

## I. Review

It has been a while since we have been back in the book of Psalms. It is good to take a brake let God do some things and He has done some great things. Last time we were in Psalms 17:1-9 and in that passage, we looked at some great practical lessons. Let's take a moment to review because today's message will tie into these verses.

I told you that this Psalms is a tribulation Psalm doctrinally and deals with Israel going through the tribulation and all the things they are facing. Historically, it deals with David and all the struggles that he goes through. Inspirationally this is where we live every day.

The first thing we talked about was David's confidence in his relationship with the Lord. That is something that everybody needs to build. The majority of God's people don't have any confidence in the Lord and that will always cause you some problems. The second thing we saw is that the attack of the wicked in our lives is going to be there to try and stop us. When you get saved and you start to move in the right direction, believe me the opposition is going to come. The third thing we saw is that there are two ways that the wicked will attack us. The verse talks about the oppression versus compassing us about (Psalms 17:9). Two fundamental different aspects of the attack. The oppression will be the internal attack. That will be against your mind, attitude of heart, and your spirit to weaken you. Then once he gets you weakened, then it will be the compassing us about. That is where the onslaught of the attack will come from the outside. That is how he will attack us in a two-pronged aspect. When you understand this you can better be on the lookout for those things.

I gave you the example in 2 Kings 6. **For every issue we face in life you are going to find a story, a principle, somewhere in the Bible that is going to illustrate that very issue.** The idea of being compassed about, being oppressed, and the aspect of being attacked, there is no greater place to see that than in 2 Kings 6. This is Elisha and the young man being surrounded by the enemy which is the devil and his crowd. The young man (which is a picture of most Christians) sees they are surrounded. When he sees the opposition and oppression and the compassed about, he does what so many of God's people do. He loses faith and begins to be fearful. Elisha makes one of the greatest statements anywhere in the Bible. Because God opened up their eyes and they began to see that the reality of the situation was very different than the way it looked in life. For a Christian you better remember that in every aspect you have to face. However dark it looks, or how bad it looks, I promised you that God has got something for you, and He will open your eyes and show you what Elish says here, which is great! He says,

*And he answered, Fear not: for they that [be] with us [are] more than they that [be] with them.*

That is so true! God always has your back. God always will take you and bring you through whatever you are going through. From this great lesson we learn a great truth. When you talk about leadership, leadership is learning to lead in the good times and in the bad times.

Many people can only lead in the good times. Many people don't see that leadership is the key whether everything is good or bad. You must be able to see past what the wicked is trying to do to be able to see what God is doing and then you lead through that.

On Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup> we will have our Patterns Class. This church has gone up a couple of different levels. We did that because God reached down in your hearts and stirred you heart, mind, and spirit about what God wanted to do. As this church moves up the different levels, the leadership needs to move up to different levels. I look at most of you as the potential to be leaders and many of you are already. There is a fallacy out there that not everybody can be a leader. I don't agree with that. I know that there are different levels in the Christian life, and I am telling you this. On whatever level you are at you can be a leader. Leadership will start in your own family. Leadership will start in your own relationships. You many never get to the point where you lead a team, or as a pastor of a church, or missionary. But everybody needs to be a leader on whatever level you are. So, this Saturday at Patterns Class I am going to take this next class and deal with the patterns of real biblical leadership. I want you to see and understand that if you are going to be a leader and God is going to use you in all that He has given you. You also need to understand how that applies for both for men and women. That is what we will tackle next Saturday. One that you don't want to miss because if you want to go to that next level and to be used of God, it is going to require you understanding what it takes to be a leader.

Then the last time we were together in Psalms we looked at **two great principles found in Psalms 17:8**. The **first one** was the apple of God's eye. I ran you back to Proverbs 7:2 and I showed you how apples are a type of the word of God.

*Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye. Proverbs 7:2*

It deals with the word of God being the central thing that we are focused on with our eyes. It forms for us the filter by which everything we see in life looking at everything through the word of God and filtering out the things that we should not be looking at. The **second one** was, hide me under the shadow of thy wing. Doctrinally God as a mother eagle hovering over Israel and protecting her. I ran you back to Deuteronomy 32 and some other places. Doctrinally that is to Israel in the tribulation period. Inspirationally it is God doing the same thing for us.

I also laid out for you Isaiah 40:31 that shows us that in addition of us being under the shadow of His wing and the word of God, being the apple of the eye.

*But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew [their] strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; [and] they shall walk, and not faint. Isaiah 40:31*

Because we have the Bible, the complete word of God that gives us everything that we need, we too can have that eye of an eagle. We can see things long before they get to us. I gave you four or five different characteristics of eagles and their incredible ability to see and fly. I tied it back to **eagle-eye Christians**. A higher plane of life. A place where we need to get to in our lives so that we too can see above all the circumstances in life. Where we can see long distances away of what is out there.

## II. Psalms 17:10-15

10. *They are inclosed in their own fat: (These are the ones that he talked about in the above verses that are after you) with their mouth they speak proudly.*

11. *They have now compassed us in our steps: they have set their eyes bowing down to the earth;*

12. *Like as a lion [that] is greedy of his prey, and as it were a young lion lurking in secret places.*

13. *Arise, O LORD, disappoint him, cast him down: deliver my soul from the wicked, [which is] thy sword:*

14. *From men [which are] thy hand, O LORD, from men of the world, [which have] their portion in [this] life, and whose belly thou fillest with thy hid [treasure]: they are full of children, and leave the rest of their [substance] to their babes.*

15. *As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.*

One of things that stands out is the fact that our enemy will never quit. There will never be a time that your adversary the devil is not seeking to devour you. The mindset that has been taught that after you get saved all your problems are over. What a farce that is! Obviously as far as your eternal destiny your problems are over. But the moment you get saved and start to trust the Lord and do what God wants you to do, the adversary is going to come after you. I can tell you this, once you start down that road there will never be a day in your life that opposition doesn't come. It is just that simple! It will come from all different corners of your life.

A.) **Verse 10:** They are inclosed in their own fat: with their mouth they speak proudly.

❖ *They are inclosed in their own fat....*

Verse 10 says, *They are inclosed in their own fat.* Fat in the Bible will always represent the gluttony of the world. Being filled with the fatness of everything the world has to offer. Made fat with the things of the world. Again, everything the Bible says is a principle, there will be a place in the Bible where you can see that example play out. In this case where it says they are inclosed in their own fat; you will want to go to Judges 3. This will be the principle that lays out the gluttony and the fatness of the world that men and women encase themselves in. This is not in a physical sense. This is in everything they bring into their lives.

The story is about Ehud and Eglon. Eglon has Israel captive for 18 years. The book of Judges is a series of Israel going through the captivities of all the different nations because they didn't do what is right. After they are in captivity for a period of time, then God hears their cry, and he raises up a deliver and he delivers them out of the hand of the guy that kept them captive. In this case you have Eglon who has Israel captive, and God raises up a man named Ehud. He is one of the judges in Israel. It says that Eglon was a very fat man physically (Judges 3:17). God raised

up a deliver Ehud who makes an arrangement to go see Eglon and the Bible says that he takes a dagger with him. We know that the dagger is a type of the word of God. He goes in to see him and says he has a message for him. But he needs to whisper it in his ear. So Eglon says come on up here. So, Ehud goes up and when he gets close to Eglon he takes that dagger and stabs him in the belly. The Bible says that when he does, the dirt comes out. The belly is a picture of your bowels or a picture of the seed of your emotions. All this actually happened historically, but you got to see the principles of the word of God. The dagger is a type of the word of God. He is a fat man; his belly is the fat part of him. When Ehud stabs him in the stomach, in the belly, the dirt comes out. Now that is a picture of a couple of things. This is where we are beginning to see the principle that I gave you in Isaiah 55:11 that the word of God does not return void. He sticks him in the belly which is the seat of his emotions, and the dirt comes out. Which is a picture of when you use the word of God, and you stick somebody with it, you are going to see what comes out of them. That is what the word of God does. It produces what is on the inside.

Then it says that when he stuck him with the dagger the fat (kind of gross here) closed around the dagger up to the crossbar so that he couldn't pull it out. That is a picture of once you stick somebody with the word of God, you can't take it back. The word of God never returns void it always accomplishes its purpose. Paul talks about this over in Acts 9:5 when he got saved. He says the thing that brought him to the Lord was the stabs of conviction.

*And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: [it is] hard for thee to kick against the pricks. Act 9:5*

God used the word of God to stick him. When you take the word of God and stick somebody with it you can't take it out. You can't take back what you said with the word of God because now God's Holy Spirit takes over. The fat of the world closes around that dagger, the word of God, and the dirt comes out. It's an incredible picture!

#### ❖ *With their mouth they speak proudly*

This tells us fundamentally what the world's problem is and it's a problem with a lot of God's people too. But let's talk about the world for a moment. It is pride! In Proverbs 6:16 there are six things that God hates and seven is an abomination. You know what the first one is? It's pride! **You know what the biggest problem a man or woman will have that will keep them from getting saved? It's pride! You know what the biggest problem a Christian has of doing what is right, making things right, and doing what they should do? It's pride!** Pride is the number one problem that you are going to have. That is the number one problem that you find all the way back in Genesis 1:1. The Bible says that the devil is king over the children of pride (Job 41:34). So, we see that the worldly man is going to be fat with the world. He is going to have all the possessions that make him fat as far as the world is concerned, and with all he has, he is prideful in it.

**B.) Verse 11:** They have now compassed us in our steps: they have set their eyes bowing down to the earth;

The word “bowing” means to be very strong or very powerful. The last time we were in Psalms we saw that the wicked just compassed us about and tried to oppress us. Now we see that he is hot on our trail. Bowing means that he is tracking you down. He is looking down defiantly, powerfully watching the trail to track you down.

Doctrinally this will be the antichrist going after the Jew in the tribulation period. We know that from Matthew 24, 25, and Revelation 12 that he goes after the nation of Israel. They flee to Sela (Petra) and then he finds them there. Then Revelation 12 tells us that they run into the wilderness. But that is a picture of the antichrist actually hunting them down. Tracking them down and their steps.

**C.) Verse 12:** Like as a lion [that] is greedy of his prey, and as it were a young lion lurking in secret places.

Doctrinally speaking the antichrist hates the nation of Israel and he is greedy to destroy them. He has tried throughout history with every nation that he ran. With every nation that he had control over. His primary goal no matter what history says or what books you read, is to wipe out and destroy the nation of Israel. The tribulation comes and he has in his mind the opportunity to be able to do that. So now he bows his head down to the earth and he is hot on their trail. He is greedy for his prey. Notice the Bible says the young lions lurking in secret places. This doctrinally will be the antichrist and his men going after the Jew in the tribulation period. We know that in the Bible you have the devil and then you have devils which are unclean spirits. So, the lion will be the devil, and the young lions will always be the unclean spirits. Inspirationally this is 1 Peter 5:8.

*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

This is the devil and his crowd surrounding you. Setting up ambushes to stop you from the secret places. The lion and the young lions. The devil and his people that he will use to try to stop you from what God wants you to do. We know that the Bible says that this world is in darkness. This is why unsaved men and women, even a lot of God’s people who never do anything with the word of God, stumble through life and make mistakes. I have dealt with a lot of people; Christian people whose lives are an absolute disaster. They have made one bad choice after another. They have gotten into one bad problem after the other. One bad choice, one bad decision after another that compounds itself. By the time you get to your 30’s or sometimes even in your late 20’s it is a mega load!

The reason for that is you have stumbled through the darkness of life without any light. You have tried to forge your way through life on your terms. You may be saved, but you never really got

into the word of God. You may be saved, but you never really got into the Bible where it made any difference in your life.

I deal with a lot of people where they come in and they have a lot of personal issues. The first thing I do is to put one of you guys with them. That is my first goal, and I use you guys for this. We are a team in this. Sometimes in little groups, sometimes one on one. But to put them in a support group where you guys can help them. Most of them do not have any support group other than the world. They have never had anybody in their life that is going to really get into their world and help them. I have seen that in most cases that is what makes all the difference in the world.

I had a guy say to me one time that really had some problems in his life. But he turned it around and did really well. He came in to see me and we talked about it, and I told him what I wanted to do. I told him how I wanted to put people into his life that would really be there to be a support team. I do that with women just like I do with the guys. He said to me, Bob I have tried to do this four or five times in my life but I always fail. That is exactly what I needed him to tell me. Because my answer to that was let me tell you why you failed. In those four or five times you failed because you tried to do it yourself. The difference this time is I am going to put two or three people in your life that are going to hold you accountable. They are going to help you and give you what you need and will lift you up, so you don't fall this time. It will change the difference on whether a person makes it or doesn't make it.

Having said that, there comes a time if you have issues in your life that you want to get through. At the end of the day, if you personally do not make an effort to get into the word of God and build your relationship with Christ one on one. All the people in the world that I put in your life are not going to help you. You are going to find there are a lot of people out there that want other people to do it all for them. That may work at work if you can sham your way through that other people do your work. It may work in the office when you can get other ladies to do all the typing for you. But it will never work in a real relationship with God. You have to be central in your relationship with the Lord that you are going to build that relationship no matter who is in your life to help you. The people I put in your world are there to support you, but they cannot do it for you. You must take the initiative to turn on the light in the darkness. Because in that darkness the devil and the young lions have set up some ambushes for you. You walk through life in the darkness, and he has buried landmines, booby traps, trip wires, pitfalls, snares, all within the world of darkness. So, as you stumble through life without the light of the word of God, he is going to nail you! The lion and the young lions. The devil and his folks will stop you!

Allow me to give you a good solid tactic to combat this attack. Going back for a moment stepping out of Christianity and look at the military in warfare. A good, trained soldier, someone that is a combat leader. With the experience that they have, they will spot the places that are most likely for you to be ambushed. Because he knows what to look for. He has combat experience in dealing in warfare. During the Vietnam War the Vietnamese, the Viet Kong would set for days along a trail waiting for American patrols to come along so they could ambush them. They put every booby trap that you could think of along that trail and camouflage it perfectly. A combat leader would be a point man, and he would go out ahead of everybody else. He was expendable.

He was going to run into an ambush before anybody else. As time went on and these guys gained the initiative, they understood what to look for. Many of them would walk through with the safety off on their M16's and their finger on the trigger. Most of them in time began to see and understand what an ambush looked like. They came to the place where they realized that if you are on patrol, you stay off the main trails. The enemy is famous for booby traps on the main trail. So they never really walked into an ambush because they knew what to look for, The practical application is for any Christian soldier when you take your stand, you are in a warfare, (Ephesians 6) and you are an eagle eye Christian. You will never get caught in the ambush of the young lions from the secret places. Why? Because you too know what to look for. This is why Paul says about a young man going into the ministry not to be a novice (1 Timothy 3:6). You have got to have some experience.

One of the vital things that this church does for you, long before God ever takes you to your final destination, to get you ready to that point is **experience**. Any soldier of the Lord needs to realize that he never needs to get caught in an ambush. He knows the trails and what to look for. His experience carries him through. He has got the eye of an eagle. He sees far off and understands Job 41:12 that says God told us when it comes to the devil that he will not conceal his parts, his power nor his comely proportion. Every one of those three is a potential ambush for you.

*I will not conceal his parts, nor his power, nor his comely proportion. Job 41:12*

You need to understand it; you need to know his tactics and exactly how he is going to attack. But if you don't get into the word of God yourself, you just walked into an ambush which is almost not survivable. A great example of this in the Bible is Judges 16 with Samson. What is the greatest keynote about Samson based on my message today? I will tell you. Samson was a man who walked into every ambush the devil set for him. He never figured it out. He was so caught up in himself and what he wanted to do that he walked through life (which is darkness) stepping on every landmine. This is why God gave you the Bible. It is the light that shineth in a dark place (2 Peter 1:19). When you get into the Bible it illuminates the trail you are on. It tells you don't step here, don't step there. Go this way, watch out for this or that. It is the light that God gave you in a dark world that the world cannot comprehend. But it is everything you need. Because the devil is going to try to stop you. He is never going to give up. **If you make a commitment that you are going to do something for God, the devil is going to be tracking you down.**

D.) **Verse 13:** Arise, O LORD, disappoint him, cast him down: deliver my soul from the wicked, [which is] thy sword:

❖ *Arise O Lord....*

They cried, "*Arise O Lord*". Without a doubt you can see this is a tribulation passage of the Jews being hunted and slaughtered by the lion and young lions. The Jews being chased by the antichrist and his crowd. They are being tracked down by the people that are with the antichrist as they try to escape. You will see this in Matthew 24, 25 and Revelation 12. In the midst of



their trial they cry, “*Arise, O Lord*”, a cry doctrinally for Christ’s return, the second coming of Christ.

❖ *Disappoint him, cast him down, deliver my soul from the wicked which is thy sword*

Disappoint him O Lord, cast him down. Doctrinally these are prayers of tribulation saints as they go through the tribulation. Then he says, “*Deliver my soul from the wicked which is thy sword*”. You need to understand this. The wicked here is the nations that God is using. This is not a place where you find the sword as a type of the word of God like in Revelation 19. No, the sword here is God using the antichrist and his literal sword to punish the nation of Israel in the tribulation period for them rejecting Christ and crucifying him. This is not the sword of the Spirit. This is not Revelation 19. This is a literal sword that the antichrist and his armies are using to kill the nation of Israel. They cry out now arise O Lord, come back and deliver us from your judgment of this sword.

Inspirationally, there will be a time in your life when everybody and everything seems to be against you. Most of you have had a pretty sheltered Christianity up to this point. I am glad for that. I don’t believe that God would ever thrust you into the middle of something before you were ready. Many times, we thrust ourselves into it before we are ready. There will be a time in your Christian life that when you take your stand, it will seem (just like it did with Elisha and the young man) like you are surrounded, and everybody is after you and against you. You will come to the place in your life, just like the nation of Israel that you too will cry arise O God to deliver me from the attack of the wicked. Just like the nation of Israel, God through Jesus Christ and His principles and promises, will deliver you. **In life the sword of the devil will never be more powerful than the sword of the Lord. When we talk about confidence in God, confidence in His word. That confidence will always be based on your years of serving God and the hot spots that God got you through. A time just like Israel when you thought everybody was against you and there was no way out, God came through for you.** You know what that does after 30, 40, 50 years in the ministry of serving God and being in the battle? You know what that does when every time you get faced with it and God comes through for you? **Do you know what that builds in your life? Confidence!**

A leader, whatever level you are on, becomes a better leader as time goes on. Just like the guy in combat in the military. Most of you are good leaders on the level you are at. But we can’t stay there. Just like this church couldn’t stay where we were, God racked us up a couple of levels. We have to meet that, and the men and woman of this church need to rise up because of where God wants to take this church.

E.) **Verse 14:** From men [which are] thy hand, O LORD, from men of the world, [which have] their portion in [this] life, and whose belly thou fillest with thy hid [treasure]: they are full of children, and leave the rest of their [substance] to their babes.



❖ *From men which are thy hand....*

There are a couple of things here we need to see inspirationally as it applies to us and what he is saying. He says, *from men which are thy hand*. These are nations that are in God's hands. This is God using nations to chastise the nation of Israel. God down through history has used these nations in his hand to chastise and to whip the nation of Israel. But if you study history, you will see that God uses them temporarily and then He destroys them. God used Babylon to destroy the nation of Israel and take them into captivity. Then He used Persia to destroy Babylon. Then He used Greece to destroy Persia. Then He used Rome to destroy Greece and to destroy the world and set up the world for the antichrist. At the second coming of Christ He will destroy Rome, Revelation 17 and 18 and establish His kingdom. You see how history works? That is why he is saying that these men which are thy hand. God uses nations to chastise his people, the nation of Israel. In the New Testament God will use nations to chastise the nations who have the word of God and then rejected it. We don't have time to get into that this morning.

➤ God is Using America to set up the Antichrist's Kingdom, then Destroy America

Let me just say this to you. Don't get fooled or kid yourself and get caught up in all this talk about the coming golden age. I will tell you right now it is fool's gold. This very minute God is using America to set up the antichrist's kingdom and then He is going to destroy America. This is why Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 5:1:

*"But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you."*

But God's people can't figure it out. I am not sure when this is going to be. I have to be careful with this. There is going to be a time, probably sometime this year when I will call a special meeting of this church. This meeting will not be on YouTube or listed in the files of our things that anybody else can ever listen to. This will be simply a time when I bring you together and I lay out for you the patterns that are clearly laid out in the Bible for where the United States of America is going. It is so clear. It stands to the fact that the only thing that men learn from history is they never learn anything from history.

The patterns of this country and where it is going and how God is going to use this country to set up the antichrist and then wind up destroying this country. Something has to happen first, and I will take you back to the Old Testament and bring you through the New Testament and show you the patterns. This isn't a conspiracy theory. What I believe and teach is solely based on the patterns found in the word of God and brother, the fact that you don't know it, that is your problem not mine. I don't know what you have been doing with the word of God for the last 20,30,40 years. But the times of the seasons brethren I have no need to write unto you. You are seeing displayed out before you on every stage of this country where this thing is going.

F.) **Verse 14-15:** From men [which are] thy hand, O LORD, from men of the world, [which have] their portion in [this] life, and whose belly thou fillest with thy hid [treasure]: they are full of children, and leave the rest of their [substance] to their babes. 15. As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.

❖ *From men of the world, which have their portion in this life*

He closes out the Psalms with a comparison between a man of the world and the man of God. This is very important that you see this. This is how he ends this Psalm. The things that characterize the man of the world are all found in verse 14. The first thing he says is that they have their portion in life. The portion will be all the material possessions that they amass in their lives. The things they foolishly think are of value. They invest in all the wrong things and never invest in the real things. They never find the true riches. They only see the value of their possessions as the real substance or the portion in this life.

❖ *Whose belly thou fillest with thy hid treasure*

Then he says, “*whose belly thou fillest with thy hid treasure*”. There was a time in America that the founding fathers, (some were born again and some were not) where God used them to lay the foundation for the greatest nation that the world has ever seen outside the nation of Israel. Those unsaved men even though they did not believe in God, they believed that the Bible was the word of God. They had a reverence of God, even though they rejected God as their personal savior. When they wrote the first draft of the Declaration of Independence, they only had one reference of God. When Thomas Jefferson looked at it, he sent it back (now he is an unsaved man) and he said we can never build a country without our recognizing all that God has done for us. So, they added four more references to God in it. He was an unsaved man. Yet back then unsaved men and woman understood the value of what God had given them and had done for them. Even though they were lost. That is gone today.

The people that this verse is talking about, the fat people with all the possessions whose portion in this life is to have everything. They don't see that everything that they had actually has come to them by God through grace and faith. Even though they do not believe in Him. Everything they have comes from God. The great example of this is out in California. Now I feel terrible for those people out in California. This is not a criticism; this is an observation. But in California we have got how many millions and millions of acres and thousands of homes that burned to the ground. I am sure that there are some saved people out there that lost their homes. But the majority of them lost their big two or three million-dollar homes. Their cars burned, their boats burned, the family pictures burned. They lost everything. All they had was what they had on their backs and what they could put in their cars. Yet those people before that fire thought they had everything. Their portion in life, they thought, made them happy. All it takes is the breath of God to wipe it all out in two weeks' time to show you how valueless it all really is. If you are a

Christian and you lose your home in a fire you may lose your house, but you never lose God who is going to sustain you and get you through it and take care of you. They don't have that. There is no thankfulness in their lives. They don't look at what they have (even if they are lost) as God provided this for them. Because God could have just wiped it out and killed them and given them nothing. But he didn't and they don't see what they have as the hidden things from God. They don't recognize that and therefore they never thank God for them. Taking the things of God and thinking that you got these things because you are so smart or so good at what you do. In a moment God can take it all away

❖ *They are full of children...*

Look at verse 14 again, *They are full of children*. Now we come to one of the most tragic aspects of life on planet Earth today. The tragedy of the family. When you go back to Genesis 28:14 when God is talking to Abraham. He made a statement that most people never see or get. He said talking to Abraham, in thee shall all the **families** of the earth be blessed. In the Old Testament with the nation of Israel this is why they had such strict rules with the family. In the Old Testament if you had a boy or girl who was rebellious, that wouldn't submit themselves to mom and dad. First, they would bring you before the elders and the elders would try to deal with you. You would tell them to go take a long walk off a short pier. Then they took you out and they dug a hole, and they put you in the hole and all the elders stoned you to death. That sounds like a terrible thing, and it is.

But God knew that the key to Israel reaching the world was families. God knew that if you allow rebellion in the family to catch on that it would destroy. You know how Israel got destroyed? Solomon's son who was rebellious, split the kingdom and the rest is history. In the New Testament God's ultimate plan for reaching the world was families. Families ministering together. Moms and dads producing in their kids and their kids into their kids, generation after generation of children who carried on the initial ministry that mom and dad delivered to them. This is what the Bible means when it says the children are a heritage of the Lord in Psalms 127:3

*Lo, children [are] an heritage of the LORD: [and] the fruit of the womb [is his] reward.*

They are not your heritage. Children should be father to son and mother to daughter. Generation after generation. The family of God number one aspect to reaching the world. The attack today is on the family. The devil wants to get you out of the word of God so you will never be to your kids what they need to be in the word of God, and he will stop that generation.

A lot of you have come into this church unsaved and your family was unsaved. Your family cared nothing about the things of God. Many of your family thought you were very foolish to get saved and start going to church. If you look back on your family, you simply see one disaster after another. Some families have been so dysfunctional. But the thing I love about so many of you is that when you came here you got the word of God. You decided to break that chain, and you decided that you are going to start a new life with your family and break the chain of the old stigma. From that point on in your decision in life you began to build your family. I have watched you. But the tragedy in America and also in Christianity, are the destroyed families.

He says here in our text, but this man and his children, they simply follow the three basic animalistic functions of man, unsaved man. Self-preservation, self-propagation and self-gratification. There is nothing in it about God and yet God's people do the same thing with their children.

❖ *Leave the rest of their [substance] to their babes*

Then it says and “*leave their substance to their babes*”. They live their lives to the fullest. They make money. They fulfill every desire; they build their houses. Many become famous and powerful and rich. They take jobs of great responsibility. Yet some of them are poor and live in trailer parks and don't have two nickels to rub together. They have families and they raise their kids. Some of them send their kids to college. Some of them buy them clothes, cars and give them all the things of the world. But if you read down through verse 14 there is not one mention of God anywhere. When they die, they will leave all their physical worldly substance to their kids to carry on. The mom and dad die and go to hell and lead their kids down the same path. You are either going to have a heritage to the Lord or a heritage to damnation. They give their kids great worldly substances but never provide any spiritual substance. They miss any eternal reward and face God's eternal judgment. This is the average 21<sup>st</sup> century American who does not have one goal or purpose in life other than himself and what he wants to get. Unfortunately, and I say it with a broken heart, many of God's people are the same way.

We see here where he begins the comparison and oh my, what a comparison. The worldly man versus the spiritual man. Today you will find many of God's people just love living like the worldly man and he too will be fat with the fatness of the things of this world. He will have all the things that the world could give but when it comes to spiritual things he is anorexic in his spiritual life. He too has no goals or purpose for God, only to make sure he gets all of life and is happy.

G.) **Verse 15:** As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.

Verse 15 is our alternative. What a great comparison! **The Godly man on the other hand is only interested in three things** and this is a great contrast to the worldly man. None of these things have anything to do with self-preservation, self-propagation or self-gratification.

❖ *As for me, I will behold thy face.....*

The first thing he says here is all he cares about is seeing God's face. I don't know if you know this or not, but 2 Corinthians 4:6 tells you where you can see God's face.

*For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to [give] the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

You seek God's face in the word of God that God has given you. This becomes the most important thing in the godly man's life. Finding God's face. When you find God's face and you

look on God's face, then God's face looks on you. He didn't care about big cars, big boats, big houses. I am not saying there is anything wrong with that if you got any of that stuff. But how about God's face. Have you seen it lately? Every time you get into the word of God you are looking into the face of Jesus Christ.

❖ *As for me I will behold thy face in righteousness*

The second thing. "*As for me I will behold thy face in righteousness.*" He wants a righteous life. He wants to do right in life. He lives his life the best he can by the word of God and its promises and its principles. He tries to conduct his affairs in life, his family, his children to be the investment of God through the word of God in their life.

When I deal with people, many times when I try to help them with the things that they really screwed up in their life. It is human nature I get it. They want to try and lessen the impact of their mistakes. We do what all human nature does, we look at other people. They will say to me, well you know I am not perfect. I am going to make mistakes. Did you ever notice in the Bible that God never asked you to be perfect. He never asked you to not make any mistakes. But you know what he said in 1 Peter 1:16, "*Be ye holy for I am holy*".

I don't care about how many mistakes you make or how many times you fall down. I will be there to help you up. The question **I ask you is do you try to live a holy life?** First off, that will cut the mistakes in half. **Do you seek God's righteousness?** Or when you get in a mess do you just say well you know everybody else does it. My mom did it, my dad did it. My family is all screwed up. Nobody's perfect, Bob. But I am not asking you to be perfect. Do you seek His righteousness? That is the only question there is. Don't tell me the mistakes you made, I don't care. You are looking at a guy who has made as many mistakes as anybody. **The question is, do you seek His face? Do you seek His righteousness?**

❖ *I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.*

The third thing is the spiritual man cares about is getting God's likeness. Getting a glorified body that comes to you and me in the day of Jesus Christ, the rapture. You got to be careful with what I am about to say because most of God's people are so shallow and anorexic when it comes to anything in the Bible. Something like this really messes them up and scares them. They don't understand it. Getting God's likeness! Do you realize right now as you sit here you are only half saved? Now that scares people who don't know anything about the Bible. You know what is saved about you? It's your soul. You realize you are encased in this flesh that you have, and it isn't saved?

In this verse the guy says he is going to seek God's face. He is going to seek God's righteousness, and he won't be satisfied until he awakes with God's likeness. You know what that is telling me? We are here to serve God, and we are here to do what God's called us to do until God calls us out. But every day of my life I have to fight with this godless, perverted flesh that just tries to stop me and give me every fit that I don't need. The longer you serve God the more you recognize how rotten and worthless our flesh is. Instead of trying to pamper it, love it,

buy it nice things, all the things we like to do, the more you realize how rotten it is. You realize how much you want to go home to be with the Lord.

Romans 8 has two great adoptions that most of God's people have no idea about. The day you got saved you were adopted spiritually. But then Paul says there is another adoption coming and that is the adoption of your body. You are only half saved. Your soul has been saved, but your body hasn't been redeemed yet. It has but you still got this one.

***Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. 1John 3:2***

The more you seek His face and the more you want His righteousness, the more you realize how unworthy we are and what this flesh is. You are just like this guy right here. You can't wait to go home to be with the Lord. Now I like life, I do! Don't paint me as somebody who just got a death wish. I like life. I enjoy life, I enjoy people. I enjoy doing things with you guys. But I am not kidding you, nothing is going to hold me back the day the Lord says come up hither. As much as I love all of you, this old life is a veil of tears. You put loved ones in the ground, and you weep over them and grieve. You have to say goodbye to this person or that person. You try to help people, and you lose them. Some of you know that the older we get the more the old soldiers pass off. Someday you are going to plant me if Jesus doesn't come.

You have to be the spiritual man by focusing on the three things. **You have to focus on finding His face now, seeking His righteousness now, but you can't wait to get that glorified body.** Right now, you got the image. That is why he didn't say image in that passage. He said likeness. **The day you got saved you got the image. We are waiting for the likeness. That will be the day!!!** Each day of our life we should look toward **that day** and try to be more like Christ every day of our lives. It is a slow process that most of God's people never really understand. Every day us building our lives toward **that day**. Each day he seeks God's face and for that righteousness and then longs for Christ's return. Ephesians 4:14-15 says

*That we [henceforth] be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, [and] cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, **may grow up into him** in all things, which is the head, [even] Christ:*

**That day** that He comes back, and you get His image. You are going to be Him! Every day we need to be growing a little closer to **that day** and growing a little more into Him. Growing up into Him. It doesn't happen because you come to church. It doesn't happen because you have the right Bible. It comes because you decide personally, I am going to seek His face. I am going to seek His righteousness. I am going to build my life so that every day I get closer to **that day** that He comes and pulls me out of this mess.

The main difference between the man of the world and the man of God in our comparison, will just be one word in verse 15. **SATISFIED!** For the worldly man satisfaction is always around the next corner and when he gets there it's gone. Your whole life is pursuit of something that you will never get. But for the godly man he lays his head on his pillow every night and he is

satisfied. All the fatness of the things of Earth cannot and will not ever bring satisfaction. Human nature is about getting all you can out of life because nothing in this life will bring real satisfaction. So you keep thinking if I get more, get bigger, get newer, that will satisfy me. It drives man to keep gathering all of his possessions or position of life in hope that some day he will be content. **But satisfaction in life can only come through a new birth that God gives man.** When he gets a new purpose, he gets a new passion, and he gets a new perspective. In 1 Timothy 6:6 it says,

*But godliness with contentment is great gain. 1 Timothy 6:6*

He says we bring nothing into this world, and we can take nothing out. There lies where there is no satisfaction in an unsaved man and in many Christians lives.

Doctrinally, Israel will get this new life in the millennium. Inspirationally we get it the day we get saved. You are a new creature in Christ Jesus the old things have passed away you have the ability to break whatever chains held you. Now you can seek God's face, seek God's righteousness and seek His image.