, you are a son or daughter of the One who made the heavens and the earth, the King of the universe.

As we looked up earlier today, He thinks about you every moment of every day. His thoughts toward you are peace, not evil. His desire is for you to live with Him forever, not to cast you away. He wants you desperately to live with Him. He just wants you to know Him, and that you'll always be with Him forever and ever. That's what He's been wanting to tell us. In His Son, the Father now can speak to us, and tell us His thoughts and His feelings directly. He spoke through prophets in the past, but now He can speak to us more perfectly through His Son.

What does it say in Hebrews chapter one?

“God who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in times past unto the fathers by the prophets, (2) hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son.”

This is the key that breaks the cycle. Jesus reclaims for us a sense of worth, because the spirit of the vagabond, the spirit of Cain, does not allow us to believe this. “I cannot be a son, because I've done wrong things.” That's the valley view, the valley view is I'm not good enough. The mountain view is, who is the Lord that I should obey him? I don't need God. Both of these statements can bring that down. To bring down the mountains, to lift the valleys, to make straight in the desert a highway for our God, that the glory of the Lord shall be revealed. And what is the glory of the Lord?

Exodus 34, when God passed before Moses, and He hid him in the cleft of the Rock,

“The Lord, the Lord God, merciful gracious, abundant in goodness and truth.” This is to come into our experience, prepare ye a highway in the desert for our God, and the glory of the Lord will come in, where? Into the human heart, so that His goodness, His mercy, His spirit of patience and abundance, flows out of our lives. What did Jesus say in John chapter 7? “Come unto me all ye who thirst, and out of his belly will flow...” What? “..Rivers of living waters...”

So it flows from heaven, it flows into us, and then it flows out of us in love, joy, peace. Every one of us is a tree. We are going sideways now, but this is good. Every one of us is a tree, it says in Psalm chapter 1 “*We are a tree planted by the rivers of water.*” Every one of us produces fruit. What is the fruit that you are producing? Is it love, joy, peace, patience? Or is it adultery, anger, hatred, fear, violence, sedition, heresy.

Every one of us produces fruit, and every time we come in contact with another person they have to eat our fruit. Are we giving people stomach aches and indigestion? Or are we allowing our highway for our God to come through? A message of comfort, so that people can receive love, joy, peace, patience, temperance, discipline? Is that what is received? I think you get the idea.

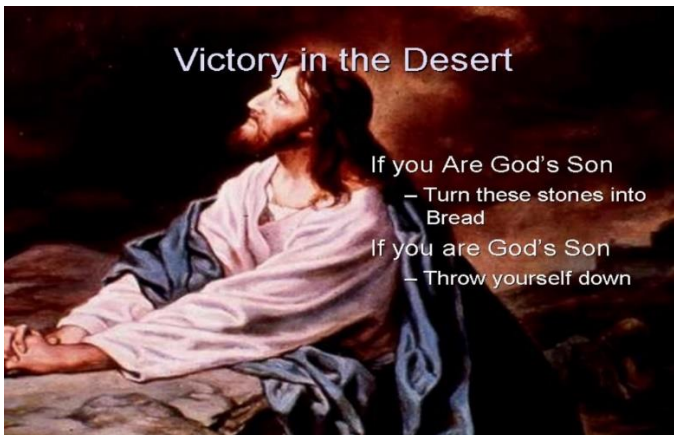
So Jesus breaks the cycle. Now, I want you to notice, and I want you think about this carefully: Jesus had to first reconnect us to the Father so that we could have a sense that we are His children. This is really, really important, and I’ll go through this briefly, because the death of the cross does not make sense to someone who is not a child of God. Do you understand what I’m saying? In Satan’s kingdom of inherent life source, God is your enemy. When an enemy gives you a gift, what do you think? What’s the motive, what’s the catch? What are you doing this for?

A gift can only be received from a friend, and Jesus shows us that we are God’s friends through His Son. We have to accept sonship and daughtership before we can fully accept the cross for what God really intended it to be. Many people misunderstand what the cross of Christ it’s all about and what that gift was about. When we understand who God is, and why He gave His Son, and why

He had to die, then it will make sense to us. But if we see the cross as a great thing that God has done for us, then we are motivated to do great things for Him, but for the wrong reason, out of a sense of obligation, not joy. Can you see the difference? Motivated by the wrong reasons.

There are many people who wish to serve God. Did not Cain wish to serve God? But he was motivated by a wrong spirit, and it led him in a wrong path. There is another thing that Jesus had to reclaim for us to help us to believe this statement. There is a lot that He had to do. He had to go into the wilderness, and deal with the central issue of being sons and daughters of God, whether we could believe this or not. The beauty is that because He is at the beginning of this channel, whatever He accomplishes on our behalf automatically flows to us through the channel. Can you see that?

So whatever Jesus accomplishes, automatically becomes ours. The symbol of this is shown, for instance, in the story of David and Goliath. One man takes on another man, and the whole nation goes free. Do you see the principle? One man fights, wins the victory on behalf of a whole nation. Jesus wins a victory on behalf of the whole world. The story of David and Goliath is the story of Jesus in the wilderness. It's the same story, if you look at it carefully.



How long was Goliath calling out obscenities and abuse toward the Israelites? How long? 40 days! Oh, that's interesting. How long was Jesus in the wilderness? 40 days! There is parallel there. Go and study it. Go and look at it.

Victory in the desert. Now this is what Jesus had to overcome. This is how He had to smash the principle of the inherent life source. Now, notice, when Satan came to Jesus, what was the issue? It was a question concerning His relationship with His Father. Wasn't it? Are you? If you are God's Son. What is he saying? If you are God's Son, turn these stones into bread. What's he saying? Prove it. If you are God's Son, demonstrate from within yourself. Satan is trying to draw Christ onto his life source philosophy system. But what does Jesus respond? How does He respond? How does He deal with this issue? It is written. I want you to think about that. From the point of view that Jesus has won this victory, he beat Satan on this issue; Satan came at Him, tried to get him to perform and achieve and to do things, Christ refused, He clung to the Word and as He mentions

“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” Matt 4.4

What was the last word that the Bible indicates that Jesus heard from His Father?

“This is my Beloved Son in whom I'm well pleased!” Matt 3.17

Does he accept that statement on face value or does He about to try and prove it? If He went about to try and prove it, won't He then be doubting what His Father had said? That's what He'd be doing. He'd be doubting what His Father had said. He could not. He could only say, my God had already said that I'm His Son. I don't have to prove that to you. I don't have to prove it to anybody. My Father's already said it, that I'm His Son.

And so, Christ conquers this need to prove ourselves. When Satan comes to you and says, are you a follower of God? Are you a Christian? Prove it! Come on, where is your knowledge of the Bible. Do you know the Bible? Have you been good today? Did you do bad things today? You are not a Christian! It's Goliath yelling at you, swearing and cursing at you, telling you're hopeless and you're no good. What are you going to do? You're going to say, yeah, he's right.

Jesus has already won the victory, and it flows to us. We simply turn to the Bible, and we open the Bible and we go to John 1:12, and we tell him [figuratively speaking], You know what John 1:12 says?

“As many as received Him to them gave He authority to become

the sons of God.” Jn 1:12

“Satan! Take that, jump on that, Satan! I am a child of God, because the Bible says so, because my Father says so. I don’t care what you say; yes, Satan, I have sinned, and I have done many wrong things.” More than he knows, because he can’t read my mind. He doesn’t know all the evil thoughts going on in my mind. He can’t read them!

But the Bible says that through Christ I’m a son of God, *“I’m accepted in the Beloved,”* as it says in Ephesians 1:6. I am a son of God, and Satan cannot do anything to take that away from me. That’s good news! That’s good news!

This is how we conquer. Christ has come into the desert where we are, He’s planted the seed of life to reconnect us to the life source so the Father can tell us,

“You are my beloved child in whom I’m well pleased.” Matt 3:17

You only have to believe that Word,

“And the Word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth and in thy heart.”

Rom 10:8

Just believe the Word and Satan is vanquished. *“Who can separate us from the love of God?”* What does it say in Romans 8? *“Height nor depth, angels, principalities, powers, things present, things to come, nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”*

That’s what the Scripture tells us.

This is good news, this is where I get excited, and the thing that is so beautiful about this, and I want you to think about this. Think about what Jesus went through so that you and I can have this privilege. It says in the Scriptures, that when He went in the wilderness, that He was marred more than the sons of man, his whole visage was changed with the temptations that Satan was bringing upon Him to trust in His own power. I want you to think for a minute, was the temptation for Christ to trust in His own power that had been given to Him harder than it is for us? Could He at any moment summons the power that was rightfully His and annihilate His enemies? He could, couldn’t He? It was a hundredfold harder for Christ to submit to that hunger, that deprivation and

listen to these taunts *"If you are the Son of God,"* He could've had blinked one of his eyelids, and Satan would've vaporized.

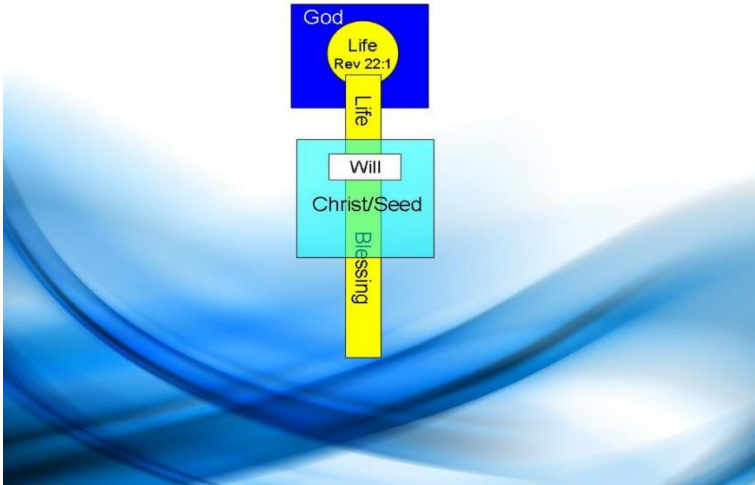
He could've done it, couldn't He? But He just had to take it, and say, "My Father has put me in this position, he's allowed me to hunger in this situation, and He would deliver me when it is His time, and not beforehand."

What a Saviour! Friends, this, what Jesus has done, it's now available in the flow, this blessing flow, it's in the river of life, it's there for you and for me. You don't even have to procure it yourself, you just have to embrace Christ, and accept the Word concerning Him, that you are His child, so that when Satan comes against you, as it says in Corinthians,

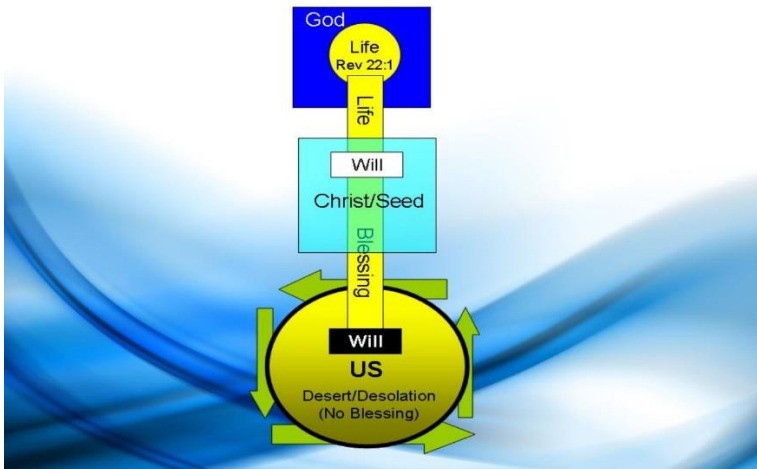
"Casting down imaginations," and the greatest false imagination in this world is the belief that we have life in ourselves. "Casting down imagination and every high thing that exalted itself against the knowledge of God." 2 Cor 10:5

The God who made the heavens and the earth, the God who gives us life, and breath, and all things. I just pray that we will take hold of these things. There are no more words I can say, so we better move on.

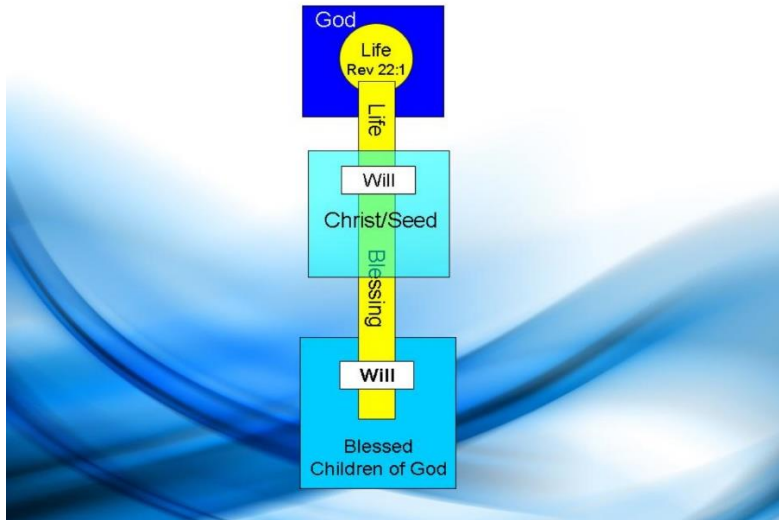
Again, *"If you are the Son of God throw yourself down,"* the challenge is *"if you are the Son of God,"* the question as to whether a human being can be considered a child of God has been answered already in the affirmative. We just have to accept it! By faith! And we will receive all the fullness. What does it say, that we are heirs of God and joint heirs with who? Christ! He won for us the victory. It's ours by faith, accept it! Give up the lie of the serpent! Give it up! Don't try and work it out yourself. You can't do it.



So now we see, Christ has reconnected us to the channel of blessing. Here is our stand in the desert. Now Christ is flowing to us. His victories, His accomplishments, what He has done on our behalf, now flows into the desert, into the human experience, and the will, which has been locked by the lie of the desert, when it changes, it makes a decision, "I choose to follow Christ and Him crucified."



The will is changed, we are locked in that cycle, but then the will is softened by the influence of the Spirit of God. The barriers come down, the mountains and the valleys are cut down by the message of Elijah, and we become blessed children of God. Hallelujah!



That's good news, isn't? Now we're reconnected to the channel. Now we are in God's channel of blessing, now all the fullness of God's character is available to us, through Christ His Son. Not of works, lest any man should boast. That's a beautiful thing. A beautiful thing!

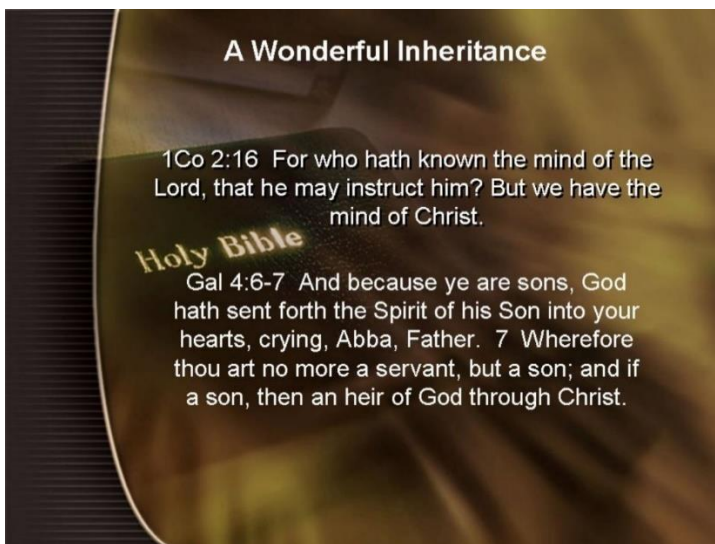
As it says, *"Because you are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son"* see how it says, who is it that comes to us? The Spirit of His Son, the Spirit of Christ comes into us crying what? *"Abba, Father."* So when your heart cries out *"Abba"* it's an affectionate term, isn't it? Daddy! When your heart cries *"Father"* who is actually the one that initiates the cry? The Spirit of His Son it's the one that cries from the heart, it's the Spirit of Christ. Isn't that what we said this morning? The human heart does not have the capacity to love, it doesn't have the capacity to seek God.

*"But now, lo and behold, out of the desert comes forth a cry
"Father," and so the hearts of the fathers are turned to the
children, and the children to the fathers."*

Can you see it? It's a beautiful thing. It's a beautiful thing!

Gal 4:7 "Wherefore thou art no more a servant. What is a servant in the master's house?"

What assurance does the servant have of staying in the master's house? Does he have any assurance? His assurance of staying in the house is based on one thing: His ability to perform. He doesn't know from one day to the next whether the boss is going to come and say, "leave." You are no longer in this situation now that you are connected to the channel of blessing. You are a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. That's good news, that's wonderful news.



Now, think of this carefully,

(1 Co 2:16) "For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him?"

But what does it say next? What does that verse say? We have the mind of who? Does anyone here have the mind of Christ? You're catching on. I saw the arms of faith being raised. I believe that the mind of Christ is mine, not because I feel it, not because I sense it, but because God's Word says it! God's Word says that the mind of Christ is ours! How can you have a bad day with a text

like that? Don't ever say that you had a bad day! We have the mind of Christ! We have the inheritance of Christ, which is eternal life. Don't tell me that you're having a bad day! You can't have a bad day if you believe this!

"All things work together for good to them that..." who? "...Love God...",

that are in the channel of blessing,

"...to those who are called according to His purpose."

This is what this is about, dwell on these things, think about these things. I mean, what is this compared to winning lotto? I mean, lotto. I mean, If a hundred thousand Melbournians, can get excited about guys running around in short shorts kicking a stuffed leather ball between two big sticks, I mean, can I get excited about this? What is the AFL compared to this? This is good news! I have a permanent supply of love, of joy, of peace, of patience, right there for me, and I just have to embrace it and accept it. Why is it so hard?

Unbelief. Why do we not believe? It's the lie of the serpent. It's this latent sense. Christ has crushed the serpent's head, and that's the lie that says, "*you shall not surely die.*" He's already destroyed it! You don't have to believe that anymore, whenever Satan comes to you and says "you are not good enough, you are not performing, you're not reading your Bible enough, you're not doing this enough," say, [figuratively speaking], "*Get thee hence, Satan! Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God,*" and the Word of God says that I am a child of God, and I just happen to believe it." That's what you can tell him, "pack your bags and leave. I'm not going to follow you anymore. You can beat me up for my sins, my Father already knows what I'm like." He already knows my weaknesses and faults. More than he does, more than Satan knows.

(Col 1:27) "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery,"

because it is a mystery, how that Christ could come as a seed into the desert, and this tender plant arises and grows, and then He brings life to us. It's a mystery. The mystery of Christ incarnated in the flesh, we don't fully understand it, but we know enough from the Scripture to know that it's good news.

"...The glory of this mystery among the gentiles;" which is? *"Christ in you."* Is it Christ in you? Is it the person of Christ? Through His Spirit, but it must be the Spirit of Christ, because Christ is the One who knows how I feel. He is the One that went through all the tests for me, isn't he? He is the One that can comfort me, isn't He? Isn't it Isaiah 40, *"comfort my people?"* And didn't Jesus say,

"I'll send you a Comforter?" "I will come to you.?" "Christ in you, the hope of glory."

His Spirit, His life, His victory, it's given to you. We can say it over and over.

Gal 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me."

Who lives in me? Christ!

"And the life, which I now live in the flesh..."

that means today, right here,

"...I live by the faith, in the Son of God?"

Is there a difference? Whose faith is it? His faith, his faith that He won for us in the wilderness, the victory over the doubt that I'm a child of God. He is won that, His faith, to cling to sonship and daughtership to God. He won for us. It's the faith of Jesus, which flows into my life and keeps me connected to Him.

"The Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me."

Amen. Will you believe God's Word?

John 1:12 "But as many as received him to them gave He power (authority) to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."

My challenge to you now is, are you going to believe this Word? Or not?

Let's bow our heads.

Father in heaven, words fail. What good news! There is comfort for those of us in the desert where we have been desolated by the serpent's lie and through the instruments of the abomination that makes desolate. You sent your Son, made of the seed of Abraham, made of the seed of David according to the flesh,

so that you could reopen for us the channel of blessing of your life, and we thank you Lord Jesus, that you were willing to endure suffering and pain for us, so that we can know by the word of God that we are your children. Lord, there are some struggling tonight to believe that. Satan is tempting them to think they're not good enough. Others might be distracted by other issues; others might be questioning the integrity of the one speaking from the front. Anything to get them away from thinking about the truth that we are your children through Christ by faith, that you have reconnected us to life. We thank you Father, that you were willing to yield up your own son, that we might live with you forever. We praise you and we thank you, in Jesus's name. Amen.

4. The Channel of Blessing

As a way of introduction, in this presentation we want to take the next step. We've been talking a lot about the blessing that flows out of the Father through His Son and down into the human race. And now we want to focus on this aspect. When God's life reaches us, how does it flow, and what blessings can we receive in the human aspect of the way the blessings flow?

We did mention yesterday that when the water of God comes into a man's life, it says, "*Out of his belly shall flow rivers of water,*" which is a blessing, and there is no better place for that river to flow than in the family environment. We want to talk a little bit about that today. I just would like, once again, if we could just bow our heads briefly. I want to pray again. Thank you.

Father in heaven, Lord as I speak I pray that You would give me clearness of thought, clearness of mind, and that as I break the bread of life, that You would give that bread to me, that You, from Your throne, give to me the words to speak, that my brothers and sisters would be blessed, and that we would be encouraged. And we just thank You, in Jesus' name. Amen.



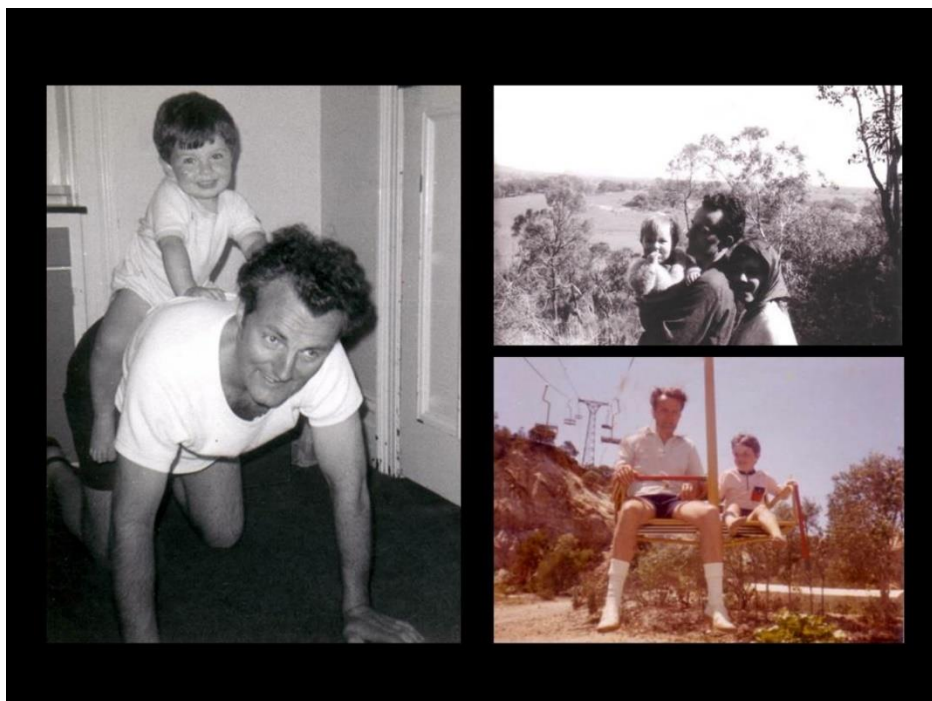
That is a picture of me when I was three weeks of age, and this is a very, very special picture because it symbolizes something very, very important to me. It's very, very important to me, because it's a picture of my father holding me

in his arms, and he is looking down upon me with a sense, I believe, of admiration. There is something very, very powerful about this picture. Even when I was growing up I would look through the photo album without even realizing it, this picture spoke very powerful words to me. I know that there are many in this world who never get to have a picture like this taken for them, which is a tragedy, and I believe that through pictures like this given to me, I have been blessed in a way that has really helped me to get a better picture of my Father in heaven.



My mother told me a story, and this is actually a picture of the Sydney Sanitarium, where I was born, before 1970, I'd say around there. My mom told the story that when I was born, because my Father worked at the hospital there, he was a chef at the hospital, that he went running through the corridors, singing at the top of his voice, "It's a boy! It's a boy! I got a boy!" Something about that story really warms my heart; it tells me that my father was excited about my arrival into this world, that he was excited about me. That is something very special to me and something that I treasure.

That's why this picture, even though it's just a picture of the San, it reminds me of my father running through the corridors and singing with joy and jumping up and down and making a clown of himself. But he didn't care. He didn't care what other people thought; his son had been born into the world. Who cares if other people think that he is a bit too exuberant or over the top. It doesn't matter, because his son has now come into the world, and that is something that I treasure. I have other pictures that I keep in my mind, and these pictures have built for me a treasure of family memories that enabled me to remember who I am, where I come from, and why life is special. It's these pictures that do this for me along with and in conjunction with, my understanding of God's Word. As I grew into an understanding of God's word, but in my earlier life, it was these pictures that helped me in my journey.



These are some other pictures, as you can imagine, I really enjoyed riding on my dad's back, on a holiday, this is down in Sydney, and this was actually in Euroa, not too far from here, with my parents. My dad holding me, and he's looking at me; I treasure these things. This is at Burleigh Heads, up in

Queensland when on holidays up there, dad took me on a chair lift. My father was spending time with me. Because of my father working long hours he didn't get to spend as much time with me as I would've liked. The system of this world has set up a system to take fathers away from their children more than should be, but I'm still able to have these pictures, and I treasure these pictures; they're a real blessing.

I have another memory in my mind when we were living in Warburton, on just the other side of Melbourne, and I was about four or five years of age and I spied my neighbor, my father's neighbor, I guess we could say more accurately. He is chopping wood preparing for winter, and I went over to him, I'm watching him chop wood, and I'm looking at the way he's chopping wood, as a four year old, standing there looking, observing, and suddenly I piped up and I said to him, "My dad can chop wood better than you can. My dad can do anything," and he said, "Is that right? Well, good for you young man, that's excellent."

A son's belief in his father--when the relationship between father and son is not crowded in by many difficulties of life, I would say for a son and for a daughter, that a father is their hero. A father is a hero. Daddy is powerful; he's strong, he's big, he holds me in his arms, he provides for me, he looks after me, he helps me, and he corrects me when I go out of line, which I know I don't always appreciate at the time. Later on I can see that he has my best interest at heart, and so it's beautiful to have these pictures.

I have another memory. My dad used to run every morning, used to get up really early in the morning. My dad was very disciplined in his life, very regular, get up early in the morning and he would go running. One morning, it was five o'clock in the morning, it's still early, still dark, and [I said], "Dad can I come with you..." I was still very young, "...and run around the oval?" and he is running around the oval, and he's got these really big legs, and I couldn't keep up with him. I'm trying to keep up. "Boy, my dad is fast; he is really, really fast!" But it's a memory that I have that I could spend time with him.

If there is one thing I can say, particularly for those of us with children, and we are all children in some level, that take every opportunity to build memories with the children and with your parents. It doesn't matter what you do or where you go, as long as you're spending time together, whether you go for a bush walk or you go to the beach or you go to a family retreat like this and take

pictures to remember, so you can go back and remember those family events because they are a treasure, and they are a blessing.

I have other memories of my father. As I think about my father and the influence that he's had on my life, and one thing that can characterize my father is that my father is an honest man. Growing up as a child I thought that's the way everybody was. That led me into a certain amount of gullibility that there are other people out there in the world who were dishonest, who would lie, look you in the eye and tell a lie, without any change in the expression of their face. That was something completely foreign to me that I didn't understand, because my father is an honest man.

I remember once when we were traveling between Sydney and Brisbane and we stopped in to have some lunch at Coffs Harbour. We bought some food there and we got back into the car. We get 10 kilometers up the road, and my father, suddenly, for whatever reason, he realized that the cashier had overpaid him \$2.00. We drove all the way back to Coffs Harbour, went into the shop, and my father said, "You overpaid me \$2.00." Now, my father could've said to me, "Son, it's important to be honest, you must be honest," but I can tell you, what my father did that day submitted in my mind, honesty. He demonstrated for me the principle of honesty. What he did was so much more powerful than what he said. But what he said and what he did working together was a very, very powerful thing. I have never forgotten that, and I have always aspired to be like my father in that regard. To be honest, to speak the truth, and to do what is right, and I'm so grateful that my father has taught me these things.

Another characteristic that I learned from my father is the principle of determination--not to allow something to beat you. I remember many times my father would be working on doing house extensions, and my father was not a builder by trade, but he wanted to do things, and in one particular project he was putting a large veranda right around the side of our house, and at times it was very difficult for him, and he felt like giving up, but my father would not give up. My father has at home, he has on the wall, next to the phone a big poster that says, "*Never give up.*" And that sticks in my mind. My father has lived by the principle, "*Never give up.*" That is something that has been a blessing for me in many respects, and I certainly appreciate that.

My father also has a very strong sense of justice, and whenever my father watches the news or current affairs programs or anything like that as he often does, and he sees injustice occur in the world it agitates him. Injustice, particularly when he sees people in positions of power manipulating and taking advantage of children or the weak, and he gets very agitated about that, and he does not like injustice. He hates injustice, and he doesn't like the principle of just being silent and allowing injustice to continue to occur. You must speak out when there is injustice. This is the way my father has lived and it has put him in many difficult situations, and I guess as I'm leading my life, I see that maybe some of that has washed over me. He's been put in interesting situations.

When my father left one particular job he was handed a very large spoon and on the top it was written "Chief Stirrer" stirring people up. My father enjoyed stirring people. That's an attribute that I have sought the Lord to modify a little bit in my life, but that's something. If everyone is sitting there very pleasant, no, dad wanted animated conversation, vigorous discussion, he loved debate and discussion, it didn't matter as long as you were vigorous about what you did. It didn't matter, and he likes action--things to take place. That's something that's another characteristic of my father.

My father made me laugh, he could be very comical, and I learnt from my father to laugh. He would teach me to say things, he could turn a situation into something very humorous, and that has been helpful at times. Life can get fairly stressful, and it's good to look at the funny side of things to release the pressure, and so I really appreciated that.

The greatest thing that I've appreciated, probably, realizing now, more than anything from my father, is that never once did I ever see my father in any way, show any level of unfaithfulness toward my mother, and that is something that I treasure. As a child growing up, I thought all families were like my family, and as I've grown up I see that I have been given a special privilege, and he never showed any indication that there was any difficulty in their relationship in terms of major difficulties. I mean, they had their arguments; they had their disagreements, unfortunately, like many couples do. But he was never unfaithful, and he never showed any indication toward a person who was engaged in immoral activity or desire toward immorality, and that is something that I treasure very greatly as his son.

As I think about all of those blessings that have come to me through my father, and you might think by my saying these things that I'm saying that my father is a perfect man. He is not. He is a man like everybody else, and he has his challenges, but as I grow older and I think about the commandments to honor your parents it's a privilege for me in these audiences to honor my father--my earthly father, and tell you how much I appreciate him and how much of a blessing he's been to my life. I believe that's in line with the commandment to do so. But there is more of a reason why I want to do this, and that's because of the influence that my father's had in my life, and there is a verse in the Bible that speaks directly to this issue, and that's in Proverbs 17, in verse 6. I want to spend a little bit of time looking at this particular verse, because it's very significant, and particularly in light of this flow of blessing that comes from our Father in heaven.

It says: "Children's children are the crown of old men, and the glory of children is their father." Proverbs 17:6

The operative word there is, of course, the word "glory"--"*...the glory of children....*" Just before we move to that, notice how it says, "*Children's children are the crown of old men.*" It is not a father's child that reveals the success of his parenting, but it's a father's grandchild that reveals the success of a father's parenting in terms of whether the principles are maintained to the next generation.

Are the principles that a father and a mother have taught their children--are they carried to the next generation? That is the crown of old men, when we became old. We can teach what we believe is right, but if it's not carried on as a family kingdom, if it's not carried on to the next generation, your family kingdom has just been annihilated and wiped out. The success of a family kingdom is children's children.

We move to the point about the glory. What does glory really mean? Let's have a look at another verse, I often refer to this in **Jeremiah 9:23**, how it uses the word glory here, and then we'll bring it back to Proverbs 17:6.

Jeremiah 9:23 "Thus says the Lord: 'Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might...'"

Of course, as this is speaking, think about what we've been talking about in terms of inherent powers, inherent life. The wisdom that we receive does not come from within ourselves. The mind that we receive does not come from within ourselves, and God says, don't glory in these things, because they didn't come from you. They came from me.

“...nor let the rich man glory in his riches, (24) but let him who glories, glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord...”

Being connected to the Father is what we should glory in. Exercising loving kindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. How does he do that? Through the river, through His Spirit.

“For in these I delight,” says the Lord.”

- **Glory = Beauty, Splendor,**
- **Jewels, To Boast**
- **Glory = Find Value**

So when we see the word glory here, we can substitute the words **find value**. Glory means beauty or splendor, the jewels, to boast. Or we can use the word in a modern setting, to **find value**, and if we reintroduce that into these texts it makes sense, where it says, let not the wise man **find value** in his wisdom. To feel good about himself because he has wisdom.

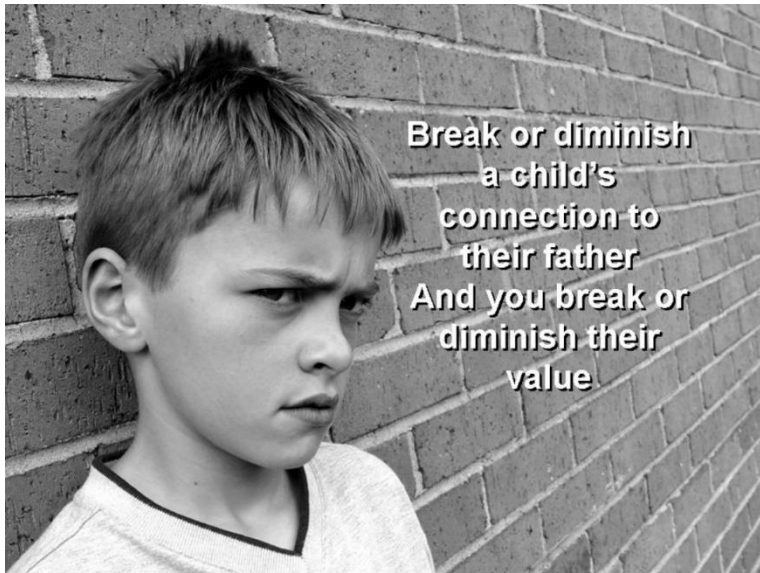
“Let not the mighty man **find value** in his mind, or in his strength, nor let the rich man **find value** in his riches, but let him who **finds value, find value** in this, that he understands and knows Me.”

That verse alone reveals the kingdom of God. The difference between our performance, achievement-based, asset-based value system and a relational value system based on our connection with God is right there in those verses. Let him **find value** in that he knows Me.

So, when we bring that back to Proverbs 17:6, “...the glory (value) of children is their father.” God has set up a system through which his love, his care, his blessings for us, come particularly to us through our father. There is a special role that our father has to play in our lives, and we'll look as we continue, how

that the enemy is seeking particularly to remove the father from the home to remove value from children, to take their value away, because the glory or the value of children is their father. I want you to think about the implications of this particular text.

It's interesting to know that the word *father* in Hebrew is the word "Ab," and in *Strong's Concordance*, when you open the concordance, the very first word in the dictionary, or the concordance is father. Isn't that interesting the way God has set that up? The very first word is father. It starts with father, and I think that's very significant, don't you? Even in *Strong's Dictionary*, it's number one. And I guess I smile, and... "That's amazing Father, how you do that." It's not down [at] the end, it's not in the middle, it's Number One, and there is a message right there for us, I believe, as we look at that. All right.



So the point we want to draw from this is that if you break or diminish a child's connection to their father, you break or diminish their value. The value of a child is directly connected to the role of a father. This is what the Bible is telling us.

Now, you'll read in some translations of the Bible, and we are going to address this aspect more specifically later in this presentation, that the glory of children is their parents, but the Hebrew word is Ab, which is father, and there is a

specific reason why the Bible is saying that, so if your Bible says, the glory of children is their parents, you have a perverted version of the Bible. It's not what it says. It's very important that we get this issue correct. I just thought I'd mention that because you'd go, "Hey, it doesn't say that; it says this." But look at the Hebrew, it says father, and there is a very specific reason why it says father.

"Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows." Luke 12: 6, 7. (NKJV).

We mentioned yesterday about the value system of heaven, how that God's thought toward us in Luke 12:6, and 7, about the sparrows, the very hairs of your head are numbered, do not fear. You are of more value than many sparrows, and what are

God's thoughts toward us? [This and] Psalms 40:5. If you could just memorize these two verses and remember these for yourselves, that God is thinking about you all the time, it would save many, many trials. God's thoughts toward us are endless. He is always thinking about us. Always wishing to bless us.

"Many, O Lord my God, are Your wonderful works Which You have done; And Your thoughts toward us Cannot be recounted to You in order; If I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered." Psalm 40:5. (NKJV).

I want to read to you some notes about how this desire for a father is reflected. I picked this up off a website called imissmydad.com and it's a challenge to read, but it reveals something about the human heart and the desire for a father in the human heart. We are designed with a desire for a father, that's how we have been created, and the glory of children is their father. As we will show, in the context of the channel of blessing, the earthly father is a channel and a representative of our Heavenly Father to act on His behalf on this earth because ultimately, we are all God's children, aren't we? To Him alone we belong, but God places authority figures in our lives to bless us, to represent Him, and a father is a primary figure to do that.

Notice what this says,

It says, “Dear Daddy, today I am 30...” That’s sweet, she still calls him daddy at thirty years of age. I think that’s nice. She’s still using the word Abba! “...today I am 30, and you are not here – no hug, no kiss, no birthday wish this year. No smile, no eyebrow raised, no singing me a song. I can’t believe the time has past (sic), I can’t believe you are gone. I love you; always have; always will.”

I don’t know. When you hear something like that, as soon as I hear something like that, I start to get a little bit emotional. Why? Why do we get emotional? Can you feel the longing of the heart for the father? It reaches out toward the father. We can feel it. The Spirit immediately touches us. It does for me, and I can see for many of you. It’s very powerful. Not to over emphasize the emotional, but I think we need to acknowledge the power of these kinds of statements. I want to read a few more to you. This is Paul from the USA.

“Dad...” He is reasoning out - it’s a milestone thing. I remember a distinctive point in my life. I was eight years of age, and I made an executive decision on behalf of myself, that I was no longer going to use the word “Daddy.” It was now “Dad.” I made that decision and I was eight years of age. Not that any of the others had to do that, but that was the executive decision with me, and I was able to do that.

“Dad, I miss you every day and just wish we could talk again. Losing you has made me question who I am and where I’m going...” Can you see the connection between a child’s sense of identity and being connected to his father. Who am I? Isn’t this man going to be known by his accomplishments and his degrees and his ability and his own family? Now when he lost his father, it made him think about who he was. There is a direct connection between our sense of identity and our father, and God has set it up that way. He has set it up that way. Because that’s what the Bible says, “...the glory of children is their father.”

And then he goes on.

“Can I be the dad you were? You were the best and just wish you could have lived longer to see my accomplishments...” See how that accomplishments mean nothing without the father’s

approval. “If you could only be here to see what I’m doing, Dad. I’m doing this, Dad, and I’m doing this, Dad...” and in the Spirit of the Heavenly Father, say, “Son, behold, it is good; it is good.” Then it’s worth doing. Otherwise, it’s not worth doing. If the father is not going to put his hand of blessing upon you, it’s not worth doing, because there is no satisfaction, except for maybe a brief moment.

“... and share in that joy. Even a year later I find myself wanting to pick up the phone to call you. I love you.” Very powerful words spoken.

Another one,

“Dad, it was quiet on thanksgiving today not having you around us. I felt an emptiness in me...”

I’ll stop with that. That sense of loss, disconnection because of the father. We, as the Bible says, there is no one that lives to himself, we are all connected. We are connected in a way that we don’t even fully understand, that within a husband and wife, we understand between a husband and wife, because they are one flesh and when they’re torn apart either by death or other tragic events such as divorce, there is the pain in the emotional realm that cannot even be expressed, because of that connection.

Can you imagine, and just think about this for a moment. Just think about this for a moment, because we are all connected to the father. When families fall apart, can you imagine the pain that the father feels? Can you imagine his pain? Because it goes right back to him, he feels it.

This is the last one, I won’t torture you anymore, but it’s important that we go through this process.



I can't even finish it. She calls herself Daddy's Princess; and it makes me emotional, because I guess I see many young ladies who don't believe they are a princess anymore, and who don't feel they're worth anything, and I just wish that they could feel that way, and that they could feel better. But this is what we miss when we don't have the father's love, when we are disconnected from the father, and I believe it was important that I point this out, because it is a very, very powerful thing. - a very, very powerful thing.

Why is it that these few verses here can be so powerful? Is this a part of our message? Is this a message that the world is hearing from us in relationship to the family?

These notes reveal the yearning heart's desire of humanity for its' Heavenly Father. The desire for the earthly father is really a desire for our Heavenly Father. That's what that desire is really all about--to desire a Heavenly Father, to be loved, to know that we are his beloved child in whom He is well pleased. We have been told this through Jesus, as I expressed to you last night. We have been told this; we have this promise through God's Word.

The father is a symbol of the vital relationship between ourselves and God, and so the role of the father is such a critical role in God's family kingdom. Because of that, isn't it obvious then that Satan would try and attack the role of a father and a husband and to turn it into something else, to keep him in the role of being a boy? So that when a woman marries a man, she is actually marrying a boy like Nimrod? A tyrant, someone who is emotional, and up and down, and not taking responsibility, not taking leadership in the home, wouldn't that be better for Satan? To cut off the ability for boys to become men, so they can't be examples of the Heavenly Father? It's a simple plan, isn't? That's exactly what is taking place.

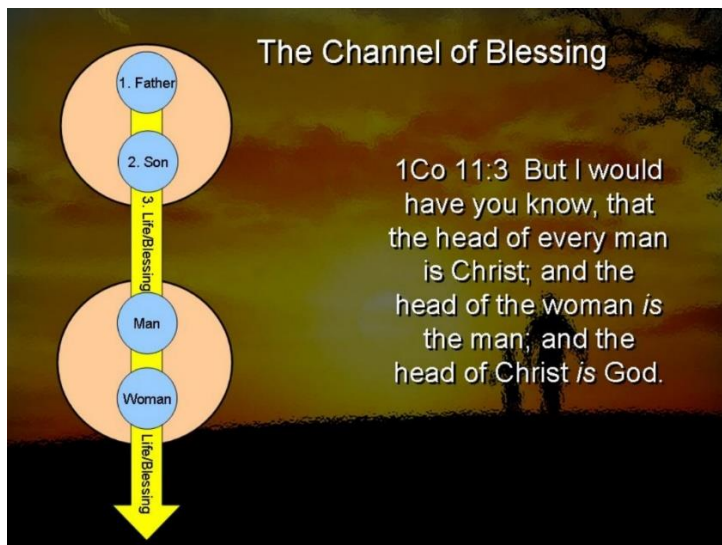
This is what the Father would say to us, and he designed to say this to us through our earthly father. But He's giving it to us in the Scripture, so that we can receive it. As children, and I want you to remember this, as small children, yes, we can read the Scriptures, but to gain the understanding it's much easier to have the Scriptures read to you being held in the arms of a strong, powerful male figure. To read the Scriptures, so that the father's work can come to you in a very practical way. Because as a child we're still learning to understand, to think abstractly about things and to understand spiritual things. We are not born spiritual, are we? We are born carnal, and so we need to be taught these things through an earthly channel, as a child. If we want to come to these things by ourselves, then we have to go through a very painful journey on our own, and we come to adulthood, and then we finally find it, but by that time, we've been so scarred and damaged by life, through all the lies of the serpent, and it's very hard.

This is what God would say to us:

Jeremiah 1:4,5 "Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: (5)
 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.'"

Isn't that a beautiful verse? I knew you before I formed you. I dreamed of the day that you would come, and you think about this, that when I was in my mother's womb, that my father dreamed the day that I would come. Our Father dreamed of the day that we would come, each one of us. Could we really be that valuable to God? Are we really that significant? Satan would say to you and to me, "You are not that significant. There are six billion people on the planet, it's such a huge place, it's a massive universe, nobody is significant." But the Bible says it, and again, this is where you must cling to the word of God.

The Bible says, “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you.” That’s powerful! What a beautiful word. Jeremiah 31:3 *“The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.”(NKJV).*



This is one of my favorite verses; I don’t know if it’s the same for you. This is what the Father is saying to us through His Son. I want you to observe this particular verse, it’s an important verse in how this channel system works. It’s from 1 Corinthians 11:3, and I just want to bring in this picture.

We see the Father, the light going out of the Father through His Son, and the closeness of the relationship between the Father and the Son, they’re very close to one another, and then that flows out in life and blessing, down toward the man and his wife and they are one flesh, and then that blessing flows out to the family, and it flows out to other people.

The Bible says,

“But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.”

Can you see a clear sequence of headship? Now it's very important, because of the way all of us have been trained. When we read those words, are we reading them in God's kingdom, or are we reading them in Satan's kingdom?

When we think about headship in the world, what do we typically think of? I think of the boss. I think of the tyrant. I think of Nimrod. Now, is the Bible saying that a wife submits to Nimrod, submit to the tyrant, do whatever he says? Just give in and take it? Is that what the Bible is saying? No, that's not what the Bible is saying. Headship, when you think about headship, you read Genesis, about the river in Genesis, the river that flowed out of Genesis splits into what? Split into four parts and it was called four river heads. Headship in God's kingdom, is the point from which blessings flow. When you stand under the shower, it's the shower rose or is the shower head? To receive the blessing of the shower, you have to stand under it, you have to submit to the shower to receive the blessing. So, in God's kingdom: "But I would have you know that the Blessor of man is Christ, and the Blessor of the woman is the man, and the Blessor of Christ is God." Can you see it in that light? In God's kingdom that is a statement of blessing. In Satan's kingdom, that is a statement of domination and control.

How do we read the verse? Jesus said to the lawyer, "*How do you read?*" How do you read the Scripture? Do you read it in God's kingdom, or do you read it in Satan's kingdom? Do we read the Scripture correctly? This is a beautiful verse, and just in light of what we are talking about, the panel last night, we were talking about length of hair. This is the beginning of that chapter; go beyond the length of hair issue and think about what is talking about. It's talking about the principle of covering. When a woman has long hair, it's a symbol that she is covered by her husband, that he is her protector, that he is one that cares for her, and that when she cuts her hair short, she's saying, "I am not protected. I'm uncovered." When Ruth went to Boaz, what did she say to Boaz? "Spread your garment over me. Cover me. Be a covering for me." Hair is a symbol of covering.

When we talk about the issue of Christ and His hair, isn't the Father Christ's covering? We talked about shoulder length hair, isn't that a symbol of his covering in reference to the Father? Just think about those things. That was a

slight diversion. It's just something to think about; as Paul says, this is not a commandment. This is something to think about.

Notice the parallel. I spoke a little bit about this last night.

Ephesians 3:9 "And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ."

Who created all things by whom? Jesus Christ. The Father created all things through his Son. The life passes from the Father through the Son and then all things are created. Do we see a parallel?

Genesis 4:1 "And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, 'I have gotten a man from the Lord.'"

And Adam knew his wife... Do we see the parallel between the two, the husband and the wife reflecting the image of the Father and the Son?

Romans 1:20 "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."

Even his what? Eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse. Now when you read the rest of Romans, chapter one from verse 20 onward, what does Paul go on to describe? Do we know the rest of that chapter? We better have a look. I want you to observe this--this is interesting. He is talking about the Godhead in Romans, chapter one, and the things that are made reflect God. They speak of God, and then, here is verse 21 of Romans,

(21) "Because that when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful..." Why did they not glorify Him as God? Because they embraced Nimrod's lie. You have life in yourself. It's a denial of who God really is, the Source of all life. "...but became vain in their imaginations..." --through the lie of the serpent--"...and their foolish heart was darkened." They shut their will, and darkness came in. If the light of the eye is closed, then the whole body is full of darkness, didn't Jesus say? (22) "Professing themselves to be wise they became fools, (23) And

changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image of the corruptible man.”

We can spend a lot of time in that verse. [They] changed the image of God into the lie of the serpent. And then notice how it goes,

“Wherefore also God gave them up to uncleanness through the lust of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between them and change the truth of God into a lie.” And then verse 26: “For this cause God gave them up to vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use of that which is against nature: (27) And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman. ..”

See how it starts in verse 20 talking about the image of God, and then it talks about the perversion of the male-female relationship. Can you see the connection? What is Paul trying to say here? I believe he is saying something very significant. That the perversion of the male-female relationship perverts the image of God, that we were created as man and woman. God made us for a special purpose, to reflect his image.

“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in Our image...’” Gen 1:26 and 27: “... according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle...” God had dominion over the universe, Adam and Eve were given dominion over the earth. “...and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” (27) So God created man in His own image...
”

Now I want you to know something, I don’t know what your understanding is of a semicolon. What is a semicolon? What does it mean? It means that what is following is a further explanation of what’s just being said. It’s a continuation of what just has been said. Notice what it says,

God created man in his own image, semicolon, what comes next? In the image of God created He him, semicolon, further explanation, male and female created He them. Can you see it now with the semicolon? In the image of God created He him. He created Adam, but now out of Adam comes Eve in the image of God, and then further explanation, there is more to the story. Eve

comes forth out of Adam, and this is in the image of God. The man and the woman--in the image of the Father and the Son. Can you see it in Scripture? When we understand this, when we understand this reality about the Father and the Son, we then can understand how we should live as husband and wife. Could there be any more vital truth than this? Do you understand what I'm saying?

The Vital Process of Submission

1. Father
2. Son
3. Life/Blessing
Man
Woman

Jam 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father

John 14:6 I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH and THE LIFE

Pro 17:6 Children's children are the crown of old men, And the glory of children is their father.

Eph 5:24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

To know God is to know how to maintain the channel of blessing--the river of life to our families. To not know God, to have a wrong understanding of God is to destroy the blessing of God to your family. Can you see the power of this? I really pray that you can. It's really, really important--this particular issue. We must understand. *"This is life eternal, that they might know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou has sent."* Eternal life is to know God, to know Him aright, to understand Him, and in understanding Him, our families will reflect that understanding. If our families do not reflect that understanding, it doesn't matter what we profess, we still don't know God. If we know God, the blessing will begin to flow into our homes, because we are reflecting that image.

This is the next point; when we talk about a concept of submission, again, remember which kingdom that we are talking about. If God is the only source of life, then every other creature under that channel, must understand the principle of submission, otherwise, you can't live. You must submit to the river; you must submit to the shower; you must submit to receive. If you don't submit, you die! There is nothing complicated about it. So, submission is a vital principle; learning how to submit to authority is a vital principle.

James 1:17 says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from..." Whom? "...the Father."

He is the One through which it comes. The Son--we see the Son in submission to the Father, and this is where the role of the Son is so, so vital. There is a relationship, a very close bond relationship between the Father and the Son. Jesus says, *"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life."* We see in the Son--if this whole blessing system is to work correctly, we need an example in the Universe of how to submit, because without submission there is no life. Jesus in his submission to the Father is our example in all things. He shows us how to connect to the Father, and that is the way; that is the truth, and that is how we receive life.

That's why Christ is everything to us. His submission--you read all through the New Testament--you read Peter, you read James, Romans. Many of them are talking about submission, submission, submission, because in God's kingdom, submission and authority are the keys. In Satan's kingdom, independence and individuality are the keys. It is the central feature but not in God's kingdom. In God's kingdom it's learning the principles of authority and submission to stay in line with this channel. There is a lot more that we can say about that and hopefully we can address more of that as we go.

We are showing this vital process; man comes first. What does it say in 1 Corinthians? That Christ is the head of man. He must be in submission to Christ. Christ is his example. He looks to Christ, he eats the flesh and drinks the blood of the Son of God, figuratively as it says. He learns from Him, he receives from Him, so that he can be an effective husband and father for his wife and his children. He learns from Christ to submit and to lead, because Christ is a leader also.

The Bible refers to Christ as the everlasting Father, doesn't it? In what context is that? Well, He is our Father in the context of submission, he shows us how to live; he is our example in all things. That's why the Father has given Him a name above every name, because the Father says, "if you want to know how to live, look at my Son, listen to Him. He is the one that will show you how to connect to me." The Father dwells in a light that no man can approach unto, but the Son is the One that is exalted, the key to the whole kingdom of God. That's why He has a name above every name. He is the way, the truth and the life. Not only on this earth, but all through the Universe.

Proverbs 17:6 "Children's children are the crown of old men, And the glory of children is their father."

A woman comes into this channel of blessing. She comes in, and she recognizes that through her husband, there can flow a blessing to her through this channel, and we want to go into it a little bit later, because immediately the question comes. "Well, do all my blessings come through my husband?" Well, no, there are blessings that come from your mother and your father; there are blessings that come directly through the word of God, but in context to the community of faith and how we live as families--because we live in families--there is the most powerful blessing that can come to us through this process of submission. And it comes from the father. In the Bible, those two are one flesh, and it says,

(Ephesians 5:24) "Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything."

When we read these verses, ask yourselves this question. Are we reading them in God's kingdom, or in Satan's kingdom? Do I say, and I've heard this many times, "I'm not going to submit. He is not worthy of submission; he is not worthy of respect because of the way he treats me." Is that the way the Bible teaches us? It doesn't. It's a challenging thing, but all of us are in this channel, all of us are in the process of submission.

All of us must learn to submit. There is no one that can escape the process of submission, except whom? The Father. He is the only one that does not submit to anyone, and of course, that's why he dwells in light which no one can approach unto. He doesn't set himself forth as an example of how to live, because he's not One who submits. He is the One who blesses; He is the Central

One who blesses, and that's what is so wonderful about our Heavenly Father, that out of Him flows all this love and blessing, and He can give all of this to us, and He doesn't need anyone to put their arms around Him and tell Him He is okay. He has all of that within Himself, and that's a beautiful thing. I'm so thankful for the Father, that He can bless us like that and bless His Son, and bless husbands and wives. That's what's so wonderful about Him--that all this beautiful joy and love and peace comes out of the Father and it flows down to us.

John 5:19, 20. "Then Jesus answered and said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. (20) For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.'"

"... for whatever He does, the Son also does..." (it flows through the channel). We see the process of this submission of the Son. He waits for His Father's word. He trusts that His Father can lead. He has implicit trust in His Father's ability to lead. He doesn't go, "Father, look, I really think that you got it wrong in this particular case. I think we should really do it this way." Does the Son ever do this? Never, never do we see in His process of submission, a point where He counter argues the Father, and second guesses His decision. He never does it. That's an important lesson for us, isn't it?

1 Peter 3:1-6 "Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, (2) when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. (3) Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—(4) rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. (5) For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, (6) as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror."

1 Peter 3:4 “Rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.”

Precious! That means something of high value, doesn't it?

(5) “For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God...” Notice how it says the women who trusted that God was doing the right thing in regards to those who are women. “...also adorned themselves being submissive to their own husbands...” And then Peter goes on, “...as Sarah obeyed Abraham...”

When we think of our modern culture, when we think of a concept of a wife being obedient to her husband, does that ring true? There is something in my upbringing, my culture, that says that's not right. Women shouldn't obey their husbands, they're equal That's what my natural inclination says, but the Bible is saying something different. The Bible speaks about obedience to the leadership of the husband. There is something about me that gets a bit nervous about it, that says, “I'm not sure about this,” but it goes on and it says, “Even as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him Lord...” What's the word Lord in Greek? It's κύριος (kurios) which means master, or sir.

Should a wife call her husband master or sir? We are getting some smiles. In respecting their husbands in this way, what are they doing? They're ensuring that the blessing to the best of their ability will flow. They are mimicking Christ's submission to the Father, and they are insuring to the best of their ability. Now, we need to speak obviously about, and we're going to get more into this, how the husband needs to foster his wife's respect for him, to make it easy for her to respect him. Many men make it very hard, and because of the culture that we are in, many men today are not trying to be men. They're still boys in men's bodies, and it's very, very hard for a woman to respect and submit to a man that's a boy. You don't have to say anything, ladies. I counsel with enough people to know about how hard that can be and how--talk about the patience of the saints. It's not easy.

But that does not negate, that doesn't mean, “Well, because my husband is a boy, I can ignore this text,” does it? We have to wrestle with the text and say, “Well, Lord, in this situation, how do I deal with this text? Is it right for me to

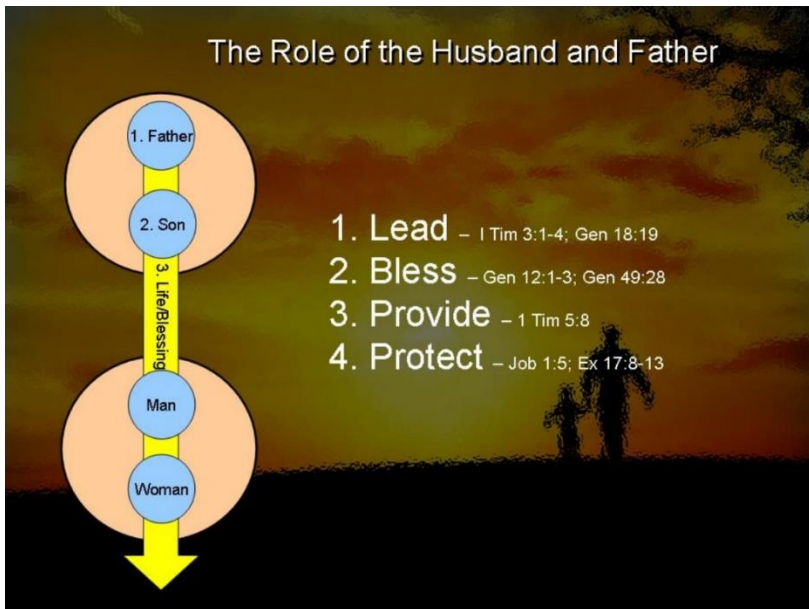
assume the mantle of leadership in the home and to make up for the lack of my husband?" Well, that's not what the Bible is telling us. This process of submission, and I might just add and say this, at least from my perspective, knowing that my wife is making every effort on her behalf to trust in my leadership, I have found over the years that I have become more and more sensitive to go to God to ensure that the decisions I make do not adversely affect her. Do you see what I'm saying?

Because she is trusting in me, and if I get it wrong, it's going to make it hard for her. You see? And I don't want to do that. I don't want to do that to my wife, because we are one flesh. If I hurt her, I hurt myself. I cause pain for myself. And you could say from a selfish point of view, I don't want to cause pain for myself. But I don't want to cause pain for my wife, either, so I'm going to cry saying, "Is this the right thing, Lord? Is this the best thing for my wife? In doing this am I blessing her, or am I hurting her? Tell me. Give me wisdom; give me understanding on this point. I want to do the right thing." A man, whose wife submits to him, I believe, becomes a more prayerful man, if he is open to the Spirit of God, that he makes the right decisions. And it's my wife that gives me the confidence to act in a role of leadership. In many respects, it's a wife's submission to her husband that releases her husband into manhood. You understand what I'm saying?

A woman who is a mother, can, in many situations, not allow her husband to act as a husband, but because he's still a boy she can actually, without realizing it, keep her husband as a boy while mothering him, telling him what to do, and guiding him, and then the husband in many cases lets the wife lead the home. But a home like that can never prosper, because it's not in God's order. It's not the way God designed things, and it will cause pain, and the man will never become a man, he will stay a boy. Particularly the Australian culture, where you see the typical Australian male, he is someone who drinks a lot of alcohol, plays sports, he is a bit of a larrikin, mucks around, and the wife takes care of the family, pays all the bills, and looks after everything.

Is that a fairly, typical of the Australian male? That's a Nimrod/Semiramis equation. That's where the mother is taking care of the son, and it's great for the son. He has no responsibilities, he can do whatever he likes, and the wife has to clean up the mess, and he doesn't care. Then suddenly ten years later he finds himself divorced and she's left and gone off with someone who shows

her love and appreciation. Satan has got it all sown up, because you can't live without appreciation, year after year after year. The heart becomes so depressed and dejected, that the woman becomes vulnerable to Satan's temptations to find love somewhere else. We see this played out everywhere, and we can say, "Oh yeah, you know, she was terrible for leaving and doing all those things," but we all cry out for love. We need to be loved, and we become exposed to temptations, that otherwise would not come if we were in God's order. I better move along.



So, the role of the husband, just very briefly, is to lead. I won't read through all the verses. You can read this and pick it up in the video later on. 1 Timothy 3:1-4, about commanding his children. In Genesis 18:19, God says,

"I know Abraham, that he will command his children after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and righteousness, that I may bring to Abraham all that I promise."

That verse in Genesis 18:19 is so powerful. God promised a blessing upon Abraham, but in Genesis 18:19, it was conditional upon the right structuring of the family, that Abraham would command, as in lead, with a steady and a firm hand, lead his family after him, that they keep the way of the Lord.

And this is just on a side note, if you read in 1 Timothy 3:1-4, one of the qualifications of an elder is based on this text. It says an elder must rule his house, so if in God's order, if the understanding of God is correct, that the Father is the head, and that the husband represents that particular role, what happens when we come, in the church, we come to a woman and ask her to be an elder. What are we saying? You must rule your home, and if we are saying that the woman must rule the home, what have we just done to the channel of blessing? We just cut it! Just killed it!

I fear for women who are being placed in a position of eldership. They have cut the blessing to their home, because they've been placed in a position of leadership that they were never asked to fulfill according to Scripture. Many do it unknowingly, and maybe at times it's ignorance God winks at, but it doesn't prevent the cursing from still coming, does it? Where families are pulled apart and torn apart because of these issues.

To bless, the role of a husband, Genesis 12, speaks of the blessing. You read all about the patriarchs, how that they would call their children and they would bless them. Genesis 49 goes right through Jacob's blessing his children. It says at the end, *"and he would bless his children."* And I want you to just think about this concept, and it's an act that every time a child that's born into the world, the husband has the seed, and he gives that seed to his wife, and she nurtures that seed into a child, That process doesn't end when a child is born. The words that a father speaks are seed, and he speaks those words to his children, and he puts it in the soil of the mind of his children, and then the mother takes that seed and she nurtures that seed, and the child grows in stature and wisdom, and in favor with God and man.

That's the way it was designed; the male continues to seed. It says in Proverbs that *"life and death are in the power of the tongue."* Life comes from the tongue; the seed comes from the tongue. I mean, God's word here is referred to as a seed, isn't it? When we think about it carefully, when we are filled with the Spirit of Christ, and we are filled with the desire to bless our children and the words that we speak as they come out of our mouths, whose words are they? The Father's word. It comes out of our mouths, when we bless, and it's the seed, and it goes into the hearts of the children. Now, when the child has a sense of his security in the father's love the mother's job is made so much

easier, to nurture and raise that child to fear the Lord. Do you see what I'm saying?

This is a really, really important principle as husbands and wives work together to seed with thought of blessing, and this is what we want to do this afternoon in our blessing ceremony--to put a word of blessing upon a young person, and say to them, you are special; you are important. That seed lodges in the mind of a young person, and when Satan comes and says, "You are not special; you are worthless," that seed is there and it says, "No, I am special." He at least has an opportunity now to fight Satan. "No, I've been told that I'm special, and I remember. I have memories. I even have the pictures to prove that there are people who believe that I'm special, so Satan, no. I don't want your drugs, I don't want your immoralities, I don't want your movies and your games. I don't want any of that stuff! I want Jesus, because I know I'm special." This is the way it was designed to be.

To prove it, it says in 1 Timothy that if a man does not provide for his family is worse than an infidel and the most important thing that a man needs to provide is spiritual food, to bless--to bless his home.

The last thing is to protect--protection. I have learned in my experience, because of this channel concept, that when I engage, because I am the husband of the home, I am the house band, I am the protector of my home, that when I engage in activity that is contrary to the word of God, I open the door for Satan to come in and attack my family. Now, you think about this for a moment, where, say that I'm engaged in some little compromise with the devil, it's only a little sin; it's only a little thing, I open the door, and because I now am in a spirit of rebellion to God, aren't I? That spirit then suddenly washes over my son, doesn't it? And suddenly he starts to act in rebellion towards me.

Then Satan comes to me and says, "Your son is disobeying your authority, put him back in his place," and so you come down hard on him because you are disconnected now from the channel of blessing. You are not acting as Christ would act. You're acting as a tyrant. You are acting as Satan would act, and you come down hard and bang on your child! But whose fault was it? It's my fault, not his fault. We talk so much about bad children, but where does the badness come from? If we are in a channel of blessing concept, where does the badness come from? See, this is the stupidity of Satan's lie. We look at our children and often say how evil and how bad they are, but that's an inherent

life source concept. That evil and that badness come from us and from the community that we live in! Let's not blame the children for this. Let's put responsibility where it belongs--on us--not our children!

Now, we can't always ensure that our children will be righteous and follow us, and yes, they come to a point, later on in life, where they can make decisions against us, and step outside of that channel, but particularly in the early years, in the younger years, when they are more open to us and they've less understanding of their own free choice, we have an opportunity to lay a ground work to ensure that we stay friends with them for the rest of their lives, and to protect them.

Same principle when a husband says, "I think we should do this," and the wife says, "No, I think we should do this." The wife then places an example on her children, "Ah," the child goes, "that's how you treat the father." And so the child, when the mother goes, "Can you do this for me?" and the child goes, "No," the mother goes, "Where did you learn to do that?" Where did he learn to do that? From the mother.

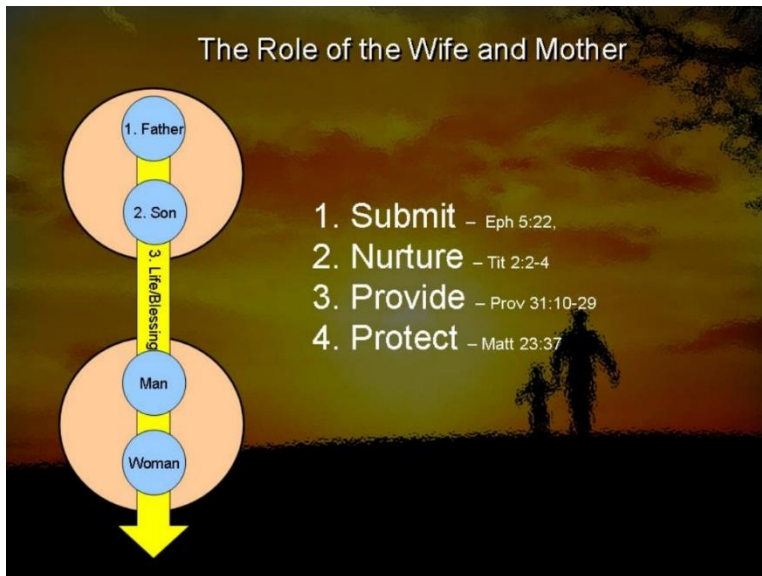
Or if the father says no to God, or if the father says no to established authority in the community or God, Himself, and then the child acts in a disobedient way, we start to discipline them. But where did they learn to do it? They learned in the channel--in the channel of blessing. We talk about all things we do to keep our children faithful. The best way to keep your children faithful, is to be faithful, and then it will just flow onto them.

Yes, there are challenges. Yes, there are things that we have to work and pray through, but it'll be a lot easier because no negative influence is coming upon them. I had one particular situation, and I'm happy to mention this, where we had a computer game come into the home, that seemed fairly innocent. I didn't vet it carefully, because I was busy preparing sermon material--lesson for us, and I saw my son playing this game and he seemed to be reasonably okay with it, and then something impressed me, *Go and have a look at this game. Go and check it out*, and then I say, "What's going on Son? Okay, we'll play it together," and we are playing this game together, and it seemed fairly innocent to begin with, but then all of a sudden, this image came up that I knew was not from God, and it was part of the game.

All of a sudden, because now I was engaged in the game myself, even though I was checking it out, a door opened, and suddenly my other son started screaming. The mood in the home became very intense. I knew immediately that it had opened the door, and I said, "Son, we've stepped out of the channel of blessing. This game has affected our home." I grabbed it, took it out, put it in the box, and went straight to the shop and handed it back--got it out of the house instantly. That was bad news. Things that can be so innocent, and you think you just have a simple little row at home, there are reasons why the family has erupted. Satan's being given entrance into the home. He is getting access through rebellion and disobedience to God. It's not just part of life, it's part of death. That's why there's a battle.

We must protect ourselves, and this is why we've been told to have morning and evening worship. It's the covering that protects us--to pray every morning. You know, one person said a number of years ago, "I would not want to live or stay in a house where they didn't have morning and evening worship, because evil influences could come into that home." Now, I understand the content of what she's talking about there. The point is, we need protection. The role of the husband/father is to protect. What did Job do for his children? He prayed for them, "*peradventure they might have sinned.*"

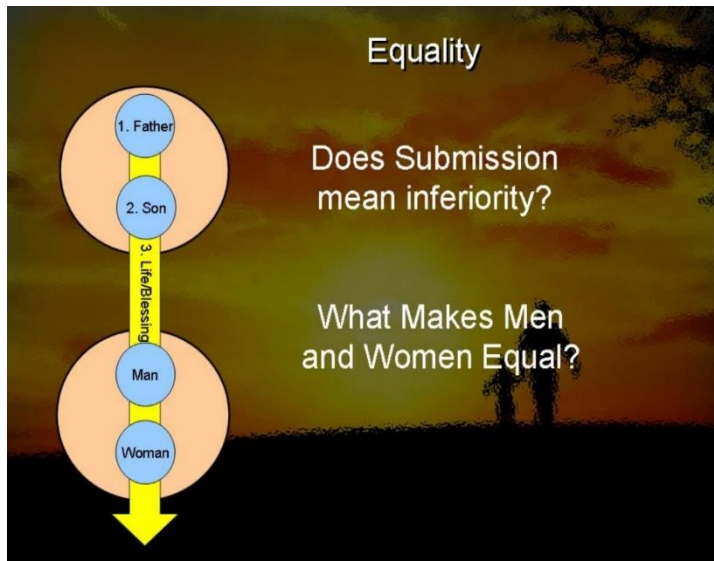
That's not a nicety. That's mandatory, for fathers to pray for their children. You think about the thoughts that you think toward your children coming from your Father in heaven. As you think those thoughts, I often pray; I pray, "Lord, he is my son, wherever he goes and wherever he is with his friends, fill his mind with good thoughts, bless him, keep him from the evil one, protect him." That's my role. Don't go, "I bet my boy, I bet he is with those boys, and he is doing this and he is doing that." What are you doing? You're putting doubt onto your children. Pray blessing onto your children. Don't put doubt upon them and feel like, "Well, they're going to do the wrong thing, and I mistrust them." We often send mistrust words at children because we don't understand the blessing concept that our children are desperately affected by how we think and how we live.



The role of the wife, submission: the process of submission (is) to teach our children how to submit. The nurturing concept: to take the seed of the husband both physically and spiritually and to nurture it, and to make it into something beautiful. To provide gifts of hospitality, to provide for her home, to look after... That's a nurturing concept, and again to protect as a hen gathers her chickens, and we know this, that in the Spirit of Christ, there is a beautiful sense of protection of a mother for her children, and how that a mother is even willing to lay down her life for her children.

Of course, you know the story of the hen, that when a fire came through, she gathered all of her chickens, and they're under her. The fire came over and she was killed, and when someone came along and they saw a turf on the ground and when they kicked the turf there were little chickens running around. A mother gave her life for her children. It's a symbol of Christ, isn't it? It's a beautiful symbol. Protection. It's her role to protect her children, to ensure that her children are being cared for, to pray for her children, to pray a blessing over the children. That's the role of the wife.

We need to deal with this issue of equality, just briefly as we finish.



If a wife must submit to a husband, how then can she be equal? Because equality is a big question today in our world, isn't it? To be equal. Because when you submit to someone in a worldly concept, that means you are inferior, doesn't it? If you are the top you are superior, and when you speak to your superiors, is that a biblical term? Interesting, isn't it?

Let's think about equality, just briefly. Does submission mean inferiority? Most people believe it does, even if they don't say it. They believe that it does. It means inferiority. That's why many churches ordain women as elders and pastors, to deal with this issue, because submission means inferiority. That's not the way you get equality. You come back to the Bible, and you see what the Bible says about equality. What makes men and women equal? This is the question we need to deal with, what makes them equal? I thought you might find this picture interesting.



Is it strength? Intellect? Talent? Is that what makes men and women equal? Sorry, it's stupid to even make the comparison, and yet we do. You know, we often have the stuff coming on the news where it says that [among] children in grade 12, the girls on average are getting 20% higher grades than boys. What are we saying when we say that? We are saying that girls are better. Thank you, Mr. Rockefeller, for putting out this propaganda for us. What's the point in all of this? Intellect. When we pit one another against each other in terms of strength, can we say that in some respects women are stronger than men? How many men here had a baby?

There is one in the planet. Oh, you felt the pain. I saw my wife endured pain that I could never endure. She had strength beyond what I could ever endure. I wouldn't have survived. So, women have strength, don't they? Men have strength--brawn. We could go on and on about these things, you know. We have these little quips, that say, you know, that the husband is the head, but the woman is the neck and she turns it wherever she wants. Have you heard that before? You haven't? Sorry, I'm exposing you to things that you shouldn't hear. I think that's called manipulation, actually.

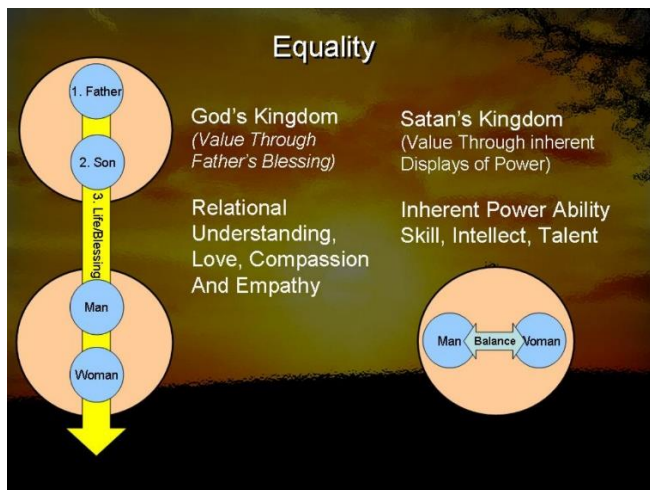
But in Satan's kingdom, this is how men and women are equal. We call it "affirmative action." You know, making sure that men and women have jobs in higher positions. It's a constant thing that's going on--making sure that men and women have the same positions, the same power. When it comes to the

issue of pay, I don't see any reason why women shouldn't be paid the same as a man to do the same job, of course. I think it's unjust not to do that. That's a completely separate issue.

But when we pit one another against each other, this is, we can see it in their eyes, (mentioning the picture above) I can see the spirit of Satan. Can you? Maybe they're only pretending, but in many homes, this is how husbands and wives; this is the actual picture of the relationship of the husband and the wife. They're pitted against each other. It's all submerged, but it's there. If we come back to what the Bible teaches, you go back to Genesis, and how it conditions equality.

Genesis 2:20 "So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper..." What? "...comparable to him."

We understand that God made Adam, and He gave him a garden and he [Adam] named all the animals. He was there, he was made first. God breathed into his nostrils. Adam named all the animals, he had a home, he had everything, didn't he, that this world could offer? But what was he missing? A companion. Could you imagine Adam going down to the zebra and unburdening his soul? There's just something not right about it, is there? It's just not right. The zebra can't understand. What is it that makes a woman equal with a man in terms of the issue of equality from the Bible?



In God's kingdom value comes through the father's blessing, and equality is *relational*--the ability of the woman to understand the man, to understand his feelings, to understand his emotions, his joys, his sorrows--[to be] his companion. The equality is in the relational realm, but as for the roles that they occupy, in terms of headship and submission and leadership, they have different roles, but the equality is in their relationship. Do you see what I'm saying?

In Satan's kingdom, value is through inherent displays of power, the equality of inherent power, ability, skill, intellect, and talent. Can you see how Satan has completely messed up our families through the lie of the serpent? So we don't have a channel system anymore, we have a balanced system? It's called give and take. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays you can lead, and on the other days I'll lead, or however you work it out.

Equality is equality of relationships, not equality of power. When you take this concept on board, we can be released from all of this garbage that has been foisted onto us, and notice in this system that the channel of blessing has been broken. The channel of blessing has been cut off. All Satan has to do to cut off the father's blessing to the children is to cause a belief system to come in that men and women are equal based on power, to destroy the concept of authority and submission, and then he's got it. Our children immediately become part of his kingdom. He has got us without any difficulty whatsoever.

Why is the gate narrow, and why is the way so hard? Because Satan destroys our families. If our families were after God's order, he would find it much harder to pull us apart.

The lie of the serpent destroys the channel of blessing. This is the point. That statement, "*You shall not surely die,*" is what rips our families apart. It causes us to become confused about where life and blessings come from, it causes us to despise authority; it causes us to reject the system that God has set up--that God has set up an order so that we can be blessed. I want you to remember those comments we read before [where the children were] speaking about their fathers. That sense of emotion, that sense of joy! That's what we want coming through to our children, isn't it? It can only come through the correct roles of the husband and the wife reflecting the image of the Father and the Son. That's how the blessing comes to us.

Now that Jesus has reconnected us, He is coming to the desert; the root has grown out of a dry ground; He's reconnected us. Our families now can receive, and so we, like Abraham, as fathers we can command our families after us that God may fulfill in us the blessing. As it says, "*all the families of the earth will be blessed*" through the "way you do" family. That's what it says. The way you do family, Abraham, all the families of the earth will be blessed. And that's what Elijah is calling us to--back to Abraham's family system. That's what we need in these last days, so that we can face the tyrants that are building their empire ready to take control of the whole world. Only those who have a true understanding of who they are, a true understanding of who God is, and has his family system will go through the last great conflict, because they know who they are. Jesus got through the temptations in the wilderness, because He knew who He was, and He knew how to hang on to the blessing.

Let's pray.

Father in heaven, we just thank You so much that You've given us families. We thank You for all the fathers and the mothers that are present here. Lord, let us look deeper into these things, give us wisdom. Many of us have been hurt by bad family relationships; we carry scars which make it hard for us to be the mothers and the fathers that we need to be. But You can heal us Father; we see in You the perfect example of what a family is meant to be, and Lord we pray that You will open that fountain to us. And Lord, I pray for the children that are present here. Lord, bless them. Let them know that they are loved--greatly loved by You, that You formed them in the womb, that You think about them all the time, that they are precious. May they know this. And I pray that as we continue to look at these subjects, that we will move further and further away from Satan's kingdom till we become as is promised--that fortress, impregnable, where Satan cannot break through and destroy. And we thank You, in Jesus' name. Amen.

5 Protecting the Channel.

Just as introduction. A little bit of what has sort of led me in this direction? Why I'm presenting a picture in this way in reference to the family and relationships and why I have sought to see in the scripture through all the doctrine, and you read this in my book Life Matters why the family is such a focus. Many times when I've read about the family, often you've had Bible teaching on one side and you've had family principles on the other side. But to try and find where the actual Bible teachings themselves are, the very heart and core of what keeps a family together. And I guess over the years, in my own personal experience, as I've read and studied the Bible and I've enjoyed the truths, I have been deeply saddened by the loss of these beautiful truths that are in the Bible, that are so beautiful. When we, as believers come together and there's still so much pain, there's so much hurt, there's so much disagreement, there's so much frustration. Why? Why is it like this? We understand there is conflict, we understand there are differences; but why so much tragedy occurring amongst God's people?

I remember speaking to a friend of mine, it was not long after a colleague of mine (and again, is this personal material, but maybe I've grown up in a generation where I hate facade with a passion),

I like to be real. I don't like the veneer. A friend of mine who was a minister, we were good friends. We went to college together and two years ago, he jumped off a cliff and ended his life. The pain of that event was so great; I couldn't even deal with it. Why my friend would do this, why would he do this? Why would he end his life? Someone who had the Bible, someone who supposedly understood the gospel? How could he end his life with this book in his hand? It just tore me apart. I said to my friend at the time, you know, because it seemed to touch a chord with me, touch the point that and I spoke to my friend along the lines of "I just hate division and hurts so much at the emotional level, and we're dealing with it all the time". For myself, working as a minister constantly, constantly surrounded by division misunderstanding what I believe about the Bible and my views and the judgments that often come against me and sometimes my judgments against other people in the way I've treated other people. I've cried out to God over the years.

There has to be a better way, this is not what you promised us Father, an abundant life with joy. And yes, there will be sorrows along the way. But I don't think the kind of sorrows were meant to be at the level we're experiencing at the moment. And so that's sort of a background behind why I've been led in this direction. I'm yearning for the day when we can all be in one accord, in one place where there's no division, where there's no judgment.

There are no people judging other people and casting dispersions on other people by a hint in the eye or a word spoken. Or this person is silly or this person is dumb or this person because they believe this there of the devil or they're of Satan. And obviously there's a place for where we need to be cautious about what people are teaching. But how we treat each other as sons and daughters of God, are we not all of one family? Are we all not God's children? And should not we love one another? Doesn't Jesus say that "by this shall, all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another."

I just want to offer a prayer once again, Lets us kneel.

Father in heaven, thank you for allowing me to share the thoughts of my heart with my brothers and sisters. And Lord, we just pray for that unity, the faith we're often like sheep that have gone astray, each one turning to his own way. But Lord, we trust that you will gather the remnant of Israel. You'll bring us together and that you will put a spring, a highway in the desert and you will fill us with the glory of the Lord as we finish with this final presentation in this part, Lord, may we magnify the law and make it honorable and we thank you in Jesus name. Amen.

After all that we've talked about, about the river of life that flows from the Father through His Son and out to us in blessing; how Satan has intercepted this system and caused confusion about life and where it comes from, confused our identity, confused God's identity, and we've gone and traced through the whole process of Satan's philosophy, turning into tyranny, world domination that manifest itself in the beast powers of revelation.

We've then looked at how Jesus was sent by the Father to reconnect us to that river through himself, through his connecting, his nature to our nature and being that dry that tend to plant in a dry ground and reversing that desolate abomination. We've just looked how that, now that a channel is connected, that in our families that we can reflect the image of God and that as

communities of faith, we can allow God to flow through our lives and that we can be brought to a point where we can be in one accord and in one place. That can only be done with each of us assuming our correct identities as husbands, as wives, as children, as individuals, correctly understanding who God is and living the message that God has given to us. So to do that, we need to understand how to protect the system. God has given us means to protect the channel of blessing, to prevent it from being pulled apart. That's what we can look at now.

A quick revision on the last presentation. The channel of blessing flows from the Heavenly Father. We read that in First Corinthians 11:3. The channel only works when we believe all life flows from Him. If we if we do not embrace this understanding of God, then the channel does not work correctly, and our understanding of headship and submission is confused. The relationship of Father and Son is reflected in the image of the husband and the wife. Submission to headship keeps the channel open. The lie of the serpent concerning inherent power breaks the channel of blessing system. This is the greatest tragedy of all. The breaking of the channel causes a loss of worth and value through family relationships and places it in one's own abilities and powers.

So how do we protect the blessing channel? How do we keep this system operating? Just a quick revision again of these texts where the Bible says he showed me a pure river of water clear as crystal proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. And as we said in Psalms 36, "They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of your house and you give them drink from the river of Your pleasures for with You is the fountain of life". From this verse, God describing Himself as the Fountain of Life, if there's one word that I would like to describe myself in reference to my understanding of God, that is I foun-tarian. I see God as a fountain that flows forth, foun-tarian. It's connected to the Bible if you want to use terms and labels. If people want to put me in a box, that's the box you can put me in.

Foun-tarian: for with you is the Fountain of Life. In Your light, we see light. And again, we looked at the book of Ezekiel about this river again, "he measured 1000 and it was a river that I could not cross for the water was too deep water," one must swim a river that could not be crossed, he said: "Son of man" Have you seen this? "Now he brought me returned me to the banks of the river when

I return there along the banks of the river with very many trees on one side and on the other." You see all the trees in the side of the river. That just happens to be the Murrumbidgee River, by the way. "Then he said to me, this water flows toward the east region, goes down into the valley and enters into the sea. When it reaches the sea, its' waters are healed and it shall be that every living thing that moves wherever the river goes will live." And I want to be one that enables that river to continue to flow, I don't want to be a dam and become a dead sea that stops the river. I want to keep it going through me. Wherever the river flows, there is life. We looked at these passages.

Now we come to the very beginning of the Book of Psalms about the protection of this blessing system and notice how David speaks in Psalms and all that we've talked about, this text starts to take on some deep significance. "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly". Who was the first who was ungodly? Satan, and what is his council? "You shall not surely die, you have life in yourself." It's a wrong, that's the counsel of the ungodly at its root. All other ungodly counsel comes out of that original ungodly counsel. To walk in the council the ungodly is to walk in an understanding of life that does not correlate with the Bible and breaks the channel system, "nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord and in His Law, He meditates day and night." When someone does this, notice what occurs. He shall be like what? "A tree planted by the rivers of water." Here's the river and the tree, the roots of the tree draw from that river and it lives. "That brings forth its fruit." The fruit is the fruit of the spirit, love, joy, peace, "whose leaf also shall not wither." When he or she is in a situation where they're tired, where it's a difficult situation, they're struggling. It says that the leaf will not wither. The abomination that makes desolate will not rule the heart because it continues to draw life from the river. And wherever he is, whatever he does, he'll prosper.

What a promise. Would you like whatever you do to prosper? "His delight is in the law of the Lord and in his law, does he meditate day and night"?

This is, as you can see, I've tried to diagram it there, the river flowing out of the throne of God coming down and it's protected on either bank by the commandments. The commandments are like the banks of the river that keep us within that blessing system. They are there to protect us and keep us from

crawling out into the desert. When we break the commandments of God, it's like we crawl out of the river and we walk out into the desert and we die.

That's what breaking the commandments is doing. It's causing us to go back into the desert and to die, rather than to stay in the beautiful river, that is that God has set up for us.

Now, I want you to notice when we look at the life of Abraham, how this the protection of the system worked for him, how he adopted these principles. Notice first God gives to Abraham a blessing in Genesis 12. "I will make you a great nation." Now, when God is speaking to Abraham and being a great nation, is he speaking about nations as we understand them today? State territorial systems? Is that what he's talking about? Now he's talking about family kingdoms, all starting with a patriarchal leader where the rulership, the government is father and mother and children. That's the nations that he's talking about. That's the way it was originally designed to be.

"And I will make your name great and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and I will curse him who curses you. And in you, all the families of the earth shall be blessed".

That's a very, very specific text, and I want you to go back and ponder that at a later time. Think about what God is saying here in this particular verse, "I'll bless those who bless you and I'll curse him who curses you and in you", in you, And the way that I have taught you, "all the families of the Earth will be blessed." We would do well to look at the way that Abraham lived, that we can be blessed through observing that. We understand that the primary aspect of this in you, all the families of the Earth will be blessed is that through the line of Abraham, that Christ, The Seed would come and that in Christ, we would all receive salvation.

But in order to do that, in order for the line of the Seed, there had to be a remnant that could preserve over the years to preserve for when Christ came. Christ could not be born into an environment where there was not a mother and a father. What if Christ came and was born into a kingdom like Sodom and Gomorrah? Could he be born into an environment like that? He couldn't. There had to be a remnant to preserve. For the blessing of Christ to come, there had to be a family kingdom principle that would keep that open, to ensure that Christ would receive that blessing. And that's what we read in Genesis 18 and

verse 19, and I'm getting ahead of myself. It says: "since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation and all the nations of the Earth shall be blessed in him".

It says before this, and I just want to mention this point briefly, God says, "Shall I hide from Abraham What I am about to do"? And what God was about to do was to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. Why was God going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah?

What had happened to their family structures? We understand the word sodomy that way. Everything was perverted. Romans 1 is what's being talked about. They had so perverted their family structures that children born into those home; the cry of those children crying their hearts to God in heaven for the pain that they were suffering. God could not allow it to continue. It had to stop.

The family structure had been so smashed that God had to stop it. That's going to happen again. The family structures of this world are going to be so smashed that God will have to stop it. Jesus will have to come because, as it says, remember what we said in Genesis Chapter six, that "when the Sons of God married the daughters of men, tyrants came into the Earth and men's thoughts were only evil continually."

We will get to a point, if Jesus doesn't come soon, that that will happen again and everything will have to be wiped out. But Jesus will have to come before then, while there is still a possibility of family structures that can receive the river of life through their families. "For I have known him in order that he may command his family and his household," his children in his household "after him, that they keep the way of the Lord to do righteousness and justice that the Lord might bring to Abraham what he is spoken to him."

God wanted to bless him, but notice the condition of the blessing "that he command his family and his children after him." This was the condition of the blessing. Can you see that? It's very, very clear. Alright; and notice what else we see about Abraham. Genesis 26: "Dwell in this land and I will be with you and bless you for to you and your descendants I give these lands" there's part of the blessing "and I perform the oath, which I swore to Abraham your father and I will make your descendants multiply." This is the reapplication of the blessing to Abraham's children.

"As the stars of heaven, I will give you all descendants, all these lands and in your seed, all the nations of the Earth shall be blessed." There's a recommitment to the promise of the coming of Christ through the remnant, according to the family structure that God set up with Abraham.

And then in verse 5, "Because Abraham obeyed my voice," he learned submission to the channel. "He kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes and my laws." See the protection of the blessings system is directly connected to the commandments of God. This is where the blessing comes from.

Just need to back up a bit. So, protecting this channel system, this is the next point I'm going to make. As I said before, requires a clear understanding of who God is and who we are. Let me illustrate this point. When you're speaking to somebody or when two people are speaking. Let me illustrate this way, if we, to use the familiar phrase, go to London to visit the Queen, and we go up to Queen Elizabeth, we put our arm around her and say: How are you Bess, how are you going? Why is that inappropriate? Is it inappropriate? Why is it inappropriate?

It's an incorrect understanding of relationship and respect of authority. This is the issue, we're dealing with God when we need to understand who God is. That's the same thing with the way husbands and wives speak to each other. Communication can become confused when we don't understand our identity. We mis-communicate. We misunderstand, and that causes confusion.

I have an illustration that really illustrates this well. It comes from the Second World War about two ships or supposedly two ships that was communicating with each other. It was the Canadian ship. Like this, Daniel? This is good for you, actually. Canadian ship speaks to the other supposed ship and says, "Please divert your course 15 degrees to the south to avoid collision". The Americans respond over the shortwave radio, "Recommend you divert your course 15 degrees to the north. Avoid to avoid collision". Canada respond

"Negative? You will have to divert your course 15 degrees to the south to avoid a collision". So now there's a bit of a conflict starting here. So how do the Americans respond?

"This is the captain of a US Navy ship. I say again divert your course". That's what Americans do, isn't it? Not all. Canadians, very defiant Canadians. A very small nation shouldn't be doing this to America.

"No, I say again, Divert your course". You ready for the next one?

Right?

"This is the aircraft carrier USS Lincoln, the second largest ship in the United States Atlantic fleet. We are accompanied with three destroyers, three cruisers and numerous support vessels. I demand that you change your course 15 degrees north. I say again, that's one five degrees north, or countermeasures will be undertaken to ensure the safety of the ship".

Can you hear the spirit of the tyrant? I know the punch line is really good.

"This is the lighthouse, your call".

How much communication miscommunication could have been saved by the Americans understanding who the Canadians were in this case?

How much misunderstanding can be saved with us in our dealings with God by understanding who he really is and isn't God the lighthouse? Confusion about God's identity as the lighthouse that streams the light of life to us causes a confused communication that can cause us to be dashed on the rocks. And how many are dashed on the rocks from mis-communicating with God because of the lie, the serpent that we have some kind of inherent life source? It's interesting where you see these principles are rising, and that's one of the best stories I've found to really illustrate that. The giving of the commandments to Israel was a key initiative in restoring a correct perception of identity so that the channel of blessing could be restored. When the children of Israel went into Egypt, they lost their identity.

They were stripped. They became slaves to a false system. When God brought them out, He had to remind them of who he was and who they were.

The first thing he gave them was what? His law, this is what he gave them. Exodus 31:18 and he gave under Moses when he had made an end of communing with him upon Mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone written with the finger of God. If there's one part of the Bible that is really, really important, it's this because it was written with God's own finger.

The rest of Bible God inspired through men. He inspired men to write, but not this part. He wrote it with his own finger. How important is it then, The Law of God? If we look at the commandments in this light about protecting the channel system and protecting identity, have you ever read the law in this way? Looking for what this law actually tells us about God and what it tells us about ourselves? If the law can do this for us, then we have a mechanism to protect the life source system.

Because that's all we need to get correct communication between two parties, you just need to understand the identities of both parties. If the Law can do this for us, then we've found the key to protecting the system.

Let's just go through this briefly in terms of what these commandments tell us about who God is. Firstly, he identifies himself. I brought you out of bondage.

Number One: "You will have no other gods besides me." What does that tell us about God? That He is a redeemer. He brought, He brings out of bondage. He frees the slave. He sets the captive free. That tells us something about God and that he is the only Source of blessing because you will have no other gods besides me. Now again, when you reading this, according to the serpents lie, it's: (In a commanding tyrannical voice) "You will have no other gods before me!" I am the dictator. I am the tyrant. I will control you and you will do what I tell you to do.

That's and that's the way many people read the law, isn't it? But in God's kingdom of the channel of Blessing, you will have no other gods besides me because you know who I am and you want to stay connected to me. It's a promise.

As one author, has said, "the Ten Commandments are ten promises," aren't they? They're only promises when you understand the life source system, they're actually damnation. When you live in Satan's kingdom, as we will see.

Number two: "You shall not make any carved image." now you think about the second commandment. It's a relational internal focus rather than a material, external focus. To make a carved image is to focus on the external, is to focus on the material. But God's kingdom is a relational kingdom. It is mind to mind, heart to heart and a mind to mind system and a heart to heart system is an invisible system, isn't it?

We can't see relationships. We can see the effects of relationships, but we can't see them. That's why God's kingdom is an invisible kingdom. That's what Jesus said. "My kingdom is not of this world." It's an invisible kingdom. The things that are seen are temporal. The things that are not seen are eternal. Faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen. It's a relational kingdom. And the second commandment tells us this. Have you ever seen the second commandment like that? I focus on the invisible rather than the material. It tells us what God is really like.

Number three: "You will not take the name of your God in vain." Now, many people think that this commandment simply refers to not swearing, but that's very simplistic view. Taking the name of the Lord and vain means to profess to be his follower and then not do what he asks you to do, not follow what he has commanded you to do. That's taking his name in vain. It is making God look bad. It's the same principle, like when an Australian goes overseas into a different country and he behaves badly and he gets himself in trouble. That takes the name of Australia in vain, does it not? It makes people think, Well, Australians are really nasty people. They're irresponsible people. I guess for many Australians who go overseas and visit different parts of the world and go to their pubs and drink, and maybe it's true in some respects, I don't know. Not all Australians are like that.

Number four: "Remember the Sabbath day for six days the Lord made the heaven of the Earth." What does this tell us, that he is the creator of all things? This is the commandment that speaks to the Source of life.

Can you see why this is important? This is a big identifier, and many people talk about the seal of God. It gives his Name, his Title and his Dominion. It's the seal of God because it's where life comes from. And as it says in Revelation Chapter 14.

God's people in the last days will recognize this by recognizing the Source of life. The sponsor for life is sealed into the seal and in revelation 14 days since they are sealed with what? The Father's name, because He is the source. His signature is written into it. So I am the One that sponsors you your life sealed with the Father's name. They know who He is. They have rejected the lie of the serpent. They finally connected to Him. Once they connect to Him and realize His identity, we automatically understand our identity because if He is the Source of all life, then we have no life of ourselves. Knowing His identity will

automatically define our identity. Can you see that? So the Sabbath commandment tells us that e is the source of all life and blessing. And in light of what we've talked about, this channel of blessing, the next commandment is very, very important.

Family blessing, structure, honor your father and your mother. That tells us that God sees a very important role for the family system. Family blessing struck to respect for authority, it's also a respect for authority, as one author has written that this commandment to honor your father and your mother not only applies to parents but applies to pastors and teachers as well. It's part of the fifth commandment to respect authority to those in leadership.

[Fifth commandment discussed at the end.]

Number six: "You shall not kill." what does that tell us? That if we don't have any life in ourselves and it all comes from somebody else, we don't have right to take somebody else's life. It's an acknowledgment that we don't have life. We have do not have the power over life to take it or to give it because we don't have it themselves. Life is precious. That's what God is telling us. He believes that life is precious. Relationships are forever. Have you ever thought about that commandment? Thou shalt not kill tells us that God wants relationships to last forever. Tells us something beautiful about Him, doesn't it? And that He is the Source of life. You don't have the right to take life. I'm the only one that has the right to give it to take because it comes from Me.

Number seven: "You shall not commit adultery." Again, that is speaking to the issue of valid intimate relationships. It's kind of an echo of taking the name of the Lord in vain. Taking the name of the Lord in vain is basically spiritual adultery. Now we're speaking to the issue of earthly adultery, and God wants relationships to be valid and intimate and be full of integrity. You can't have a relationship of integrity when someone is is with somebody else and pretending to be here and there, it's a lack of integrity.

Number eight: "You shall not steal." That tells us that there's a spiritual relation, not a material focus. Why would you need to steal things if God has promised to supply all your needs if God supplies you everything? Stealing indicates that you're still affected by the lie that you need to provide for yourself. What did Jesus say in Matthew Chapter six? The Pagans seek after these things. When you worry about what you shall wear and what you shall

eat and what you shall do, and you are pushed to the point where you need to steal. Then you're not reflecting your trust that God is the source of all life and that he will provide for you.

Number nine: "You shall not lie." Integrity and transparency in relationships it's the same thing. Lying causes miscommunication between people. It breaks communication down. It destroys the seed. And it's interesting when it says you shall not lie. If you study this carefully, it says that God's people in the last days will not have in their mouths what? Guile in the Greek means to decoy. And part of, one of the most fundamental principles of decoying people is when someone says, Did you know, blah blah blah? And the person goes, What? I was only kidding. That's guile.

If it's going quiet jesting and joking destroys the seed, it corrupts the seed, when a man is known to speak words that he does not mean. He's corrupted his own seed. So God's people will not have guile in their mouth because it's a perversion of the channel. Can you see that? It says of Jesus in Peter, It says and noticed this carefully: Who did know sin? Now when we say no sin, how many sins does that cover all sins? But then it goes on and says neither was guile found in his mouth.

The issue of guile is not a small issue. It's a big issue because God named it by name. If a father speaks to his children in a way to confuse them as to what he means, they can never really know who he is. He has destroyed his identity with his children, and tragically, I have seen relationships where husbands and wives and particularly husbands since it tends to be more of a male trait. Making fun of their wives and so that they're only joking. I've seen marriages collapse on that principle alone. God pleads with us to not just with each other, it's a violation of the ninth commandment not to lie. The Bible says Let your yes be yes and, you know, be no.

Say what you mean and mean what you say. Well, have the Australian culture. We have some kind of belief that when we rib one another, we have a go at each other. We're telling them that we love them. Well, Australian culture does not happen to always be God's culture, does it? God's culture says speak the truth in love. That's what God's culture is all about.

Let us forsake guile. I'd like to say that this is not an easy thing to do. Guile is something that I've grown up with, and it's something that I continually ask

God to help me not to do so when I'm telling you not to do it. I'm saying, Hey, it's so easy to do because in Satan's kingdom and when sometimes we do something and I don't know if you've probably been in the situation. Sometimes your evil nature will manifest and you're embarrassed. And the best way to cover that is with a joke. Cover it up. Hide it. I was only kidding.

The serpent comes out, hit someone. And then, "Oh, you know, I was only kidding. I didn't really mean it". Yes, you did. You meant it. It's only God spoke that you said you did the wrong thing. Don't say "I was joking". Say "I'm sorry". It's a really, really important point. Alright, I've labeled that enough. It's just that. I just tragic how many people I've seen destroyed by this simple little word called guile. It's a tragedy, and it's a violation of the commandments. And when you violate the commandments, you lose your value and your worth and your identity. And I know, particularly I said I was going to finish, but I can't. I know that in general, this issue hurts the ladies a lot more than it does the men. That's what I've seen. We need to be aware of that.

Number ten: "You shall not covet." It reveals God as the Source of life and blessing, coveting assets and possessions. It denies the reality that God will provide everything for you. So all these things speak to God is the source of life. Why would you need to cover if God is your father and he's given you the mind of Christ and you promised a home in heaven, you can live with him forever. Why would you covet things? It's completely a denial of the truth of who God is. So, when you look at the commandments and you look at them carefully, they reveal the identity of who God is.

In summary, then; the law defines identity. It tells us that he is the only source of blessing. We saw that in the Sabbath and in the first commandment. He tells us that he is not to be worshiped through visible material objects as this destroys our perception of God as a truly relational being and shifts our focus to material and external things. He tells us that our perception of his identity can be undermined by taking his name in vain, meaning claiming to belong to him when our hearts are elsewhere. This commandment is the clearest number for this commandment is a clear statement we have revealing God is the source of all created things. This commandment is the most vital of all the commandments in giving us the right perception of God's identity, and that's why the Sabbath is going to be the critical issue when the tolerance of this world seek to take control. Number five, this is the one concern in the family,

this is the second most vital component as it reveals the human structures through which God's channel of blessing flows. It speaks to us of the importance of submission, obedience and respect.

Each of the last five commandments of practical human expressions of revealing God is the only life source and how the avoidance of these things will aid in staying connected to him. The other thing you would be familiar with this when we read in the Bible about descriptions of God's character and descriptions of God's law, they're identical. We see that the Lord's spiritual God is spiritual or spiritual love, truth, righteousness. I think most people are familiar with this with this particular chart. And in essence, what this tells us is that the law is a reflection of God's character. That's who God is.

In meditating upon the law, dwelling and delighting in the Law Day and night. Who are we actually meditating upon? Our Father. This is the clearest reflection we have been given of who he is.

When you think about that, when David says "I delight in the law." Isn't to delight in something an emotional thing? How can you get emotionally excited about 10 words that are written in a book on a piece of stone? It's not. It's gone. He's delighting in his God, in the character of his God. He's in love with God, through his commandments, through His law. This is what the law is about. Since these commandments tell us that it is God who created and made us and that we have come forth from his hand, the commandments also clearly reveal our origins and identity, and I mentioned that that before. Psalms 111:7-8 "The works of his hand are verity and judgment, all his commandments are sure they stand fast, forever and ever, and are done in truth and righteousness. The law of the Lord is perfect..." Isn't it "...Converting the soul?" How does it convert the soul?

Well, you practicing every day and grinding down your teeth to keep the law? Is that how you're converted? Or is it the fact that it's protecting the channel system and it converts the soul? The blessing of God's character flows into your life and it converts the soul? That's what it's saying. Read the scripture correctly. "The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple."

Where does wisdom come from? It comes through the channel and the commandments protect that "The statutes of the Lord are right." they are right because they bring joy and peace and happiness. "Rejoicing the heart. The

commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes." Praise God for his law. It's a beautiful thing.

What does it say in Ecclesiastes? "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter, fear God and keep his commandments for this is the whole duty of man." This is what the Bible tells us to keep his commandments. And yet we see in the world one everywhere Christians saying, "No, we can't keep the law".

Who is being influenced by the lie of the Serpent? I want to have a look at this briefly. Why do people say we can't keep the law when the law is a reflection of God Himself? It is the key element that protects us in the channel of blessing.

Jesus said, "Think not that I'm come to destroy the law of the prophet, so I'm not come to destroy all but to fulfill." and you're all familiar with these texts. Matthew, 22, "Master, which is the great commandment in the Lord Jesus, said onto him, thou shalt love the Lord by God with all my heart and with all my soul and with all my mind."

This is the true essence of the law to love the Lord thy God with all my heart, because that's what the law is representing God. "This is the first and great commandment in the second commandments like unto it thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." again, we're familiar with these, but this is what the Bible teaches us. We're for the Lord's holy and the commandment is holy and Justin good. Revelation 14, "Here is the patients of the saints here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus." God's people in the last days will keep the commandments of God, all of them perfectly. Can you see how it's possible?

When we start using "keep the commandments of God perfectly," test yourself when you hear those words, "keep the commandments of God perfectly." Do you look inside here for the possibility of keeping those things or do you look up there? What life source are you responding to when you hear those words be therefore perfect? Is your Father in heaven is perfect when you hear those words? Where do you look for the power? In here or up there? How do you read? How do you read the law?

This is this is the issue. This is why so many people are confused by the lie of the serpent when we read those words. We look in here for the power to obey.

It's not there. So we have to find a way to deal with the law, to get rid of the law. Rather than give up the lie, we give up God. Tragic.

Revelation, 22:14 "Blessed, are they to do his commandments." "blessed," isn't that what it said? Channel of blessing. You are blessed when you do the commandments "That they may have right to the tree of life." blessing and life. See how it's all connected together and may enter in through the gates of the city.

Let's have a look. In God's kingdom, with the correct view of the law, the life flows down to us. The commandments protect this channel by correctly identifying who God is and who we are, and then we love the law that flows down into our lives. But in Satan's kingdom, where we have the lie, where we look here, wherever we read, see this person who's going to read those commandments and say, "Well, that's what I've got to do, this is what I've got to do." What happens is, they have to keep the commandments. Can you see the difference?

This turns the truth of God into a lie. The lie of the serpent and Paul expressly speaks to this issue. Notice; "and the commandment which was ordained to life" what commandment is that? The Ten Commandments. The command was ordained to give us life to protect us in the channel system "I found to be unto death." why? "for sin," the counsel of the ungodly, the lie of inherent life source "taking occasion by the command to deceive me and by it slew me." Can you see how that the lie? The serpent causes man to hate the law, to have immunity against the law and to come up with these terribly sad notions that we will sin until Jesus comes? What a tragedy. When we utter those words, we're saying "I cannot be fully blessed. I must remain worthless. I cannot have an intimate relationship with my Father in heaven." What a tragedy. Yet, on the other side, we have others who say, "Well, we must keep the law, the commandments brother, the commandments. We must keep the commandments, Oh brother you're failing here, you're doing wrong here." How many of us have been subjected to that? Where's the emphasis there?

We're still focusing on "we must keep the commandments" be careful in the language you use, because when you're speaking to people about keeping the commandments, do they understand God's system of life? If you come to someone who doesn't know God's Family Kingdom and you say:" You must

keep the commandments," you could be reinforcing the principle of Satan's kingdom.

You see what I'm saying? You know, many of my friends who are Sabbath keepers, I look at Sabbath keepers and I just say, Well, the Sabbath doesn't seem to be much of a joy for you people. You know, it seems very legalistic, and of course, we deny it because we know it's not. But are we giving the right impression? Is the Sabbath a delight to us? Is it a joy or is it a burden? When we talk about is the Sabbath a delight for our children? Oh boy. Let's not go there. That's a hard one.

With a correct view of the law where we see the law as a protection of the channel system correctly identifying God and man have no other gods. All of these commandments, the power comes from here and it just flows through to us. Through the will of man, we respond to the law of God, to the commandments of God, to the word of God, and it comes to us by faith.

In Satan's kingdom, all of these commands, they damn us, you must do this, you must do this. The power must come from within here and you must perform the law. The law has been turned into a lie. It's been twisted. "Sin has taken occasion by the commandment to destroy us." and as I say, the world in the end, rather than give up the lie, they'll give up the commandments and they will enforce the very commandment that speaks to God's light source system more than anything else. And I'll turn it into Sunday, and they'll make Sunday an enforced day of worship rather than give up that they give up God's law and they cannot receive the seal of God.

Tragic, terrible! We need to tell people "The law is not what you think it is." It's a beautiful thing. It's a wonderful thing. What does it say in James 8:12? It talks about the commandments, about the various ones. But the one I want to speak to you is "so speak ye and so do is those who be judged by" what, the law of what? The law is freedom. Where do we hear people mentioning this today? The law will set you free. Is that true? The law will set you free. The law is a reflection of the person of Christ. It brings to us the spirit of Christ. The law understood in God's Kingdom sets you free.

This is why, even though it's misunderstood when young people, as we're going to engage in a blessing ceremony this afternoon, that is somewhat akin to what the Jews call a Bar Mitzvah. Now what is a bar mitzvah? That means that he

has now become 'bar' meaning son mitzvah, meaning law. He's become a son of the law.

Isn't that a beautiful thing, to become a son or daughter of the law? The Law of Liberty, the law that opens for us, the channel of blessing. The law that sets us free. But not according to the principles of Satan, but according to God's Kingdom, how do you read? What did Jesus say to the lawyer?

"What is written in the law?" How he didn't say what he said. How do you read? How do you read it? Are you reading it correctly? Because when you do, it will be a law of liberty. Notice where it says, "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy. Six days out, allow for in six days a lord made heaven and Earth the seas and all that in them is and rest of the seventh day".

Now notice the parallel verse in Revelation 14 and notice what it points to "Saying with a loud voice. Fear God, give glory to Him for the hour of His judgment has come and worship Him that made heaven, earth, the sea." and the what? "springs of water." What is the spring of water about? The life source. The first Angel's message points people back to the original life source.

That's part of our message and it's connected to the fourth commandment. You see how it all links together. This is what will restore our families. This is what the Sabbath was all about. So we see with these two commandments, the very heart of the law of God, we see the springs of water regarding the Father and Son. "Fear God and give glory to Him for the hour of His judgment is come Worship Him who made the heavens and the Earth...", the One who alone who has life, "...the sea and the springs of water."

Then the fifth commandment: "Honor your father and your mother that your days may be long upon the land, which the Lord God is giving you." and what does the Bible say? "This is the first commandment with promise? That your days may be long." Life, life flows through the fifth commandment.

You see it? Life in the fifth commandment. It originates in the fourth. It flows into the fifth and it comes to us and it's at the very heart of God's law. The fourth onto the fifth commandment.

It's a beautiful thing. "For this is the love of God; that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome." If you are devoid of the serpents' lie, if you are reading the commandments right; God's

commandments are not burdensome. They are beautiful thing. What did Jesus say?

We'll just say this in closing, "If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love." Because you will be in the river of life. You will be partaking of the Breath of God in the stream, "Just as I have kept my father's commandments and abide in his love." See how Jesus is in the channel and then we are connected to him? Again, it's a channel system. "These things I have spoken to you" what? "that My joy may remain in you and that your joy may be full." The commandments, if you keep my commandments, your joy will be full.

"This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you." Can you see how the Ten Commandments are so, so important in God's Family Kingdom? There is something so beautiful and so wonderful, and they will last forever. This is why part of the Elijah message of turning the hearts of the fathers to the children is to bring them back to the Ten Commandments. It's the very heart of the Elijah message, we're told "How long holt you between two opinions? If the Lord be God, serve him, but if Baal be god, we serve him." And as to Ahab, "How long you transgressed the commandments of the Lord." You're destroying yourselves. You love worthlessness, as David said in Psalms 4: "Why do you love worthlessness?" Why not choose life? So I commend to you the commandments of God as something beautiful, something wonderful, and something that God has promised will be lived in your life; the light in the law of God. Meditate on it day and night. Think about it and you will be blessed.

Let's kneel and pray. Father in heaven, we just thank you so much for the love of God. We thank you that you designed your law to protect us to be a hedge around us and if we stay within these commandments, we can be protected from many of the devices of the enemy. Lord, you never intended your law to be a tool to for us to try and prove to you that we love you. You designed it to protect us and bless us to protect the river of life that flows out of the throne of God. Lord, fill our hearts with love for your law as you have promised us, Lord in your covenant that you will write this law on our minds and our hearts and that we will be a sealed to the river system of God?

IDENTITY WARS SEARCH FOR HOME

In the last days, God said He would send a message that would turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the children to the fathers.

This series brings the core of the Third Angel's message to this theme and invites all of us as individuals to appreciate the sacredness of the family unit and the show that the church is built upon family relationships.

The gospel is most powerfully preached by a father supported and aided by his wife, telling their children they are precious to him. This is the highest form of gospel preaching.