

I. Review

We have been following the simple basic building blocks of the Christian life. Putting your life together from the time you get saved up through your growth process. You will remember Paul is the apostle to the church. He is the apostle to the Gentiles, us. He wrote in 2 Corinthians 11 a number of things concerning his fear for them. But one was Paul's greatest fear was that our minds as New Testament Christians would be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 2 Corinthians 11:3

God has made everything in the word of God and the Christian life very simple. Man makes it complicated. Psalms 18 and many places in the Bible, as I hope you can see by now, shows us how simple the building process is. It always amazes me that people don't see and understand that someday as the Bible teaches in 1 Corinthians 3 and 2 Corinthians 5, that we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. If you are a believer (saved) we are going to give an account to God for the things that we have done in this body after we have trusted Christ as our own personal savior.

I never understood how somebody would think that God would make learning the Bible and having a relationship with Him so incredibly difficult. How would God require us to do something and give us the field manual (word of God) to do it and then make it so complicated that nobody could ever figure it out. Then judge us because we didn't do it. It is ridiculous! God gave us the Bible and it is the easiest book on the planet to learn. The difference is you can't learn it by your own intellect. The difference is your education doesn't help you. When it comes to the Bible the smarter you are the harder it will be to figure it out. God specializes in dumb people. Me being chief of them all. Getting to know Him and building your relationship with Him is simply one step at a time. This is what we do here. There are no Bible scholars here, we are all just students of the word of God even though we are on different levels of learning. We add key building blocks of the Bible to our lives as we grow.

➤ Many Christians only Want a Relationship with God on Their Terms

In dealing with people today, God's people, I have come to the conclusion early on that you will find people that only want a relationship with God on their terms. When you start dealing with people in the ministry, you will find many people that way. In spite of that, you will find God will always have his remnant of faithful men and woman who will seek Him and truly want a working relationship with Him. The job of any pastor and church today, will be to help you accomplish this. Taking you where you are at and trying to make you better. Taking you with the struggles you might be going through and help you get the victory over them and help you get to the place where you can have a meaningful, honest, relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Helping you also to see the lie that has been put out there by mainline Christianity that is

going to tell you how hard it is to have a relationship with God or how complicated it is to understand the Bible. That is just not true! It is actually very simple when you do it His way and not your way. All life for a child of God is going to come around to two things. It will either be His way or your way. James 1:23-24 likens the word of God to a looking glass. It says a man looks into the looking glass or mirror of the word of God and he sees his reflection of who he really is. That is a great analogy.

23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

We all have an opinion of how we look. But the reality of how we look is when we look into the mirror and see who we really are. The Bible says in James 1:23-24 there are men and women who look into the looking glass of the word of God and don't like what they see. The Bible says that he goes his way and forgetteth what manner of man he is. That is so true when dealing with people today. You will find people who want a relationship with God as long as it fits into their profile of what they want. Then you will find some people who will do anything, give anything to God that He asks and be everything that God wants them to be.

➤ Building Blocks of Psalms 18

The last time we were together we laid out another key Bible principle in our list of building blocks out of Psalms 18. As you know we have been coming through it step by step in the first couple of verses. So far, we have looked at:

- God as the Rock in our lives
- Building a fortress on that foundation of the Rock
- The deliverance of God, how God will deliver us

I showed you how God will always take care of us and deliver us out of the hand of the enemy. We see this in the life and relationship that David had with Him. David did not have a perfect life. But then again, neither do we. Thank God that God's hand of deliverance in our lives doesn't depend on us being perfect. It depends on us being to the point that we love God and want to do better every day of our lives.

❖ Understanding God's Deliverance

We looked at the great story in I Samuel 17-18 when David stood up and fought Goliath. We saw how that is a picture of how God delivers you and I just like he delivered David, when we have to face the giants of life. I showed you the long-term effect. We are conditioned to look at life in the short term. I talked about David long term was the fact that David was in the line of Christ. Had David not been delivered, there would have not been the Lord Jesus Christ to come to this earth. You can go back to the genealogies in Luke and Matthew, and you can see it run right back through David.

Then I talked about long term for you and for me. David historically was in the line of Christ, but you and I spiritually are in the line of Christ. Just as God had a plan for David with the nation of Israel, God has a plan for you and me. The giants of this life want to stop you just like they wanted to stop David. The key is understanding God's deliverance.

We talked about some notable things that I gave you to remember. We talked about God's deliverance tomorrow will be always based on Him delivering you yesterday. What he does for you in the future will be based on what he has done for you yesterday and even today. Most people can't see that.

I talked about that you must look behind and ahead. When you do that, you see what God has done for you to get you to that point. Then you have the confidence to know that He is going to deliver you and get you to where He wants you to go. That is the key to looking short term and long term, which is one of the great concepts in the Bible.

❖ A Warrior King & a Shepherd King

I showed you two aspects in the study of the man David. I showed you David as the warrior king. Where he was the warrior that wiped out all the enemies of Israel and then he was the king of Israel. I showed you how inspirationally you and I are in the spiritual battle of Ephesians 6. The warfare of the believer right now in the church militant. But you and I too someday will be a king. I also showed you David as the shepherd king, where he is tending the flock, and taking care of the sheep, but then he is also called to be a king. This is the other side of our spiritual relationship, that we should be a shepherd to somebody. Almost all of us here got to where we are because someone was a shepherd to us. Somebody disciplined you or worked with you. The idea of David as a warrior king and shepherd king shows you the two aspects of our Christian life. You ought to be a warrior for God now, and someday you are going to be a king with Him. Also, you should be a shepherd now, where you are taking care of God's people and someday you will be a king also.

I showed you that you have to learn through the process of growth to fight the lions and bears before you fight the Goliaths of life. The giants of life. When you start to get into the ministry with people, you will find there are plenty of lions and bears that you will have to deal with. You must get your own armor in time. You saw how David tried to put Saul's armor on and David was too little for Saul's armor. Saul was close to seven feet tall and two hundred pounds. I talked about that you have to develop your own spirituality. You can't live on somebody else's forever.

❖ Five Smooth Stones

The next thing that I showed you was David went down to the brook and he picked out five smooth stones. Those five stones were to fight the giant, Goliath, and his four brothers. I have a message about those five smooth stones and some of this will fit into what we are doing here today. When you go over to Daniel 2:44-45 you will find that Christ when he comes down and destroys the antichrist, he is called the smiting stone. Doctrinally the antichrist kingdom is represented by ten toes and the Rock of God, the smiting stone, crushes those ten toes. That is a

picture of the antichrist's kingdom being destroyed by the smiting stone which is the Lord Jesus Christ. Notice David picks up five. The number five in your Bible is the number of death. These five stones will represent for you and for me inspirationally the five key areas that we must have in our life to have the victory that David got over the giants in life. I want you to notice also that David didn't pick these stones out of the dirt, or a field, he went down to a brook of water. Picture of the word of God. We see that he picked up five smooth stones out of the water that doctrinally represents the smiting stone of Daniel. But it also represents five inspirational things in our life to have the victory over the giants in life.

- First Stone: He had the right confidence in God
- Second Stone: He had the right courage for God
- Third Stone: He had the right motive for God
- Fourth Stone: He had the right armor of God
- Fifth Stone: He had the right attitude from God

The Bible says that he put those five stones in a script (a little bag). Over in Haggai 1:6 life is likened to a bag that you put things in. It is a picture of an unsaved man, woman or Christian that is out of fellowship with God. He gets everything in life and throws it into his bag thinking he has got everything. But in Haggai 1:6 it is a bag with holes. When he gets to the end of life and thinks that he has everything he finds everything he put in fell out the holes in his bag.

Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages [to put it] into a bag with holes. Haggai 1:6

Your life and mine should be a bag without holes, you put those five smooth stones in it and they will give you the victory!

II. Psalms 18:1-2

1 I will love thee, O LORD, my strength.

*2 The LORD [is] my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; **my God**, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, [and] my high tower.*

As far as I am concerned, as a Christian in the times we are living in, this is one of the most important messages that I want to give to you today. Not because I am preaching it, but because of the content that is found in the word of God. Several years ago, we put out a book that was called **18 Steps Down that Destroyed America**. In this book I laid out the eighteen steps that have destroyed America. The message today is going to be the second part of this book, so to speak. The thing I want to talk about today is in verse two, he says the Lord is my rock, my fortress, my deliverer, and then he says, **my God**.

You might wonder why he puts God in this formula for building the Christian life. Who doesn't know about the concept of God? The concept of God is known throughout most of the world.

Whether a man accepts the concept or rejects it; it is an established truth and a known idea. A saved person here, you talk about God. If you are an unsaved person, you talk about God too. Just not in the same way. It is a thing where everyone in the world whether you use it for God's glory or as a cuss word, everybody understands the concept that there is a God.

You have heard me lay out in Psalms 18:1 that Christians can have a head knowledge of Christ but don't really have any idea of who He is. They only know the Christ of their imagination or their cult teaching that they have fabricated in their mind that is completely outside the scope of the word of God. Unfortunately, we find the same problem when it comes to God the father and who He is.

➤ 7 Characteristics of the Religious System in American Christianity

Turn over to Acts 17 where we see another great example of this. Here is where Paul goes to Athens, Greece. He has gone to the Gentiles. There are no Jews connected with this. What follows here is an incredible picture of what we have in American Christianity today.

16 Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry.

17 Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him.

18 Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection.

19 And they took him, and brought him unto Areopagus, saying, May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, [is]?

20 For thou bringest certain strange things to our ears: we would know therefore what these things mean.

21 (For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.)

22 Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, [Ye] men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.

*23 For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, **TO THE UNKNOWN GOD**. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.*

In this passage here the Holy Spirit of God has laid out for us seven characteristics of this religious system. These Gentiles in Athens are exactly what you find in American Christianity today. I want you to note the following.

- 1.) Verse 16 they are totally given to idolatry
- 2.) Verse 18 they are given to philosophy – Epicureans and the Stoicks.

You find those in the book of Ecclesiastes. Epicureanism is eat drink and be merry for tomorrow we die. Stoics comes from the Greek philosopher, Zeno. In Colossians 2 it talks about the church of Laodicea which is a New Testament church that has given over the word of God to philosophy. Just like we find here.

3.) Verse 18 they are ignorant of the word of God.

4.) Verse 21 they have some new thing that they are all wanting to hear.

In churches today you will find pastors no longer just stay with the Bible. They are always trying to invent some new idea that is going to (in their minds) revolutionize people's thinking about Christ. Let me tell you something. Jesus said if I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me. There is not a better program than that!

5.) Verse 22, they are superstitious.

Here is a church like what we have today in Christianity, that is all about emotions and feelings. There is no truth to it, no stabilization of God's people, they are just all over the page of life.

6.) Verse 23 they worship in ignorance

7.) Verse 23, they give their devotions to the unknown god.

I want to be crystal clear today, I am not talking about our country or any country turning from God. Getting some unknown god. I know it has, there is no question about that. But I am not focusing on that today. When I am done today, hopefully you will understand what the real problem in America is and that will go along with the eighteen steps that is destroying America. I am talking about New Testament Christianity losing every key concept of not only who Christ is, but who God is. In Christianity today, God's people, having their devotion to the unknown god.

III. Parallels Between Israel & America

Just bear with me. Don't tune me out just yet. The parallels of the nation of Israel, America and Christianity today are some of the most amazing things you will ever see. We were told in the book of 1 Corinthians 10:11 that the things that happen to Israel, (the problems that they had, good and bad), that those things that happened to Israel were for our ensamples and examples. For us in the church age on whom the end of the world is about to come.

Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

We have completely lost that. We have no idea what that verse means and how it applies.

The nation of Israel and America **both** had their specific religions. In Israel they had Judaism and America we have Christianity. The parallels of the nation of Israel and the nation of America are absolutely astounding based on 1 Corinthians 10. You will find that Israel and America are the only two nations in the history of the world that when they begin, they **both** start with the

word of God. When Israel and America started it was based on the foundation that we had the right word of God. In the book “Eighteen Steps Down that Destroyed America”. I listed some of them for you. You find that both have the right understanding of who God is in the beginning. Israel certainly does. When our country was formed and our constitution and declaration was written by our founding fathers, they had a complete understanding of who God was from the Bible. There was not some unknown god back then. This nation was built on the religious freedom from the Bible believers that came over from Europe who knew who God was. They knew what the right Bible was, and they knew who the enemies of Christianity were.

Both nations come out of conflict. Israel comes out of the conflict of Egypt (Exodus 12). America comes out of the conflict of Europe. The European nations were formed around a church state set up that persecuted anybody who wanted to believe the Bible like you, and I believe. When Israel came out of Egypt, they were set free. When the Pilgrims came over to America and opened a pathway, they came over with religious freedom in mind that they could teach the Bible to their family. That they could worship God without anybody knocking down their door in the middle of the night and putting them in prison or worse.

Both had the call of God to take God’s word to the world. They had no church state set up in America. It was freedom to take the word of God, and you can see as God developed the nation of Israel, he wanted them to take His word to the world. In the establishment of America that is what God had for this country.

You will find **both** the nation of Israel and the United States of America had a Civil War. Israel gets divided north and south. America is divided into north and south. The parallels are incredible! I don’t know how anybody misses it other than the fact they want to miss it.

Did you ever notice that you have two nations, Israel and America, and **both** have a priest class? In the Old Testament they had the Levitical priesthood. In the New Testament in America, you as a born-again believer are the priest class in Christianity.

In time they **both** reject God and His word. They **both** completely lose any concept of who God is and His word. **Both** go into total apostasy and in time into the captivity of the world. Israel goes into the captivity of the Gentile nations, 2 Chronicles 36. Don’t you ever kid yourself that the United States of America’s Christianity is not in captivity of this world. Years ago in churches on Sunday morning they would preach the Bible. They preached about hell and judgment. They preached about God’s holiness and all the things that God says He is in the word of God. They told you to be separate from the world. They gave you the verse to come out and be separate, saith the Lord and touch not the unclean thing (2 Corinthians 6:17).

Today, with Christianity being held captive by the world, we bring the world into our churches. Their music, their drinking, their lifestyles, everything. There is no difference when you look at the nation of Israel and God’s call to them, and you look at America and all that God did for her. They **both** end up with the same way, devotions to an unknown god.

God sends Israel prophets. You have in your Bible major prophets and minor prophets. Do you know why He sent them the prophets? Because Israel had forgotten who God was and He sent

the prophets to remind them. The prophets of the Old Testament to the nation of Israel in Judaism are mirror images of pastors today in Christianity, that God sends to us to preach to us about the true God to bring Christianity back in line. In **both** cases they failed. They hated the prophets and killed the prophets in the Old Testament. Today they hate anybody that takes a stand with the word of God and preaches the truth. Why? Because Israel and American Christianity are the same.

The Old Testament is filled with places that show you what happened to Israel, has happened to Christianity today in America with **both** priest classes. **Both** wind up with their devotions to the unknown god.

➤ For a Long Season, Israel & America has Been Without the True God

Let me show you, their issues. This is where we are going to start. This is the theme of my message.

- 1.) 2 Chronicles 15:3 He told them for a long season, Israel has been without the true God.

*Now for a long season Israel [hath been] **without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law.***

How did they lose the true God? He answers that. They got to the place where they lost the true God, they lost somebody preaching and telling them the truth. They lost the word of God, the law.

- 2.) Hosea 4:1-3 Once they got the wrong god, there was no truth, mercy or knowledge of God in the land.

*Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, **because [there is] no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.***

- 3.) 2 Timothy 3:5 Here he actually is talking to us as a church, but Israel too. He says we have a form of godliness, but we deny the power thereof. That is American Christianity today.

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

- 4.) Isaiah 29:13 I gave you this verse when we had our lesson about loving God.

*Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near [me] with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, **but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:***

This was Israel's problem, and this is American Christianity's problem.

- 5.) Isaiah 5:20 Evil is now called good and good is now called evil.

Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

This is what you see in Israel, and you see in America. Back through all of Christianity they preached the truth to stay right with God and knew what was sin. It is hard to find anything that is a sin today in America. Because everything is accepted within Christianity. I am not talking about the world! Anything that you can do now is accepted in Christianity.

- 6.) Hosea 8:12 He says the great things of God have become strange things.

I have written to him the great things of my law, [but] they were counted as a strange thing.

When you lose God and you get the unknown god and you lose His word, then the great things of God get lost in the process. Pretty soon when you hear something that is a great Bible truth like the millennial reign of Christ, or like the gap between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2. Or what happened between the devil and Eve in Genesis 3, or what kind of body did Adam and Eve have before they fell. You see if you were to lay those things out, they would look at you like you are crazy. You know why? Because the great things of the word of God today have become strange things to a people who now give their devotions to an unknown god. Who for a long season, has been without the true God.

- 7.) Isaiah 59:14 Truth is now fallen in the streets and yet that is where it should be preached.

And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.

- 8.) Amos 8:11 Says there is a famine in the land. Not of bread, but a famine of hearing of the word of God.

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:

This is Israel at the time of their captivity. They have been a long season without the true God and teaching priest. This is Christianity in America today in our captivity. We have had a long season without the true God and no teaching priest.

For me it is hard to fathom because everywhere you turn in America you see something related to God. But if you look at it closely, you will find it is not the true God. It is the unknown god. I haven't seen anything for over thirty years, and we get bombarded with it all the time when you go to your TV. I don't know if they are still on the air now, but for a while you had the 700 Club and the PTL Club. Both were charismatic. Both were a system by which you got the false god. You didn't get the true God. You go to Washington, D.C. and almost every building will have a Bible verse on it from the King James 1611 Authorized Version across the top. Do you know

why? Because when Washington was originally established, they believed the true God. Nobody even pays attention to them anymore.

On TV you have the Billy Graham Foundation that puts on thirty-second clips about being saved. But it isn't about the true God. You know what they say? They ask the question are you going to heaven or not? Where did they get that from? You know why? Because they don't want to offend you. It isn't a question of you going to heaven or not. The question is, are you going to heaven or you going to hell! That is the question! But you can't be popular that way. They want to appease the masses. Did you ever notice that Jesus never gave a flip whether you liked Him or not? I think it is thirteen or fourteen times in the gospels He talks about a man going to hell. Where in the world do we get the idea if we are going to talk about something like that and offer a man salvation that we would say are you going to heaven or not? You can say no I am not and walk away. If you say heaven or hell, it is a little harder to walk away.

God is all through this country. There is hardly anyone in this country that does not understand the concept of God. When you look at all of this stuff that is out there, and we are constantly bombarded with it, but it is not the true God. You will find thousands of churches in this city and across America this morning getting together to hear about God. America likes to look at itself as a Christian nation. Yet today everybody is a Christian. But it is all to the unknown god when you stop and see it for what it really is.

Back in the day Alcoholics Anonymous was built on the word of God. But somewhere along the line they too went to the unknown god. Today when you join Alcoholics Anonymous you give your strength to your "higher power" whatever that may be. But it is all to the unknown god. Christianity has lost any understanding of God, His holiness, His laws, His word and of His coming judgment. As Israel was told back in Deuteronomy 32, He says that their rock is not our Rock. It is one thing to have a nation without God. I get that. But now we see a Christianity without God. Just as Israel was told for a long season you have been without the true God and a teaching priest.

➤ New Testament Bible Christianity is NOT about Conservatism

I am not political in any shape or form. I don't think as a Bible believing Christian you can be into politics. I am not speaking for you, but I can't be a Democrat or a Republican. Because the moment I tell people I am a Republican, the Democrats don't want to hear my message from God. The moment I say that I shut the door to the other side. This world is not my home, I am not looking for a government that makes my life better. I am looking for a king to come to clean up the mess and set this thing up the way it is supposed to be. You will find that politicians play to Christians like the neo-evangelical crowd. They always want to align themselves with Christ, God and Christianity and give the impression that they are a really good Christian. These guys present themselves with a conservative lifestyle and Christians fall for it. Let me be clear. New Testament Bible Christianity is **not** about conservatism. It is about being biblically, doctrinally founded in the word of God. It isn't about conservative ideas.

We talk about religious tolerance. I want to tell you for a Christian, there is no religious tolerance. It's God's way or the highway. That is why people don't like it today. They want to all

get along. You can take a stand for good conservative things. But the things that really make a difference in the word of God you will stay away from. Do you know what the problem is between you and the Bible? Paul said it over in Acts 20:27 when he was confronted with it. He said I am going to preach unto you the whole council of God. Not just what I want you to hear.

I got to be honest with you. I have a total disdain for the ultra-liberal side of things that have literally destroyed this country. Trump claims to be a Christian and many Baptist and neo-evangelicals love what he is doing and take him at his word that he must be a Christian. He states that God saved him from a deadly head wound over there in Pennsylvania and protected him from being killed. I believe that too, maybe not for the same reason that you do.

IV. The Handwriting on the Wall for America

The book called the “*18 Steps Down that Destroyed America*”, the sequel to this book is going to be “*The Handwriting on the Wall for America*”. Back in Daniel 5 you had Belshazzar and those guys back in Babylon. They were eating and drinking and having religious services and having a great time. Then all of a sudden on the wall the finger of God wrote the handwriting on the wall about the destruction of their nation because they were following an unknown god. The title of the sequel of this book will be “*The Handwriting on the Wall for America*”.

In Daniel 2 you have the Gentile nations that come into being when the captivity of Israel goes into play. It starts with the Gentile nations that come down to Rome. Then Rome stays in power and at the end of Rome in chapter 2 you find the antichrist kingdom. Clearly showing you that when Rome comes in power around 100 BC, she stays in power and is in power today. She goes all the way and is going to form the ten toes of Daniel’s image. Then it stops there. But then in Daniel 7 you have three more nations that are listed under the auspice of beasts. Those three nations will fit into the three nations of the end time in the New Testament times which will be Russia, England and the United States of America. When you look at that and you see how it ends with America being in power, yes, the antichrist shows up again. This also matches up to Daniel 2. How can anybody miss that? I will tell you how. They miss it because your Bible scholars will tell you that these three here go back to the ones in Daniel 2 and people are so stupid that they don’t read it for themselves. When it tells you in chapter 7 that these three kingdoms are not yet and will come in the future. One little place will send you to hell like a bullet. The problem in American Christianity today with God’s people is we cannot read the handwriting that is on the wall for the destruction of this country and the coming Lord Jesus Christ and the establishment of His kingdom. That is the problem.

➤ To the Great Unknown God

Somebody sent me an interview that Trump did back in 2015 when he sat down with the Family Leadership Summit. It was one of the most eye-opening things that I ever saw that lays out exactly what I am talking about today. In the interview he is asked questions about his faith, and his Christianity. The interviewer asked him what the basis of his faith was. He states that the main focus of what he believes as a Christian came from his favorite pastor who died in 1993. He was his mentor. The interviewer asked him who that was and he said it was the great Norman

Vincent Peale. Norman Vincent Peale is the guy who wrote the book “The Power of Positive Thinking” in 1952. When I heard that I needed nothing more. That answered so many questions for me of why he is the way he is and who he is. Norman Vincent Peale had a radio program called “The Art of Living” and he believed that the world that we live in was not a spiritual world but was based on our mental capacity. In his book and other things that he wrote he is asked the question, who is God, where is God? He says he is energy; he is in everything. Every breath we take we take in God. He was on a talk show back in the 80’s and he told them that nobody ever needs to be born again.

Norman Vincent Peale was of the teaching and the thinking that you are your own God. He makes man the center of Christianity instead of making God the center of man in Christianity. He taught that you make yourself better by the power of your mind. Now you can see that this is where Trump is at. Trump said this is the religion that he follows as a Presbyterian. Presbyterian churches teach baptism for salvation. Norman Vincent Peale was the single greatest influence in his life and also in Trump’s dad’s life. He said it is what drives him to be a success in everything he does. By the way you want to get Ruckman’s book, “The Power of Negative Thinking”. He takes all the clothes off of Norman Vincent Peale and you see his skinny white legs as he runs away.

Trump says it is the power of my mind to think positive and this is what drives me in everything that I do. At one point in the interview, he asked Mr. Trump, have you ever asked God for forgiveness? Trump thought for a few moments, and he said, I really don’t have any reason to ask God for forgiveness. I don’t need forgiveness because in my mind I always try to be better when I do something that maybe wasn’t right. That is right out of Peale’s book. When he was asked about what his relationship with God consisted of, he said, basically three things. I pray, I go to church, and I take communion. He made a reference to the little wafer and the wine he drinks. He said God makes me as great as I am based on the power of my mind of positive thinking. There it is! **To the great unknown god!**

Today we think we can have a Christian life and be a Christian without God’s forgiveness. That is where it is at! I don’t have a problem with Trump. I am just telling you that in Christianity in America, America has been along season without the true God. If you can’t get that, you probably are not going to get anything.

Rush Limbaugh was a great conservative host. I liked listening to him, but I was never under any illusion that he was a Christian. Rush Limbaugh’s favorite phrase was, he was on loan to us from God. The only one I can ever think of that was on loan for us from God was the Lord Jesus Christ. But **to the great unknown god**, what is the point?

I watched on TV the commercial about Mammoth Nation. This guy comes on and he is a conservative looking guy and definitely for Trump and the conservative world. He gets on there and says we stand for God, family and country. Now you send this in, and we will send you a bottle of our redneck whiskey. **To the great unknown god!**

I was going through Amazon trying to find some cheap Bibles the other day and boom! There it was for \$1.99, I could get a Trump Whiskey glass. Obviously to drink my redneck whiskey **to**

the great unknown god. I know some of you don't like what I said. That's okay. I have come to the place now that if you don't want to do what is right then go do something else. I am not going to chase you or beg you to trust God and do what God wants you to do. If God saving you and giving you the Holy Spirit of God and you can't read the handwriting on the wall, that is your problem.

You got churches across this city today that are holding services that are preaching to their people out of the devil's bible and Christianity is okay with that. What is that? **To the great unknown god.**

I realize there are a lot of God's people out there today that want a relationship with God on their terms and that isn't ever going to happen. But there are some of you out there that want a relationship on His terms. You are the important ones.

You have the Catholic Church. The whole church is built on five sacraments. You can't find any of them in the Bible. **To the great unknown god!** You got Calvinist who like Catholicism is built on the five points of Calvin. Can't find them in the Bible anywhere. **To the great unknown god!** You have Jehovah Witnesses, Mormons, Seventh Day, Charismatics. Nowhere in the history of the world before 1830. **To the great unknown god!** Nobody cares. You know why? Because you can't read the handwriting on the wall. You are more concerned about your finances, and the price of eggs. This is where we are at today.

America does not need any president to make America great again. What America needs is a king. A king of righteousness, a king of peace, a king that is going to come back and establish a world of righteousness and He is coming! The idea of trying to make America great again when you don't even understand what made America great in the first place. It was the word of God that this country was founded on. Again, the parallels. Israel at the first coming of Christ believed in God, but they rejected and killed His son who was God Himself. Today in America at the second coming of Christ we too believe in God, but we reject the Book that you are clearly told, the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14). Everybody seems to have a problem with that.

V. How do you Not Get Caught up in this American System? Remember the Landmark

Here is the \$64,000 question. I wouldn't bring you this far without giving you the answer to this. Here is how you can discern and interpret the handwriting on the wall for America. This is the \$64,000 question. How do you keep it all straight and not get caught up in this American system? America is probably the greatest nation on the earth as far as the other nations are concerned. We have all the freedom and many of you men, myself included, have gone into the military and paid the price for that freedom. I understand that.

➤ Two Landmarks

Remember back in the book of Proverbs 22 and 23, **God tells us about two landmarks, and this is the answer.** In Proverbs 22:28 we are told "*Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy*

fathers have set.” Then in the next chapter Proverbs 23:10 where we are told “Remove not the old landmark; and enter not into the fields of the fatherless.” Both landmarks are singular. They are not plural. There is only one landmark. Number one, the ancient landmark will be the nation of Israel in the Old Testament. Number two, the old landmark will be the line of Christ out of Antioch up through history, New Testament Christianity. American Christianity today is exactly what it says here we are in the fields of the fatherless. We have no history, we have no roots, no discernment and we have no God.

❖ Israel’s Landmark - The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob

Have you ever seen how God used these two landmarks in Proverbs 22 and 23 to try to keep Israel on track? Here lies the answer to never losing the true God which Israel did. The answer to never lose the true God no less than 12 times in the Bible. When God wanted to keep them on track, he made a reference to that ancient landmark that he gave them. The anchor for the nation of Israel---He said to them at least 12 times, **I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.** That was the landmark that God established. The anchor point that He always brought Israel back to. Abraham was the father of the Jews. God gave him the covenant, Genesis 15. The covenant of circumcision in Genesis 17. God gave him the land grant in Genesis 17. God said that nations and kings are going to come from thee. God changed his name from high father to the father of many nations. He is the bed rock, the beginning of the nation of Israel that God always brought them back to.

Then he said the God of..... He didn’t say the God of Abraham, Isaac. He said the God of, the God of, the God of. The God of Isaac. The promised seed to Israel. Isaac starts the official line of Christ. Then he said the God of Jacob. Jacob brings us up to the 12 tribes of Israel. The history of Abraham and Isaac, the true line, you now have the nation of Israel and God changes Jacob’s name to Israel just so you couldn’t miss it. The thing that will keep them or would have kept them from the unknown god will be the roots with God that God gave them with a true line. What God did with Abraham, what God did with Isaac, and what God did with Jacob.

Watch this. The Muslims say well Abraham is our father, and they get off in this unknown god religion. You know why? They can make Abraham their father but when it comes to Isaac, he is not the promised seed to them, it is Ishmael. They hate Israel so they reject Jacob and the 12 tribes. So, you see how foolproof that is? All Israel had to do when they got confused or when they didn’t understand what happened was to read the handwriting on the wall. To go back to the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. That was all they needed! Israel’s true line through history based on the ancient landmark.

❖ Our Landmark – Paul, Act 11 Church of Antioch, Acts 20 Beginning of Church History

For you and me our landmark will be three things also, found in the book of Acts. First off it will be Paul, second will be Acts 11 with the church of Antioch, where they are first called Christians. Where our roots are! You will find in Acts 11 seven fundamental key issues that the

church can never lose. The third one is in Acts 20 with the church at Ephesus where Paul gives his farewell, and it begins church history proper as we know it. There you will find six fundamental truths that the church never can forget. You want to stay away as a New Testament Christian from the unknown god and not get caught up in all this junk that is going on today? Then stay with your roots. Israel was told to stay with the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. We are told to stay with Paul, with Acts 11, and Acts 20. You will never go wrong. You want to stay away from the unknown god? Then stay with your roots of the New Testament church and follow the line that stays with those roots throughout church history. Now you have two lines of churches and two lines of Bibles.

For you and for me the landmark is in three phases just like Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

- ❖ The first phase is 100 to 600 AD
 - Montanists, Novatians, Donatist, Manicheans
- ❖ Second phase 600-1500
 - the Paulicians, Waldensians, Huguenots, Hussites
- ❖ Third phase 1500-2025
 - Pedro Anabaptist, Anabaptist, Baptists, Old Paths Baptist church

We stay with the landmark. This is why I will never get into that stuff and don't get mad at me because I don't buy into your conservative stuff. I am glad about it! I am a Bible believer. I am sorry you are not. The day I got saved I am no longer a citizen of this old world. I am an ambassador. That is why I don't take sides. I don't have any racist bones in my body. You and I need to be able to go across any lines to tell somebody about the kingdom of God. In the book of Genesis 16-21 two lines developed, Ishmael and Isaac. In the New Testament in Acts 11, two lines developed, Antioch and Alexandria. In both cases when they lost the key landmark, they entered into the fields of the fatherless. Today, all across this country, this city, and this state, they have their **devotion to the great unknown god**.

Malachi the great prophet, (the last book in the Old Testament), said in Malachi 1:6-8

6 A son honoureth [his] father; and a servant his master: if then I [be] a father, where [is] mine honour? and if I [be] a master, where [is] my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?

*7 Ye offer **polluted bread** upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD [is] contemptible.*

8 And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, [is it] not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, [is it] not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.

When you have a corruptible and polluted system you have a polluted sacrifice, and this is where we are at today. There it is!

VI. Summary

When I was a kid around ten years old, I read this story in Life magazine. It was a story that captivated me even to this day. It was a story of a WWII B24 bomber called “The Lady Be Good”. It is 1943 and the flight of the B24 bombers take off from their base to bomb Naples. All the bombers returned except “The Lady Be Good”. They thought she was shot down. No trace was ever found of her. They wrote her off as missing and destroyed. In 1959 in the Libyan desert an oil exploration was looking for oil and came across a B24 that seemingly just landed in the middle of the desert. When they went inside the guns still fired, the radio still worked. It brought about one of the greatest mysteries out of WWII. They contacted the Air Force, and they sent out a team. About half a mile away they found parachute strips that were put in an arrow of which direction somebody was going. So, they started to follow it. About 30 miles farther they found a little camp with seven or eight skeleton remains.

They found a diary that told the story of what happened to “The Lady Be Good” and its nine-member crew. They were flying back, and it was nighttime. They overshot the base and instead they thought they were flying to the base when they were really flying into the Libyan desert. They thought they were over water because it was nighttime. When they were almost out of gas, they all bailed out of the plane. It cruised on autopilot till it ran out of gas and then it just took a nice gentle landing wheels up into the desert. There it was. If they could have got to that plane they could have got on the radio. They had food and everything, but they didn’t. They decided that they were going to try to walk out. That little camp was some 30-40 miles from where they came down in their parachutes. They couldn’t go any farther. Three men went farther. For months and months, they thought that is all they were going to find. But going out a little farther they found another body. They recovered that body and went on about their business. Another six or seven months later they found another body. They went on a canteen cup of water a day and no food. The farthest guy went 93 miles in the desert that is 130 degrees in the day and 20 degrees at night.

In the diary they talk about them praying and they are asking God to help them but help never comes. One of the men DB Hayes was a navigator. When the whole story came about of how these nine men in this B24 met their end, it all came down to the navigator who was to guide the plane back. You know what happened? He missed the landmark and when he missed the landmark, he set the wrong course, and it wound up costing them their lives. They never found the last guy because he got into the sand dunes, and they covered him up. But they all died because somebody missed a landmark!

➤ You Can’t Afford to Miss the Landmark

I am going to tell you right now my dear friend you cannot afford to miss the landmark. You will die spiritually and in time physically. You have got to be able to understand and discern the handwriting on the wall for America. We have a job to do in these last moments of this last time of these last days. God’s people today are just like they were back in Babylon right before the finger of God wrote to them. They were eating and drinking and having a great time. They were doing devotion to all the strange gods. They are just like American Christianity!

In that finger of God on that wall, they couldn't understand it. They couldn't interpret it. They had to get Daniel to come and tell them what it meant. Daniel is a type of the Holy Spirit of God. This is why God's people can't read the handwriting on the wall. You must have the Holy Spirit of God through the word of God interpret it for you. You know what the interpretation was? The end of your kingdom has come. You are done and God destroyed them. The handwriting is on the wall for America, and it is very clear to anybody who understands it. This message was not a castigation against anybody. But I have an obligation to tell you the truth. What you do with it is up to you. But you will never stand at the great white throne judgment (if you are unsaved) or at the judgment seat of Christ (if you are saved) and point your finger at me and say you never told me the whole council of God. Now you have it, *"18 Steps Down that Destroyed America"* and now added to that will be *"The Handwriting on the Wall for America"*.