

I. Review

One of the things I love about you folks in this church is how the Spirit of God always works in everything that we do. Our singers had no idea what I was going to preach on this morning, and I had no idea what they were going to sing (*He Could Have Called 10,000 Angels*). It just goes to show you how the Holy Spirit of God always orchestrates everything to bring about the full impact of the message that God has for us today.

➤ The Importance of Having Both the Thoughts and the Events to Understand the Whole Context of That Day

You will remember last week we laid out both aspects of the crucifixion of Christ. We have been dealing with the very thoughts of the Lord Jesus Christ. We started as we were coming through Psalms, and then Psalms 22 as you can see, has opened up one of the greatest studies throughout the Bible on the crucifixion of Christ. Last week we added to that putting together the events of His crucifixion that are found in the New Testament. I have told you how important it is to have both the thoughts and the events where you can understand the whole context of that day.

We did this through the one book in the New Testament that lays out Christ as God's servant, the Son of Man, and accounts for that week, which we call the Passion Week. That, as you know by now, is **the Gospel of Mark**, and I hope you got that in your Bible. **In this book, God lays out from chapter 11 to chapter 15 every aspect of the day that He paid my price.** As you go through those chapters, you get not only each day, but in many cases, it takes you through hour by hour each day at a time, and how the events of that week play out right up to His crucifixion, His death, His burial, and His resurrection.

I think for God's people, more than anybody else, of the importance of getting history correct. I told the people up in Boston when I was up there that when I taught about the history of the church and the Bible, **that the only true history book that you have that all history has to run through, not around, but all through, will be the Word of God.** There is a lot of corruption out there today, and there has been for many, many years. The Roman Catholic Church teaches that He was crucified on Friday, which we know now is not true. The Roman Catholic Church teaches that He is crucified inside the city of Jerusalem, which we also now know is not true.

➤ The Ripping of the Veil from Top to Bottom

Now you have the events of the crucifixion as we are going through, comparing the events and the thoughts of the Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary's cross. Then, if you remember, I talked about the ripping of the veil from top to bottom, which was found in Mark 15:38. **I showed you how that represented God coming from the throne of heaven at the top of the third heaven and coming down to the bottom to planet Earth to be the ransom for man's sin.** I showed you the history of what the veil signifies, dealing with the nation of Israel in the Old Testament tabernacle. In doing so, I laid out the Old Testament tabernacle and what it represented to Israel.

I think that it is historically very important to see the whole context of everything. I showed you the three compartments or the three sections that made up the Old Testament tabernacle.

You have the outer court where the sacrifice and the brazen altar were. You have the inner court, and that is where the priest did the daily work. Then, separated by the veil, was the Holy of Holies, and how the veil then separated the inner court from the Holy of Holies, where the Ark of the Covenant was. It represented, as you studied in the Old Testament, the Old Testament under the law, and how man was separated from God. The Bible tells us in Hebrews that the blood of bulls and goats could never pay for sin. It only temporarily covered it. **The Old Testament law was inadequate to make man complete.** It could not do for him what Christ's death on the cross has done for us. Once a year on the Day of Atonement, the only one who was allowed to go in that veil into the Holy of Holies was the high priest. Also, in the Holy of Holies was the Ark of God. You'll remember I gave you seven names for that, and I hope you have those in your Bible by now. **I showed you how the Ark was God's dwelling place with Israel. It was a type of God's throne and Christ sitting on that throne, which we call the mercy seat, where the blood was sprinkled on the Day of Atonement.**

- The Tabernacle Spiritually is a Picture of our New Testament Relationship with Christ

Then I showed you how the tabernacle was spiritually a picture of our New Testament relationship with Christ. They had the Feast of Tabernacles back in the Old Testament. That was representative of the concept of a tabernacle. They built little booths, and they dwelled in them for that feast. It was a picture of Christ tabernacling among us, coming down in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and tabernacling among men, and then dying on the cross and going back to heaven. That was the significance of the Feast of Tabernacles. I showed you how that from salvation in the outer court then to behind the veil is our intimate access to the throne of God today; the relationship that we could have.

I showed you how everything that God does, He does through a transition. When you look at your own Christian life, and you look at where you are with God and your growth process, you will find that also is a transition. In the Bible, you will find that there are seven stages of spiritual growth. You start out getting saved, and then you move through those spiritual stages, or you should, to get to the place where God really wants you to be.

I told you there were so many side studies, and I must pick and choose everything I want to say and maybe spread it out over the weeks. But today, there are a couple of other aspects that I did not get to last week as we move into this. I want to just take a few moments before we get into the aspect of our thoughts today.

II. The Significance of the Contents in the Ark of God

In the Ark of God, in the Holy of Holies, God had placed three things. **Those three things will represent the three major areas that God is interested in on planet Earth today.** They are

incredible. Most people, if they even know they are in there, have no idea of their significance. They will represent God's plan in three areas. Three in the Bible is the number of completion.

1. **The first thing you had was Aaron's rod.** Back in the Old Testament with Moses and Aaron, you have two different rods. Moses had a rod by which he smote the waters and turned them into blood. He went before Pharaoh with it. He brought all the plagues to Egypt. His rod was the rod of judgment. His rod was the one that he used to bring all the destruction to Egypt. But then there was Aaron's rod. You'll remember that Aaron was the priest. From Aaron and his family lineage comes the priesthood. Aaron's rod represents the priest class. When you go over to Jeremiah 1:11, you will find that Aaron's rod budded and it gave almond blossoms on it, which is a picture in the Bible of the priesthood.

This rod represents the New Testament priesthood that you and I are part of that came out of the Old Testament which is the order after Melchizedek and the new priesthood that was better (book of Hebrews) than Aaron's priesthood.

2. **The second thing you find there was a pot of manna.** I do not know how familiar you are with the Bible, but if you go back to Exodus 16, you will find that when the children of Israel were going through the wilderness and there was no water or no food to eat, the Bible calls this wilderness the wilderness of Sin. God brings water out of the rock, a type of Christ, 1 Corinthians 3. Then he also brings down the manna from heaven. The manna from heaven is a picture of God's supernatural food, the Word of God, that sustained them in their wilderness journey through the wilderness of Sin but also sustains you and me in this life as we go through the wilderness of Sin with the Word of God that God has given us.

It is one of the greatest studies in the Bible. I would suggest that if you really wanted to do an in-depth study on it, the best book I ever read on it was Arthur Pink's *Gleanings in Exodus*. Nowhere have I read anybody who laid out the devotional side better: how God rained the manna down and how God brought the manna right to where the people were. They did not have to go look for it in some monastery or some Vatican. God brought the manna, a type of the Word of God, right to where the people were. The Bible says that it came down every morning while the people slept in their tents. That is a beautiful picture because every morning they had to go out and gather enough for them and their families. When they pulled back that tent flap in the morning, they saw the manna cover the ground like snow. It brought about two decisions they had to make, but it brings about two decisions that God's people today have to make when they see the manna (type of the Word of God). They either gathered the manna for their daily substance, or they trampled it under their feet and just went on their way. It is one of the great pictures of the Word of God.

In Exodus 16:33, Moses was told to take a pot and fill it up with manna, and he put that manna then in the Ark of the Covenant. Where Aaron's rod is a picture of our New Testament priesthood, that you are a part of if you're saved here this morning, the manna represents your King James 1611 Authorized Version, the preserved Word of God, that God has preserved all down through history. If you look at Exodus 16:33, it says, Moses was told to

take a pot of manna and put it into the Ark to be kept for future generations. When God gave us the Word of God all the way back in 1611, God gave us our manna from heaven. God knew what we were going to have to go through. God knew what we were going to have to face. He brought that manna from heaven for the same reason: that you can have it for yourself, but it is also kept for your future generations.

3. **Then you are going to find the third thing that was in there was the Ten Commandments.** The Ten Commandments, as you are well aware of, are given to Moses in Exodus 20. Their being in the Ark will represent the nation of Israel with God. So, you have three things put in that Ark which is a type of Christ.

You have three things in that Ark that really represent everything that God is. These three things will represent the complete three key areas of the New Testament church and the Christian life, all found in the Ark, which is a type of Christ. You are going to find the New Testament priesthood of the believer. You are going to find the Word of God preserved in your King James 1611. You are going to find the Ten Commandments, God dealing with the nation of Israel—Romans 9, Romans 11. When you understand these three and I am not just talking about understanding what I am saying; but rather, when you can go in-depth into the priesthood that you are part of if you are saved this morning, when you can go in-depth and see and understand the importance of the Word of God in your life as a believer and a priest, and then you understand God dealing with the nation of Israel.

We are living in a world today where the whole world including America is about to turn their back on the nation of Israel. God's people are going to be the only ones left that take their stand for the nation of Israel. It is an incredible, incredible thing, and it all comes back to somebody not understanding the Ark, not understanding the tabernacle, and certainly not understanding why God put those three things in that Ark, which is a type of Christ. Because in Christ is everything that God cares about. I have told you this before in the book of Song of Solomon. **All God cares about is three things. He cares about you as the priest after the Order of Melchizedek. He cares about the Word of God that He has given you, your manna from heaven, and He cares about the nation of Israel,** and we are seeing everything around us moving toward God's restoring the nation of Israel.

III. Three Families of the Tabernacle

Along with that, when it comes to the tabernacle, you will find three families that the Bible tells us are responsible for everything concerning the tabernacle. When you look at that historically and you see their functions, and then you look at it from an inspirational application as it applies to me and you, they will represent the families in every church that will make the ministry a success. **I have not made it any secret that the ministry is about families ministering together.** We have had people come to our church whose kids could be the stand-in demons for Halloween, and nobody cared because they were little. The parents could make all kinds of excuses for them, but as they grew up, it was very clear that they cared nothing for God. Mom

and Dad could not sit under the preaching of someone always talking about families ministering together. It became too much of an embarrassment for them. In every case, and I have got a list of them, it always went the same way. They found some problem with me or the church that they did not like and left and went someplace else into another church where the pastor's family was a joke, and there was never any accountability for families. I make no apology for that.

I do not always tell you why I do the things I do, and if I did, I mean, I would never get anything else done. **But when I talk about families ministering together, when I try to encourage you to raise your family based on the Word of God, that they are ministering with you in this church, and tons of you are doing that, this is where I get it from.** It is not something that crazy old Bob just makes up because he wants to have something to preach. I have a principle for everything I teach you and everything I give you, and my premise for families ministering together is right here with these three families. These three families are the key to the success of the tabernacle, and they will represent the families in every church that make the ministry a success.

You are going to notice that when the children of Israel are on their journey or on the move, and you will see this in Joshua 3:4, that Ark, which is the type of Christ, leads them with the three things in it. When it takes out, most people have no idea why it does this, but the Lord says, "Let that Ark get 2,000 cubits ahead of the first tribe when they start to move out." That Ark always stayed 2,000 years ahead of the nation of Israel. You know why? Because that Ark is the type of Christ, and that 2,000 years represents the 2,000 years of Christianity, the New Testament, and the New Testament and the Old Testament are separated by 2,000 years of God dealing with His people, you and me.

➤ These Three Families Represent the Key Families in Any Church

Within that back there, these three families will represent the key families in any church. I do not care if it is this church or the next 50 churches you find. You will find three kinds of people in that church, and when it comes to the key families of any church, you have these three families that are part of the three kinds that you have.

1. **The first group was the Kohathites.** That was a family not just a person. You have to remember now that they wandered for 40 years, and as they wandered for 40 years, their families kept the ministry going with the tabernacle, and the Kohathites took care of the furniture of the tabernacle.
2. **Then you had the Gershonites.** They took all the tent and the skins and the coverings, and they were responsible for that.
3. **Then the third family was the Merarites,** and they took care of the boards, the bars, the pillars, and the sockets.

In the space of 40 years, do you know how many times these families had to do that? Completely tear down the tabernacle, secure all the pieces, and then transport it to where they stopped, and when they stopped, it was not like, "Well, we are only going to be here for three or four weeks, so do not worry about it." No, no, it had to be put together every time they stopped.

➤ Human Nature Always Looks for a Shortcut

Now let me show you human nature, and this is the difference between some of you who are one of these three families in this church or any other church out there, and the ones who are not.

Last night I was going out to my friends' place. I had their directions, but I put it in the GPS on my phone. It took me 20 miles the other way. My phone did not like their address; it got confused. Siri has been fired. It took me all the way over to 163rd Street, but on the other side of Highway 7. Yeah, and it took me to an empty lot, and I am thinking, "Wow, they've got a nice house. Must be in the tree because I do not see it anywhere." Well, I turned around, then I finally got out my friend's instructions, which I should have done in the first place, and then I got right there. My point is this: human nature always looks for a shortcut. You know that is true. But no matter what it is, we think that we can always find a better shortcut. This is the problem with some of you with the Bible. You do not want to do the work you have to do to get all that you have to have, so you try to find a shortcut.

Now when you get into Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, you see the intimate pieces of this tabernacle. I mean, this was not like going to the Barnum & Bailey Circus and putting up the tent. This thing had a million pieces to it, and I know human nature. I know how I am. You put the tent up four or five times, you get it down, and then you realize that you can cut your workload by a third, that you do not need all the parts. That is why whenever I buy anything, I always have a lot of parts left over because I think I am smarter than the directions. When that does not work—day one God created the heaven and the earth and day two He created duct tape. Duct tape is the life-solving problem for everything on planet Earth that does not go boom in the night. I fix my gutters with it. I fix my car with it. I fix this with it. I fix that with it. I could fix anything that breaks if I just had enough duct tape. My point is this: we all think we can take shortcuts.

➤ You Have to Do Things God's Way

When it came to that tabernacle, those three families had to do it God's way **every time** they did it. They probably took that thing down and put it back up two or three thousand times. Every time they did it, it had to be exactly the way that God wanted it, even if they thought they knew a better way to do it. My point is this: when it comes to the ministry, your family, and the Word of God, you must do it God's way. Your shortcuts will come up short. **You have to realize that the key to these three families was the diligence to do it exactly the way God wanted it to be done.**

That tabernacle moved through the wilderness of Sin in a temporary mode until it got to the place in 1 Kings 5 and 6 where Solomon built the temple, which is a picture of the millennium. You and I, as God's tabernacle, our body, the temple, we are temporarily moving through this life, getting to where God wants us to be in the millennium when it is perfect. But **every day, when you and I build this tabernacle, we have to do it the right way.**

In Israel, as it is today in its journey, you have three types of people in every church. You have the 12 tribes who are your common ordinary people. Then you will have the mixed multitude;

they will be a picture of God's people who have one foot in the world and one foot in God and in the Bible. Then you will have the inner three families, and they are the ones who get the work done. You are going to find in ministry, if you hang in it long enough, that the people who do the least complain the most, and those that do the most never complain because they become problem solvers and not problem causers. But that is just the way the ministry is.

You are going to find that those three families will represent the three families that make any church work. They are the ones who get the pastor's heart. They are the ones who see the vision of the ministry. They are the ones who see things like the Halloween event coming up. They are the ones who see the churches we work with. They are the ones who see, and they make the investments in everything in their life because they believe in what God has given them. They are the priesthood, Aaron's rod. They have the Word of God, and they understand God's plan for the nation of Israel, and they are on board, and they all come together. Notice that each family had a different function, just like every family in any church has a different function, but the result was the tabernacle, God's dwelling place with the nation of Israel, and that is the families that make a church successful.

IV. Christ's Thoughts on the Cross

Now today, I want to look again at a couple more places that show us the very thoughts of Christ on the cross, the words of His roaring, and you can clearly see by now that there are so many side studies off the major theme of the crucifixion that is found in Psalms 22. We can now, after last week putting the events together, have a better understanding of correlating the thoughts with the events which is what we are going to begin to do from this point on. You'll remember that all this is built around two key verses. First, Psalm 22 which we have not even gotten into yet except verse one, which we are hitchhiking off of, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Then the great passage in Isaiah 50:7-8, "Who is mine adversary? Let him come near to me."

➤ Isaiah 52:13-15 – He is Beaten Beyond Recognition

If you would, I would like you to turn to Isaiah 52, and we are going to look at verses 13, 14, and 15. Here again, this will be His thoughts on the cross as we get into the real key here in just a few moments.

Isaiah 52:13-15. Behold, my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high.

*14. As many were **astonied** at thee; **his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men:***

15. So shall he sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at him: for [that] which had not been told them shall they see; and [that] which they had not heard shall they consider.

Now these verses here in the Old Testament, in Isaiah 52, will fit into Mark 14:53 and beyond as we saw last week; therefore, you can make the correlation there. This is where He goes before the high priest then later goes before Pilate, and the mob is in a frenzy of hatred for Him. This is

where they have the false witnesses that have been set up previously against Him. This is where everything about His trial, everything about His time before the high priest and Pilate is a sham. Everything is made up. In Luke 22:63, the Bible says that they mock Him. They say terrible things to Him, and they smote Him. They hit Him in the face. In Luke 22:64, the Bible says that they blindfolded Him, and they hit Him; they smote Him across the face, and then asked Him, "If thou be the Son of God, tell us who just hit you." They smite Him, hit Him over and over again as He was blindfolded and then asked that question, "If thou be the Son of God, tell us who smote thee."

Folks, I am not going to spend a long time on this one, but I am going to tell you this: He could have given them name, rank, and serial number. He could have laid every one of them out, but He did not. **The Bible says that He set His face like a flint against all the beatings that came to Him.** In Matthew 26:67, it says that they spit in His face. They buffeted Him. They smote Him with the palms of their hands.

Isaiah 50:5-6. The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back.

6. I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.

Here we see Him beaten so badly. The Bible says His visage is marred. His visage means His appearance. It says they were astonished. That is old English for our word astonished. He was beaten beyond recognition as to who He was. He was whipped with the cat of nine tails, which was a long stick with pieces of leather strap about two feet long with little pieces of bone tied in the back with which they beat you until the bones of your back showed through where the skin once was. His beard is pulled out. They spit in His face. "Behold the man! Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!"

Yes, my dear friend, He could have called ten thousand angels to destroy the world and to set Him free, but He died alone for you and for me. And God's people care nothing about that today. I believe that God uses, not just this church, but good Bible-believing churches in these last days to give people the opportunity to do what is right before the judgment seat of Christ comes.

➤ The Key Word in Ministry is Investment

I told the Timothy group in our meeting Friday night, and I cannot tell you how important that is, and I am sure just like anything else, there are people who just blow it off and find something more important to do; however, I am telling you, and I told them, we do not give an invitation after every sermon. Now some guys do, and that is okay. That is the way they were raised, or they've got some value in it. The real key is the pastor and his ability to understand the ministry that he has and the people that God has given him. I told them the reason why, and sometimes I will give an invitation when I feel like the Lord just tells me to do it, but the key is I grew up in that. I grew up where at the end of the sermon, there were 25 stanzas of "Just As I Am," and then "Pass Me Not," and then when you did not get anybody, sing "Almost Persuaded" to try to get the last ones out of there.

I have found that it is the men and women of this church who build investments in people's lives first before they ever come to church; that it is a team concept. When you bring them to church, I preach, and they get convicted. You are already in their life, and you are going to see that not too many weeks go by before somebody says, "I won so and so to Christ." "So and so got saved." It's somebody who you are working with, you brought, heard my preaching, and then the Holy Spirit of God together brings it about where they get saved. I do not need 20 altar workers, somebody coming down and kneeling at an altar and somebody coming up and praying with them. Then they get up, they go their way, and you never see them again. I am not interested in that.

I am interested in a key word of ministry for every one of us, and this is what I tried to teach them Friday night. The key word in ministry is investment. **Me investing in you, you investing in each other, and investing in others as we all invest in the Word of God together.** The ministry is the key.

➤ You Can't Focus on the Ones Who Don't Make It

You build it one person at a time, and you invest in people. But I am telling you right now, you are going to have people who will take all that you have. They will take your birthday gifts, your Christmas gifts. They will take everything you have done for them and then walk out the door of your life. You say, "What do you do with that, Bob?" You praise the Lord. You never care about what somebody else does. You worry about, "Did I do everything I needed to do to give them the presentation that God wanted me to have?"

You cannot make anybody do what is right. You just make sure you do what is right because churches like ours, churches like Mike Fernandez's in Massachusetts and Mike Veach's in New York, are weigh stations of truth in a cesspool of Laodicea, and God will bring people through before the judgment seat of Christ comes to give them the final option to put it all together. Some will, some won't. The more you focus on the ones who don't make it, the less you will see the ones around you who need your help to make it.

Bob Jones Sr. once said, "For the last five hours of a young man's seminary training in our school, I wish I could suspend him over the lake of fire and hell for just an hour and let him hear the screams and the agony of the lost and the damned without Christ and then turn him loose on the world." I do not wish I could do that for any of you, but I do wish I could send you back in a time machine and be along that road to Gordon's Calvary and stand at the foot of the cross with John and listen very carefully as He whispers your name. And God's people today are indifferent to that.

One night back in 1 Kings, one angel killed 187,000 people. *He could have called 10,000 angels to destroy the world and set Him free, but He died alone for you and for me.* Yet you are always looking for a better deal. You are always letting some little piddly thing get your nose bent out of shape. You will look for excuses not to come to church. You will look for excuses not to be part of anything. You will take everything that God has for you: salvation, Holy Spirit of God, eternal security, and give Him nothing back.

V. How Christ Viewed the Crucifixion – Job 16:9-22

Look at Job 16:9-22, if you would, and this is really our text for today.

*Job 16:9-22. **He teareth [me] in his wrath, who hateth me: he gnasheth upon me with his teeth; mine enemy sharpeneth his eyes upon me.***

*10. They have **gaped upon me with their mouth**; they have **smitten me upon the cheek reproachfully**; they have gathered themselves together against me.*

*11. God hath **delivered me to the ungodly, and turned me over into the hands of the wicked.***

*12. I was at ease, but **he hath broken me asunder**: he hath also taken [me] by my neck, and **shaken me to pieces, and set me up for his mark.***

13. His archers compass me round about, he cleaveth my reins asunder, and doth not spare; he poureth out my gall upon the ground.

*14. **He breaketh me with breach upon breach, he runneth upon me like a giant.***

*15. I have **sewed sackcloth upon my skin, and defiled my horn in the dust.***

*16. **My face is foul with weeping, and on my eyelids is the shadow of death;***

*17. **Not for any injustice in my hands**: also my prayer [is] pure.*

18. O earth, cover not thou my blood, and let my cry have no place.

*19. Also now, behold, **my witness is in heaven, and my record is on high.***

20. My friends scorn me: [but] mine eye poureth out [tears] unto God.

21. O that one might plead for a man with God, as a man [pleadeth] for his neighbour!

22. When a few years are come, then I shall go the way [whence] I shall not return.

Last week I showed you how God viewed the crucifixion. Today I want to show you how Christ viewed it, His very thoughts as He paid the price for you and for me. This will be the price that was ultimately paid for me. Already beaten beyond recognition, back open to the bone with a cat of nine tails, His beard ripped off His face, platted with the robe and a crown of thorns that they took and put on His head, and then took a scepter that they gave Him as a reed, and then took it out of His hand and beat the crown of thorns into His head.

➤ Jesus Experienced the Wrath of Almighty God as well as the Devil's Wrath

Look at Job 16:9-11. This will be the sixth to the ninth hour on the cross. This is where not only does He experience the devil's wrath, my dear friend, but He experiences the wrath of Almighty God because in hell you were not going to spend it under the wrath of the devil. In hell for eternity, you would be under the wrath of Almighty God for your sins. He takes both.

It says, "*He teareth me in his wrath.*" That is the devil tearing His flesh, tearing His soul, tearing His spirit. One cannot read that without understanding and seeing the hatred that the devil has for Christ, and the reason for that is that there was a time when the devil, before he fell, whose name was Lucifer, had everything. When he fell in Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28, Genesis 1:1 and 1:2, he loses all that, and now all of that goes to Christ, and he wants it back.

➤ The Bible is the Greatest Political Book the World has Ever Seen

Most people do not understand the problems that we have in the world today, and especially in America. I know it is leading to the second coming, and things are going to go that way. I get it. But most people fail to see that the Bible is more than just a spiritual book. The Bible is more than a history book. The Bible is the greatest political book the world has ever seen. What you are seeing across this country and across the world, Russia, Ukraine, the Jews and Hamas, the problems in Europe, the problems in our own country, it simply comes down to one thing: when push comes to shove, who is going to run it? Who is going to take Ukraine? Who is going to take Israel? Who is going to win the wars and the battles? Every one of them is over a political opposition. When it comes to the Bible, this is the source of all the problems today because the Bible, first and foremost, before salvation ever entered in, before history began, the Bible was a political book. **It is about two men who claim the same two kingdoms, and those kingdoms are political in the biblical sense: the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Heaven.**

All down through history, these two men claiming that kingdom, just like today in the world, two men claiming Russia, claiming Ukraine, claiming Hamas, claiming Israel, claiming whatever, it all goes back to the Book of Books, which is the political book of the history of the world, and the devil hates Him. **The devil hates Christ because He is going to get everything that he once had. The political aspect of the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Heaven is going to come down in Christ's favor, and He is going to get them both. Revelation 19:16, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS," and the crowns of this earth come on His head, and the devil wants to do everything to stop it.**

➤ We Have Already Gotten the Victory

At the crucifixion, not only are your souls hanging in the balance, but who runs the kingdom politically from this point on is hanging in the balance. When the devil lost and could not have it, literally, this is why you are seeing the problems we are seeing in this country and around the world. The devil is coming after it spiritually. If he could not get it and destroy it that way, he is going to come after it and destroy it this way. But the bottom line is that it does not matter to us. We have already gotten the victory. We have already won. I do not care how the devil wages war on Christianity. He has already lost it. We have already won it.

*He teareth [me] in his wrath, who hateth me: he gnasheth upon me with his teeth; mine enemy sharpeneth his eyes upon me. **Notice the total focus of the devil on Christ on the cross, seeking whom he may devour, 1 Peter 5:8.** They have gaped upon me with their mouth; they have smitten me upon the cheek reproachfully; they have gathered themselves together against me.*

The things they said, mocking Him, putting a crown of thorns on His head, and then beating Him with the scepter, Mark 15:17, Mark 15:29-32, looking up at Him on the cross and saying, "Save thyself." "Hey, if you come down off the cross, we will believe that you are the Son of God." Hey, He could have sent ten thousand angels and took Him off that cross, and most of God's people couldn't care less. He says, "*They have smiteth me upon the cheek reproachfully.*" This will be Isaiah 50:5-6 and in Luke 22 and Matthew 26.

He said, "*They have gathered themselves together against me.*" This is the devil and his crowd back at the crucifixion. The devil and his crowd gathered around Him on the cross to stop His death on the cross, and today the devil and his crowd, after the cross, after your salvation, will surround you to get you to quit. How is that going for you?

I have seen people come into this church and get everything they need, people love them, give them the Word of God, and you know what? They simply get a better deal than the cross. I do not understand that. I have seen it all my ministry, and it makes me wonder, "Did that person ever really trust Christ or was it just, 'This is a better deal than the deal I had until I get a better deal than this deal.'" I do not know the answer. How can you truly have the Holy Spirit of God come into your life, see His death on the cross applied to you, and then just walk out the door? It is exactly what you have today. We sing the great song, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross on which the Prince of Glory died for me." No surveying of the cross; means nothing to you.

➤ God Turned Christ Over to the Wicked for Us

Look at Job 16:11-13. ***God hath delivered me to the ungodly, and turned me over into the hands of the wicked. I was at ease, but he hath broken [me] asunder: he hath also taken me by my neck, and shaken me to pieces, and set me up for his mark. His archers compass me round about, he cleaveth my reins asunder, and doth not spare; he poureth out my gall upon the ground.***

Christ says to us that God turned Him over to the wicked. This is not by accident. **This is God delivering Him unto the ungodly so you and I would never have to be delivered to the ungodly.** How can you just ignore that and live your life with the same ungodly things that He delivered you from? How do you ever just walk away from God, the church, the Word of God? I mean, I do not understand that. I can understand a lot of things. I have been around for a while. I can figure things out. I can read people. I can read certain circumstances and situations. I do not figure that one out. How in the world do you understand what He did for you and yet you do nothing for Him?

God has broken Him asunder. There is no strength left. For Him there is no hope left. He let hope slip through His fingers. **He gave up all hope so that He could give you and I the hope.** The Bible says in Psalms 22:14, and we will get there in a couple of weeks, that He is poured out like water upon the ground. There is no substance left to Him.

He is shaken to pieces, and God set Him up for His mark. That mark there, He says in Job 16:13, are the archers. God put a target on His back that the devil's arrows could pierce His heart, pierce His soul, and pierce His spirit, and the devil hit Him with all that he had. In Job 16:11, God set

Him up for it and delivered Him into the hands of the wicked. **He delivered Him into the hands of the wicked so that the wicked could never get their hands on you and me.**

When it comes to the ministry, the key word is investment. When it comes to most God's people, the key word is indifference. "Behold the man! Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!" And yes, He could have called ten thousand angels.

➤ He Had no Break in the Suffering and Agony

Then look at Job 16:14-16. *He breaketh me with **breach upon breach**, he runneth upon me like a giant. I have sewed **sackcloth upon my skin**, and defiled my horn in the dust. **My face is foul with weeping**, and on my eyelids [is] the shadow of death;*

"Breach upon breach." A breach is a break in something. You breach a door, you breach a window, you breach a house. What He is saying here, there is no break. There is no let up for Him. There is no breach. There is no respite. There is no respite of the agony and the heartache and all the pain and the suffering and all the torturing. There is no breach for it. There is no end to it. It comes like that. He says, wave after wave, like the ocean's waves of the water, the devil's wrath, God's wrath, and no let up.

Job 16:15 says, "Sewed sackcloth upon my skin." In the Old Testament, sackcloth was a garment made of goat skin. It was very coarse and uncomfortable to wear, and people wore it who were going through some tough times, suffering or grief or maybe sin, and it was worn to show them of our flesh and its suffering. It was very uncomfortable to remind them of what they have done against God. But in the Old Testament, the garment was sewn together and worn. Here, look at it, it is sewn to His skin.

➤ The Tears He Shed on the Cross for You and Me

Job 16:16 says, "My face is foul with weeping." The tears He shed for me on the cross. How can I read the thoughts of His death on the cross and it not move me? There is something wrong with God's people today. There is something wrong if we can look at that day, what He went through, and it does not move us. Those tears He shed on the cross were tears for you and for me. There were tears of agony that He did not want to go, and yes, He could have called 10,000 angels, but the tears are what He shed for you and for me.

Psalms 56:8, God has a bottle for our tears, and then it says, "*Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: [are they] not in thy book?*" At the judgment seat of Christ, I do not think He is going to really ask you much. Really, all you have to do is just take out the bottle, turn it upside down, and one teardrop at a time would hit the ground and burst and speak what you have wept over: some sad movie, some heartache in your life that had nothing to do with God. God has got a bottle for our tears. My suggestion to you before you hit the judgment seat of Christ, do not let that bottle be empty.

Years ago I was preaching at a place, and a dear old lady came up and asked me to sign her Bible. While I was getting ready to sign it, she got called away and was talking to somebody else, and I always like to look through people's Bibles just to see what they are doing. Her Bible

was filled with notes. But I got into Song of Solomon, and around Song of Solomon chapter 2 and some other places, there were just circles drawn, just circles here, here, about 10 or 15 of them. I thought to myself, "What in the world is that?" So she came back and I signed her Bible, and I said, "Ma'am, I love your Bible." I said, "It is very obvious that you have been in the Word of God, but could I ask you a question?" She says, "Well, sure, Brother Bob, what is it?" And I said, "I was looking through your Bible, hope you do not mind." She says, "Oh, no, no, no." And I said, "I got into Song of Solomon," and I opened it, and I said, "What are these circles?" And she says, "Oh, yeah," she says, "Those are the times that I read about my Savior and His love for me, and the tears ran down my face and stained my Bible, and I know the tears dried, but I circled them so I never forget where those tears fell for what He did for me."

"*On my eyelids is the shadow of death.*" Eyes are the window to our soul. When somebody dies, the first thing they do is look into their eyes, and the eyelids here, the shadow of death. He is getting ready to die on the cross. This is coming up to the end here.

➤ Christ was not Crucified for Anything He did Wrong, but for Everything We Have Done Wrong

Job 16:17-18. Not for [any] injustice in my hands: also my prayer [is] pure. O earth, cover not thou my blood, and let my cry have no place.

You know, these two verses tell us that He was not crucified for anything that He did wrong, but in reality, everything that we have done wrong. Yet another side study here found in Luke 23:39-43. During this time when He is on the cross, there are two thieves crucified with Him. Those two thieves will represent exactly what you have to work with today with people. One of them looked over to Him and said, "Hey, if thou be the Son of God, get us out of here, including yourself." The other thief said, "Shut your mouth. We get justly what we deserve. He has done nothing." Then he looked at Him and said, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." The Lord said, "Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise."

Side Study: The two thieves crucified with Christ will represent two types of people

Two types of people. You know what? They were both sinners. One recognized that he was a sinner, and God was his only hope. The other one thought he did not need God. He just wanted to get out of the fix he was in. Maybe that is the answer to why some of you are the way you are. You just used this church and God to get out of the fix you were in. Why did I miss that for 50 some years? All you cared about was God getting you out of the mess you were in at that time like this thief. He didn't care about Christ being the Son of God. He wanted to use God to get him off the cross and then he would have been breaking into somebody else's house that evening. The other thief knew who He was. He knew He was dying unjustly. Two types of people.

➤ That Wonderful Record That is On High!

Job 16:19-22. Also now, behold, my witness [is] in heaven, and my record [is] on high. My friends scorn me: [but] mine eye poureth out [tears] unto God. O that one might plead for a man

with God, as a man [pleadeth] for his neighbour! When a few years are come, then I shall go the way [whence] I shall not return.

Oh, that verse there in Job 16:19 is probably for me as a Christian, I cannot speak for you, the greatest single verse in the Bible to me because it tells me that wonderful record that is on high.

Last week in Isaiah 53:1, we saw that God had a report, and He asked, "Who hath believed our report?" Hardly nobody does. **Now the report after the death of Christ has become a record, a record on high.** Now where do you suppose that I would find for me that record in Job 16:19? Well, I will tell you, turn over to 1 John 5. Look at verses 11, 12, and 13.

*1 John 5:11-13. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and **this life is in his Son.***

*12. **He that hath the Son hath life;** [and] he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*

*13. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; **that ye may know that ye have eternal life,** and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*

Now there is your record. The record of my salvation based on His dying on the cross for me. Note everything in life you have, everything you do, wherever you go, I do not care what it is, you have a record of it. You go to Starbucks and get a coffee, they give you a receipt. You go to the grocery store to buy something, the last thing they put in your bag is the receipt of what you bought. You all have a birth certificate. That birth certificate proves you were born. You cannot do anything without that birth certificate. You show up someplace and they say, "Well, we have got to see your birth certificate." "Hey, I am here, I was born." That does not cut it. They want to see the record of your birth, and **this is why so many of God's people do nothing with their Christianity. They have no idea of the record God gave them.** And without the record, you cannot get a job. Without the birth certificate, you cannot get a driver's license. You cannot get a social security card, and without your new birth certificate record, you will never do anything for God. It is just that simple.

➤ **My New Birth Certificate Record Based on the Record of His Death on the Cross**

God has given me a new birth certificate record based on the record of His death on the cross, the single greatest place in the Bible, so simple, God's plan of salvation. He says, "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son." How simple! This life, the eternal life, is in His Son. It is not in baptism. It is not in church membership. It is not in the sacraments. It is not in being a good person. It is not in doing good work. This life is in His Son.

Then what follows in 1 John 5:12 is so simple based on the record. Sitting here today, either you have Him, or you do not. "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." Do not tell me about your experience. Do not tell me this. Do not tell me that. "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." You got life? Yes? Then why don't you do anything with it?

➤ The Proof of Your Salvation is a Changed Life

These things have I written unto you (the events, the thoughts, the record, God's report) that believe on the name of the Son of God; (there is your salvation) that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

You see, here is the problem. The only proof that you are saved, and I am not saying you are not, the only proof that you are saved, that I am saved, is not some experience you had. It is not some prayer you prayed. It is not some day you went forward. It is not what you say. It is not you getting up and saying, "Well, I was saved." **The thing that is the proof of my salvation and your salvation is not what you say or what you claim, it is a changed life.** How can you have this record of His thoughts and the events? How can you have those around your life, and it does not change you? And I know the answer you will give me, but as my old Russian grandmother used to say, "Bolshevik." There's a way around everything!

VI. Summary

I remember the day my sister Sharon got saved back in the old building across the street from our house. I remember her walking down and the lady opening up the Bible and leading her to Christ. I remember Mom crying, so I cried. I mean, that seemed like the thing to do. Then it was not shortly after that that I went down forward. Years later when I came back to God, that lady that dealt with me was still in the choir. I am sure she is gone home to be with the Lord now, but I will never forget, she opened up her Bible and she had all the verses underlined in red. She brought me through the Roman's Road of salvation, and I was a little guy. I was only about five or six years old. Prayed the prayer. Well, everybody was happy.

My mom and dad were charter members in that church. I do not know what happened shortly after that time. My mom and dad got mad at somebody in the church, or something happened, and I do not know all the details, but they quit going to church. We lived right across the street, but every Sunday my mom dressed me up and sent me out the door to go to church by myself, and I learned a great lesson looking back on it. You know, there is a wrong crowd even in every church, and I got into that crowd, and by the time I was 10 or 11 or 12, I quit going to church, and from that point on, I lived my whole life for myself. It was not until, you know, I was in the army, and I got out. My dad died with lung cancer. It was not until then that God really got a hold of my heart from that one service I went to when Tommy Thomas preached, which I will not get into this morning.

Well, I really wanted to turn my life around, and I started going to church. I started getting involved. I got me a King James Bible. I started studying it, but the devil just would not let me rest. Every time I'd do something wrong, the devil would say to me, "See, you're not saved." And I'd say, "Yeah, I am saved." He'd say, "No, you're not. If you were saved, you wouldn't do that kind of stuff. You are not saved. You are playing a game. You are no different than you ever were. You just found something new to get a better deal on for a while. You are not really saved." And I argued back and forth. I never won that argument, and it really messed me up for months.

I will never forget the night, my mom had remarried and moved out, and I was living in the house by myself, me and the dog. I was reading my Bible one night, and I had been struggling that day, and the Holy Spirit of God, led me over to 1 John 5, and for the first time in my life, I looked at verses 11, 12, and 13, and it really opened up my eyes, and I came upon that, and it said, "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may **know** that ye have eternal life." That thing hit me.

You know, I do not know what it was like when Paul was walking out there and the lights came down and he heard the voice, but my experience was close to that. The dog felt it because he jumped up, yelped, and headed for the stairs. I think the lights flickered off and on for about five seconds, but it was incredible. I flew out of bed on my knees, and I read that, and I said, "God, I can know that I am saved." And right there in that spot, I just said this, "Lord, you know, I want to do right. You know I am struggling. You know the devil is kicking me six ways from Sunday, and I was awful young when I did that, and I do not know if I knew what I was doing, and the devil was just having a heyday with me. So, thank You for this verse, and right now, I ask You, Lord, You know what I believe. I believe everything. Right now, I ask You, if I am not saved, then come into my heart and save me." At that moment, I knew I had a record.

It was not a week later, I messed up. I went over to 1 John 1:9, and the devil said, "See, you are not saved." And I said, "Yeah, I am." And he said, "No, you are not." I said, "You want to bet?" I flipped over to 1 John 5:11-13, and you know what? He did not want to bet. Well, I have been asked many, many times, "Do you think you were saved when you were five or do you think you were saved then?" I do not know, but I will tell you this, bless God, I got it now. **I got the record, and the record changed my life. The record will change your life, and if it does not change your life, I would look deep, real deep, and find out what is wrong.**

He could have called ten thousand angels to destroy the world and set Him free. He could have called ten thousand angels, but He died alone, and He died for me. You see, that is a question that you have got to answer. You have got to answer the question, "Are you saved?" which I believe most of you probably are. But then I ask the question, "Why do you do nothing? Why do you get an attitude?" And I will tell you, the three families. They that did the least complained the most. Those that did the most always solved the problems, in any church, based on the record.

Ten Thousand Angels

by Ray Overholt

They Bound The Hands Of Jesus In The Garden Where He Prayed;
They Led Him Thro' The Streets In Shame.
They Spat Upon The Savior So Pure And Free From Sin;
They Said, "Crucify Him; He's To Blame."

He Could Have Called Ten Thousand Angels
To Destroy The World And Set Him Free.
He Could Have Called Ten Thousand Angels,
But He Died Alone For You And Me.

Upon His Precious Head They Placed A Crown Of Thorns;
They Laughed And Said, "Behold The King!"
They Struck Him And They Cursed Him And Mocked His Holy Name.
All Alone He Suffered Everything.

He Could Have Called Ten Thousand Angels
To Destroy The World And Set Him Free.
He Could Have Called Ten Thousand Angels,
But He Died Alone For You And Me.

When They Nailed Him To The Cross, His Mother Stood Nearby,
He Said, "Woman, Behold Thy Son!"
He Cried, "I Thirst For Water." But They Gave Him None To Drink.
Then The Sinful Work Of Man Was Done.

He Could Have Called Ten Thousand Angels
To Destroy The World And Set Him Free.
He Could Have Called Ten Thousand Angels,
But He Died Alone For You And Me.

To The Howling Mob He Yielded; He Did Not For Mercy Cry.
The Cross Of Shame He Took Alone.
And When He Cried, "It's Finished." He Gave Himself To Die;
Salvation's Wondrous Plan Was Done.

He Could Have Called Ten Thousand Angels
To Destroy The World And Set Him Free.
He Could Have Called Ten Thousand Angels,
But He Died Alone For You And Me.