

I. Review

Last week we got into Psalms chapter 40, and I told you that Psalms chapter 40 is our great salvation Psalm. If there is one place in the Bible that really ought to be number one in our life, it ought to be Psalms chapter 40, because it explains to me what God gave me when He saved me.

I started out last week by talking about **three key days** in the Bible that in time you would want to study out. The Bible talks about:

1.) The Lord's day, the day of the Lord. That is God's day. That is the day He comes back and He gets the nation of Israel back to Himself with the second coming of Christ.

2.) The day of Christ, or the day of the Lord Jesus Christ. That will be the rapture of the church when Christ comes back for us, His bride.

3.) My day, the day of my salvation, or your day. The day God saved you. This is the most important because the first two wouldn't mean anything if it wasn't for the third one.

I showed you how Psalms 40 was, in my humble opinion, the greatest passage in the Bible that dealt with all that God did for me and for you, the day we trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as our own personal Savior.

I talked about how so many of God's people, when they get saved, seem to get over their salvation. They come to a point in their life where church does not mean anything to them anymore. They do not read the Bible anymore. They do not pray anymore. They actually get over the day they got saved.

I have never had that problem in my life. I am as excited, even more excited today after fifty-some years of being saved and in the ministry, than I was the day I got saved. You know why? Because I understand it more now. I understand to a deeper level what Christ did for me.

When I got saved, I knew I was a sinner, and I knew that I needed to get out of the darkness and into the light. The day I got saved, I was happy. I praised the Lord. I felt like a great weight was lifted off my shoulders. But I did not really understand all that He did for me. Through the years, as we grow and as you become more in touch with the Word of God and the Lord Jesus Christ, the Bible reveals to you what He really did for you.

When you understand that, and when you grow the way God wants you to grow spiritually, I do not know how you could ever get over that day. I do not know how you could ever come to the place where you did not want to go to church again. I do not understand how you could ever get to the place where you did not want to open up your Bible and read it. I do not understand how somebody can just walk away from God and get over the day that God saved them.

➤ Review of the Eight Things God Did at Salvation

In chapter 40, verses one through five, I showed you eight things that He did for you and me that day when our salvation took hold of our lives.

1.) *He waited patiently for me.*

I look back on it now and I can see before I was even saved, before God even came down and saved my soul, how He was preparing me for that day. He was putting people in my life. He was putting circumstances in my life. To this day, after being saved all these years, I look back at the lessons I learned even before I got saved.

2.) *He inclined unto me.*

I could not get to God by myself. There was no way. I was alienated from everything that God was. He was holy, and I was unholy. The Bible says that He came to me and He brought me His salvation.

3.) *He heard my cry.*

He heard how miserable I was, how this world was a dead-end street for me, and how everything I thought was valuable and meant something, was actually meaningless and meant nothing. He heard my cry.

4.) *He brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay.*

The pit was the pit of hell He saved me from. He reached down and, as I was on the brink of spending an eternity in the lake of fire, He snatched me out of the pit. But the Bible also says He pulled me out of the miry clay. That is the world system. That is the world system that bogs us down and keeps us from ever getting to God and all of the things that He has.

5.) *He set my feet upon a rock.*

That Rock is the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 10:4). That Rock was the Rock of my salvation. That rock was the rock that I still stand on today, which is unmovable, steadfast, and never changes.

6.) *He established my goings.*

I was headed in the wrong direction. I was headed for disaster in life. Once He saved me, set my feet upon a rock, and pulled me out of that miry clay, He established my goings. I now had purpose. I now had understanding. I now could see in a better way what the world really was, and how the world was a disaster for anybody who put their life into it. The only life that was going to count was to follow His way, not my way, and He established my goings.

7.) *He put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God. Many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord.*

That song in my heart is as alive today as it was fifty-five years ago. It is alive in my heart today, and I sing it every day. It never ends. It is the song that Jesus gave me that was sent from heaven above. There never was a sweeter melody than the melody of love.

8.) *He gave me a witness to the lost world.*

He gave me a witness that I want to talk about today. The second thing that he gave me that was the greatest second day of my life. First greatest day was the day I got saved. I want to talk about the second greatest day. After these eight things in my life he finally gave me a witness.

II. Psalms 40:6-11

I told you last week he established my going and it was the second thing he provided for me that made it all possible. So, let's read our second section. We are going to break this psalm down into three sections. This is section two, and next week I will finish up the third one. Look in Psalm chapter 40 and let us read in verses six through eleven.

6. Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required.

7. Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me,

8. I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

9. I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O LORD, thou knowest.

Today we are going to look at the second greatest thing God gave me when He saved me. Notice in verse six and also in verse eight, he says sacrifice and offerings are not what God is looking for. Rather, what He is looking for is found in verse eight: somebody who delights to do His will in their life.

What he is saying here sets up one of the great teachings found in the Bible that is greatly misunderstood today: **the difference between the will of God in your life and the plan of God in your life.** Most Christians, pastors, preachers, and teachers think they are the same, but they are not.

❖ The Plan of God

God has a plan for you. The Bible says that when you got saved, He began a good work in you and will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: Philippians 1:6

God has a plan for you, and that plan will be different for everybody in this room. God has something that He has called you to do after you trusted Him as your own personal Savior. That is God's plan in your life. For the person sitting next to you, their plan will be different than yours. The uniqueness of God's salvation for every one of us is that God has a specific job that He wants us to do. The plan of God is what God wants you to do, and it is different for everybody in this room.

❖ The Will of God

The will of God is the same for everybody in this room. The will of God is not what you do, but the will of God is what God wants you to be—more like Jesus Christ every day of your life.

As you fulfill God's will in your life, you begin to work and build your life into what God wants you to be, as the Bible says in the book of Ephesians, growing up not unto Him, but growing up into Him.

*But speaking the truth in love, **may grow up into him in all things**, which is the head, even Christ: Ephesians 4:15*

Every day of your life, you should be a little bit more like the Lord Jesus Christ. You are in your Bible, you learn from life's experiences, and the Holy Spirit of God is showing you things. Every day of our lives, we should be more like the Lord Jesus Christ in things in our lives. That is the will of God: that you grow up into Him. Right now, the will of God is not what you do, but it is what you are. That is the key to understanding it.

God's plan will be whatever he calls you to do, but the will of God will be what he wants you to be. The teaching will be that you can only fulfill God's plan in your life after you fulfill God's will in your life. There will be no workable plan of God in your life if you are not going to work every day at being more like the Lord Jesus Christ. That is why He says in verse six that He is not interested in sacrifices or offerings. That is just something you do. What He is looking for is the motive, the attitude behind what we are doing—our attitude of heart.

One of the great examples in the Bible that shows you the difference between the two is found in John chapter 11. It is the story about Lazarus and his two sisters, Mary and Martha. If you look at Mary and Martha, you will see two types of Christians.

Martha is always busy doing something. Martha is always getting her nose into everything and trying to correct the Lord in what He is doing. Martha does a lot of things; she fulfills her plan as she sees it. Jesus says to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried about so many things."

Mary, on the other hand, is found at the feet of Jesus. That is where Mary is. They represent the two aspects. You have to be where Mary was, at the feet of Jesus, before you can do what God wants you to do. Martha wanted to do a lot of things, but she did not want to spend any time at the feet of Jesus.

It was Mary who anointed His feet with oil. What it cost for that ointment was a year's salary back then. She spent a year of her savings to make Him smell good for just a moment of time. When she anointed His feet, she used her own hair to wipe His feet. She got involved, and the Bible says the aroma filled the whole room.

When you get involved in fulfilling God's will in your life, then the plan in your life will become automatic. Everybody will see it because of the aroma of your attitude of heart toward the Lord Jesus Christ, to be everything that He has called you to be. That is why in verse eight, the delight is to do God's will, having the law of God in our hearts, His word. That is the key.

III. The Second Greatest Gift: The Volume of the Book (WOG)

The second greatest thing God gave me after my salvation is found in verse seven: "*Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me.*"

The second thing He gave me after the day I got saved is He gave me the Word of God. He gave me my Bible. There is no more precious possession in my life than the Bible that God gave me. There is nothing that means more to me, nothing that I can cling to and hang onto, and nothing that has taught me more about everything in life than the volume of that Book that was written about Him.

My father in the Lord, who really taught me just about everything I know about the ministry and taught me how to preach, was a great model and example. For years, I would drive him to places where he would preach. We would spend time together. I played the trumpet back then, and I would lead the singing while he did the preaching. I learned everything that he did. He had a desire and a design behind everything.

I will never forget one time he got up to preach, came up to the pulpit, and said, "It is good to be here tonight, folks. Let us get started tonight. Open up your hymnbook." I sat there thinking, did he have a brain lapse? Is he going to preach on a song? For just a split second, there was a "deer in the headlights" look in the congregation. Some were reaching for the hymnbook, and others were just looking. It was all planned. He said, "What is the matter? Open up your hymnbook." Then he held up the Bible and said, "That is your Bible. It is the Book all about Him."

Here is how it works. At the first coming of Christ—in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—God's Son was physically here. For thirty-three years, He instructed His disciples and apostles. After thirty-three years, following His death on the cross, He resurrected, and in Acts chapter 1, He went back to heaven.

I used to think when I was a younger Christian, why did God do that? If Jesus really impacted the world, He could have died on the cross, resurrected, and then just stayed alive forever. Wouldn't it be an incredible thing if Jesus were still alive after two thousand years, never aged, and was still leading, guiding, and instructing everybody like He did back in the Gospels?

As I got a little older in the Lord, I began to see God's plan. I began to realize that when Jesus Christ went back to heaven, it was part of God's plan to take Him back to heaven. He is seated at the right hand of God the Father now, and the Bible says in the book of Romans that He makes intercession for us at the throne of God.

Then I saw it. I saw how in God's plan, as you fulfill God's will, God took His Son back to heaven and replaced His Son, Jesus Christ, with three things.

IV. Christ Replaced Himself with Three Things on Earth

The **first** replacement was found in Acts 2:1, we know it as the Day of Pentecost. We know it as the coming of the Holy Spirit of God to indwell believers. This was the promise that was promised in the Gospels, but it had never happened before in the history of the world. On this

day, the Holy Spirit of God came to this earth to indwell men and women who are believers, never to leave. What does the Bible say that spirit of God does in John 16:13? It leads and guides us into all truth.

*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, **he will guide you into all truth:** for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. John 16:13*

That was the first thing He replaced Himself with.

The **second** thing He replaced Himself with is the volume of the Book: the Word of God. By 90 AD, when John wrote the book of Revelation on the Isle of Patmos, the Bible was complete. Now, the Word of God is our GPS of life on planet earth. It forms the roadmap of the past, the present, and what God is going to do in the future. In the Bible, He shows you how to navigate through life to fulfill God's plan in your life, as you fulfill God's will in your life.

He gave you a Book, the Bible, that is filled with principles by which God operates, so that you can know and understand what God thinks about everything in life. He put examples in that Book—Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Daniel, and hundreds of others—so you could see what they faced and how God got them through it. The Bible is the truth that the Holy Spirit of God uses to lead and guide you, and it is the only real truth the world will ever see.

So, He replaced Himself with two things when He went back to heaven: the Spirit of God to guide you into all truth, it is indwelling me now. The second one was the Word of God, which the Bible tells us in Philippians is the mind of God. We now not only have the Spirit of God, but we have the mind of God. The very mind that is in God is in this Book for you.

Now, all He needs is the **third** part. We have the Spirit that Jesus had, and we have the mind that Jesus had; now we just need the body that Jesus had. This will be the church, you and me, the body of Christ. The work of God that started in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John when He went back to heaven, God replaced His Son with these three things in you, and you and I are to finish the work He started.

V. The Purpose of the Local Church

Last Thursday night we were talking about the stewardships in the Bible, and I showed you in Matthew 20 that one of those stewardships is the stewardship of your ministry. The New Testament born-again believer, making up the body of Christ, fulfills the plan that God started as you fulfill the will of God in your life. You and I are the total, complete replacement for Jesus Christ on planet earth to finish what He started. We have the Holy Spirit of God to guide us, we have the Word of God, the mind of God to instruct us, and now God has the vehicle by which He wants to take His truth to the world. Back in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, it was Jesus Christ; now it is you and me. The church, the body of Christ, will be the established institution for the work of God.

The book of Ephesians is the defining book for the church in the New Testament. He reveals what the church really is in Ephesians chapter four. He tells us in Ephesians 4:11-15

10. *He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)*

11. *And he gave **some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;***

12. ***For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:***

13. *Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*

14. *That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*

15. *But speaking the truth in love, **may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: Ephesians 4:11-15***

Look at the progression here; this is invaluable. He first says in verse 11 that He gave some apostles (the early book of Acts 1:7), then some evangelists (like Philip in Acts chapter eight), then some prophets (the middle of Acts 11:27), and then some pastors and teachers (the church at Antioch Acts 11 and the church at Ephesus Acts 20).

The job of the New Testament church, the job of this church is threefold:

- 1.) The perfecting of the saints.
- 2.) The work of the ministry.
- 3.) The edifying of the body of Christ.

The perfecting of the saints here is not making you perfect in your life. It is perfecting you for the work and the plan that God has for you as the church teaches you the will of God to be more like Jesus Christ every day. I perfect my people for the work of the ministry, and through the work of the ministry, what we do with people is we edify the body of Christ.

To edify means to encourage, you love someone, you help them. What you young people from the Dominican Republic are doing for us, and what we are doing for you while you are here, is edifying each other. We are loving and encouraging one another. When you go home, you will say, "We really got a blessing from that church." But you have no idea what a blessing you are bringing to our church. It is like our whole church, instead of going on a missions trip, had the missions trip brought to us.

Verse thirteen says, "*Till we all come in the unity of the faith... unto a perfect man.*" That is the rapture, when you get your new glorified body. Verse fourteen says God established your going—no more being tossed to and fro, and no more being deceived by men.

Now number one we saw it last week; doctrine is the most important thing. Speaking the truth in love, as verse fifteen says, growing up into Him. Every day of our lives we should fulfill God's will by being more like the Lord Jesus Christ, so that we can fulfill His plan in our life to do the work He entrusted to us as stewards when He went back to heaven.

There are two biblical aspects to the church that are unknown today:

1.) The Church Triumphant

This is the victory that we already have in Christ Jesus. Even though we are still here on this earth. The Bible says we are seated in heavenly places. We have the victory. We may lose a battle or two, but we have already won the war.

2.) The Church Militant

That is this church. This is the local New Testament church that takes a stand against the world for the Lord Jesus Christ.

I am big on church history. I have written books on it, and I never cease to learn from it. This whole thing comes to light in the story of a Roman Catholic monk named Savonarola, who lived from 1452 to 1498. He was a Roman Catholic monk, but he got saved and immediately started to preach against the sins of the Roman Catholic Church. The Pope tried to buy him off. The Pope said, "If you quit preaching against the church, we will give you a red hat," meaning they would make him a cardinal. Savonarola said, "I will not stop preaching the Word of God, and the only red hat I want is a red hat of blood."

In 1498, they took him out and hung him. They killed him. As they were putting the rope around his neck, the Pope's spokesman came up to him and said, "Savonarola, on this day, I separate you from the church triumphant and the church militant." Savonarola pointed his finger back at the man and said, "You can separate me today from the church militant, but you can never separate me from the church triumphant!"

You are seated in heavenly places. You may go through some battles in this life in the church militant. We do; you do. I know your church culture and your country's culture are different from mine, but you know what is always the same, no matter where you go? Different languages or different cultures, human nature is always the same and human nature will always be against the Lord Jesus Christ. Whether you build a church in Romania, Australia, Africa, or America, you are going to fight the same fight. Even though the cultures are different. The languages are different. The depravity of man is always the same. That is the church militant—our fight every day to hold up the Word of God to a lost world.

If the Lord does not come back in the next ten, twelve, or fifteen years, things may get very difficult. They may be able to separate you from the church militant, but they will never separate you from the church triumphant.

VI. The Attack on the King James 1611 Authorized Version

In this volume of a Book, the word of God we have the most amazing Book the world has ever seen. The Bible is God's supernatural gift to man. The model and example of this will be in Exodus 16. **When I talk about the Bible, I am talking about the King James 1611 Authorized Version.** The history and development of this Bible is one of the most incredible

studies you will ever undertake. Like Christ, the Bible is loved by many and hated by many. This volume of a Book that is written to me.

The devil hates this Book. The number one thing the devil wants to do is take the Bible from you. If he can get you to stop reading it and get you to quit investing your life in it and stop doing the will of God in your life, which only comes through the volume of the Book. You will stop doing God's plan and start doing the devil's plan. That attack on the Word of God goes all the way back to Genesis chapter three. The Bible says in Genesis 3:1,

*Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field (first time the devil shows up) which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, **Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?** Genesis 3:1*

This is the first time the devil shows up in your Bible. He did not show up in chapter one or chapter two. At the beginning of chapter three, he shows up to Eve. If you know anything about your Bible, you know Eve is a picture of the church. The first words out of the devil's mouth were not, "Let us go get drunk," or "Let us go cheat," or "Let us go smoke some dope." The first words out of the devil's mouth were, "Yea, hath God said...?" He got Eve to believe that God did not really mean what He said when he said it to her.

You know what the devil wants to do today to every one of you? I don't know where you are with the Lord, but I do know this. If you are not where you need to be with the Lord and you are out in the far country somewhere, I will tell you where it started, it started with you right where it started with her—when the devil whispered in your ear that God did not know what He was talking about.

The standard teaching in America today in many churches is that you do not have a perfect Bible. They say all you have is a translation made by man that can be good or bad, but never the perfect Word of God. The people who fall for that lie are ignorant of three basic things:

- ❖ 1.) They are ignorant of the history of God bringing His church into being.
- ❖ 2.) They are ignorant of the development of the three universal languages down through history that God has used in the last six thousand years. They are ignorant of how the Bible shows you two lines of Bibles, two lines of churches and two lines of Christians.
- ❖ 3.) They are ignorant of the history and development of the Word of God in the last two thousand years.

Through modern scholarship, people are told that if they really want to learn the Bible, they must understand Greek and Hebrew because you do not have a perfect Bible that you can trust.

A couple of things that I will just touch on here because this is my volume of a Book. A couple common sense things. I have learned over the years that common sense is not too common today. Too many people get educated beyond their intelligence. But let's think about this. If the Greek and Hebrew are required for you to be what 2 Timothy 3:16-17 tells us---

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

It says that all scripture is given by inspiration. But you might not know this but the original Greek texts, they are not scriptures. They weren't ever written in scripture form. There is only one Book, a volume of Book that was written in a scripture form that he is talking about. It is the Book that you hold in your hands. Whatever these scriptures were, they were inspired by God, and they were profitable for **four things**.

1.) Doctrine

2.) Reproof

3.) Correction

4.) Instruction in righteousness

That the man of God may be perfect. Not perfect in your everyday life, but perfect in the work that God wants you to do through God's will in your life. I noticed this, it says perfect thoroughly furnished. You know all the new Bibles say, "thoroughly finished". When they do that, they destroy one of the greatest doctrines in the Bible. It is not thoroughly, it is thoroughly. You get perfected from the inside out, through you, not around you. You get perfected from the inside out. Then it says furnishings. Why furnishings? Because when you go back to Exodus and you study the tabernacle, you will find that tabernacle is a picture of your body. There are three sections to it. Outer section, inner section and the Holy of Holies. Three parts to your body. Body, soul and spirit. The Bible says you are thoroughly furnished. In that tabernacle seven pieces of furniture. Each one of them represents something in your Christian life. So what he is talking about here is you get thoroughly, from the inside furnished. That is the will of God, putting those seven pieces of furniture, furnishing your inner man for the work of God. Making you perfect for that work. It is that simple.

Here is your issue. Somebody talks about the original Greek. There is no original Greek. The word Bible means "books". There has **never** been a time in history where all the manuscripts were ever in a book. **Never!** So, when they talk about that kind of Bible, they are talking about something that never existed. They are talking about something that no man in history ever read, and people fall for it.

They say you have to get to the Greek text. Which one? There are forty different ones from different families—the Alexandrian, the Byzantine, and the Western text. It is a sham that people fall for. The volume of the Book that speaks about Him to you, that is perfect! That is perfect!

The world population today is over eight billion people. Let's pretend for a moment. If you got to know Greek and Hebrew, thoroughly know it and speak it to get into a Greek and Hebrew lexicon to really learn your Bible. You realize in a world of 8.3 billion people there are less than one-millionth of one percent of the world's population today who can speak fluently both languages. So, what are you telling me? Out of all of the world's population, only a 100,000

could really get a hold of God? Are you kidding me? Common sense isn't too common today. The Bible says in Romans 2:16

In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

That is a reference of two things: For an unsaved man, it is a reference to the great white throne judgment when you stand before God and give an account of your life. If you are saved, it is a reference to the judgment seat of Christ where we all stand and give an account for our stewardship.

I am going to tell you how to get around both judgements. In Deuteronomy 32 it says that God is perfect and all His work is perfect. So, He gave a perfect Bible. The question is, do you have it? If education is true, if all the Bible scholars are true, if most of the preachers are true to tell you that you don't have a perfect Bible. Then you are in, man! You get to that great white throne judgment, or you get to the judgement seat of Christ. God opens up the book, the perfect word of God and He starts to tear you apart. You know what you say? You say, "Whoa, whoa! With all due respect, Lord. How are you going to judge me out of a perfect Book of my life when all my life I never had that perfect Book? All I had was the best that man could offer. But you are going to judge me by a perfect Book when I never had it to find out what the perfect book said? It isn't going to happen! He is going to judge you out of that book you got on your lap because it is perfect. It is settled in heaven, the Bible says. It is the Book that heaven and earth shall pass away, but His word will never pass away. It is all scripture that was given by inspiration that is profitable. It is profitable!

VII. The Model of Manna in Exodus 16

The great model for this is found back in Exodus chapter 16. The nation of Israel came out of Egypt in Exodus chapter twelve. They put the blood on the door, the death angel passed over them, and those that had the blood on the door, they were saved. The ones that didn't have the blood on the door, they lost their firstborn. That is a picture of your salvation. In fact, in the hymnal that we sang this morning, there is a song in there, "When I see the blood, when I see the blood. When I see the blood, I will pass over you", based on Exodus 12. So, Israel as a nation, got saved in Exodus chapter 12 by the blood of a lamb. When they got saved by the blood of a lamb, they started on a journey. That journey is to the promised land. When you and I got saved, we started on our journey to our promised land: heaven. But they had to go through the wilderness of sin.

They left Egypt, picture of the world, go into the wilderness of sin. They marched along with nothing to eat and no water to drink. They go to Moses, "God brought us out of Egypt. He redeemed us by the blood of the lamb, and now we are in this wilderness of sin with nothing to eat or drink." There is nothing in the wilderness of sin to sustain us.

That wilderness of sin is a picture of the world and your life and my life after we got saved. There is nothing in this world that will sustain you. What you eat from the world is filth and trash. The water is like swamp water. Nothing satisfies you. So, what did Moses do? Moses went to God, and God took him to a big rock. Moses had a staff in his hand. This is the staff that

Moses brought down all the judgment on Egypt. God says, “Are these people thirsty?” Moses says, “Yeah, Lord, they are really thirsty and we don’t have any water.” The Lord says: Come here. You got that rod in your hand? See that big rock? Whack that rock. Moses struck the rock, and water came out. That Rock is a picture of Christ, and the staff was a picture of God's judgment. When God smote His Rock, the Lord Jesus Christ, the water came out and you got your Bible, the water of life.

The second thing. We have plenty of water now, but we don’t have anything to eat. So, they went to sleep, and the next morning, on the ground all around the camp of over two million people was covered with bread from heaven. They called it manna. It was a supernatural food that God provided for the nation of Israel to sustain them through their wilderness journey, the wilderness of sin. They opened that tent up and what follows in that chapter because that manna is a picture of God’s supernatural food that he brought down to you and me in the volume of the Book.

There are some things you read in that chapter that fits right to where we are at today.

1.) **It was supernatural.** There were no grocery stores. God supernaturally gave them bread from heaven. Once you and I got saved, there is nothing in this world that will sustain us, so God gave us His bread from heaven: the Word of God.

2.) **It was brought right to where the people were.** They did not have to climb a mountain or search in a cave to find it. God brought the supernatural bread the word of God, right to where the people were. God brought you the perfect word of God, the bread from heaven, heaven’s manna right to where you are. He brought it to you; he brought it to me. Second greatest day of my life. The volume of a Book written about Him.

3.) **It was to be gathered daily.** It says in that chapter there that bread when it came down, it had to be gathered daily. It had to be gathered in the morning. The first thing you ought to do in the morning is get in that Book. Get your manna from heaven. The Bible says it came all around the tents. God’s supernatural food for His people. When they opened up that tent door every morning, there it was. He brought that supernatural bread right to where they were, just like you got it, in the morning. When they pulled that tent flap back and they looked out there in the morning it was all around the ground and it brought a decision.

4.) **It brought a decision.** You and I have the same decision. The volume of the Book that God brought to you supernaturally when they laid that tent door back and the manna was all over the place, they had two choices. Scoop it up and eat it or trample it under their feet and go on with their daily life. Same choice you and I have. He brought that manna right to where we are. My volume of a Book, every morning I have a decision to make. Am I going to scoop up what God provided for me during the night or am I going to trample it under my feet?

5.) **They didn't understand what it was.** The Bible says that they didn't understand what it was. Most of God's people don't understand what the word of God is. When you get over to Numbers 11:4 it talks about the mixed multitude, the people that had one foot in the world and one foot with God that came out of Egypt that caused them problems. They hated it. They hated the manna. Just like God's people today that get out of fellowship and walk away from God.

I think the greatest part of this is down around the end of the chapter 16 where that manna that is a picture of the pure word of God, that you have in your life today. God told Moses, you gather up about a bushel basket of manna, and you put it in the ark. That manna from heaven and that ark is to be preserved for a future generation to the nation of Israel. God's supernatural manna. God not only inspired it, but he also preserved it for future generations. That is why you have it today. It is incredible.

So, the second thing God gave me after my salvation. The second greatest day of my life was when I got a copy of the perfect, inspired, pure Word of God—God's mind to me. Not the message, not the teaching, not the ideas, not the philosophy; the very words of God.

I will be honest; I was just like most people. I didn't understand what I had at the time I got saved. But very quickly the men and the people in my life dialed me in and when I understood what I had, the volume of a Book that was God's mind, Philippians 2:5.

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Philippians 2:5

My instructions in life 1 Corinthians 2:16 and it was getting this mind in me that would be God's instructions for fulfilling God's will first.

For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:16

To be able to do God's plan in my life. I went to work. It changed my life. I stepped on the gas and never looked back. My brainwashing started right there. What a Book!

VIII. The Structure of the Bible (a complete circle)

I have been preaching for over half a century now. I feel like in my own personal life, God has been so good to me. I could not even begin to count my blessings. I have had my trials, my issues, and my failures, but the thing that will preserve you as a child of God, like it preserved the word of God, is your love for that Book. It will preserve you, your family, and everything in your life. The volume of a Book.

As I studied this Book,

- I saw the two people groups God called to do His work: the nation of Israel in the Old Testament, and the church, the body of Christ, in the New Testament.

- I learned the difference between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven. How they are the key to everything in the Bible.
- I saw the five stages of Israel's development.
- I saw the same five stages in the development of the church.
- I saw the structure of the Bible.
- I saw the order of the books.
- I saw the pre-millennial return of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- I saw the eleven dispensations throughout the Bible from Genesis to Revelation where God is doing something different.
- I learned that there were key words in the Bible that will always show you the context of what you are reading. I understood that context is the key to everything in the Bible.
- I saw that the Bible has three applications: historical, inspirational, and doctrinal. (future)
- I saw the importance of Psalm 119, the longest chapter in the Bible, where almost every one of its 176 verses shows us something to love about the Word of God.
- I saw the importance of the four Gospels and how they show the four character qualities of Christ:
 - Matthew shows Christ as the King.
 - Mark shows Christ as the Servant.
 - Luke shows Christ as the Son of man.
 - John shows Christ as the Son of God.

It said: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. John 1:14

The volume of a Book.

- I saw how the book of Acts shows the structure in the beginning of the New Testament church. It showed me the transition from the Old Testament to the New Testament. It showed me the two lines of the churches, God and the devils, the two lines of the Bibles, God and the devils.
- I saw in Romans the handbook to everything I was to believe, chapter by chapter.
- I saw in the three books that were written to a Christian. (1 & 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon). I found there the six stewardships and how the leadership of the church should function. Building people, admonishing people, perfecting people for the work of the ministry.
- I saw in the book of Hebrews how the holy spirit of God took that book and compared everything in the Old Testament with everything in the New Testament. Fourteen times in that book, he told me that the New Testament was better than the Old Testament. Why? Because Christ came down and died on the cross, paid our sin debt, and finished the work that you and I should pick up and do that work.

- I saw that the book of Revelation is easily understood when broken down into six simple sections:

1. Chapters 1-3: The church age.
2. Chapters 4-5: The rapture of the church and the judgment seat of Christ.
3. Chapters 6-18: The antichrist and the tribulation.
4. Chapter 19: The Second Coming of Christ.
5. Chapter 20: The millennium.
6. Chapters 21-22: Eternity.

After all that I saw how the whole Bible is a complete circle. It starts in a garden in Genesis, and it ends in that same garden. In between that, God has used those two identities, the nation of Israel, the Old Testament, you and me to do His work to win the world to Christ.

IX. Summary

God gave me the second greatest day of my life when He gave me the volume of the Book that told me about Him. Once I got it, I couldn't stop, couldn't quit. It consumed me. Because I understood that I had the very Book that God sent down to me. Me! Like the nation of Israel in the wilderness of sin with nothing to sustain me. God gave me the manna from heaven. How could I ever walk away from that. How could I ever get tired of it? How could I ever come to the place where I don't want to go to church, or don't want to read my Bible, or don't want God in my life?

I found my place. I found my calling. God showed me my plan through His will. My plan and calling was to be with you, helping you to get the same mind in you that was in Jesus Christ that somebody helped me get into my mind.

Just like the manna from heaven when they opened that tent door, some gathered it, some didn't. In any church today, I don't care how good the preacher is, I don't care about all the information he could give you to fix every problem you have. Some will and some won't. Human nature!

But this does not come through higher education, seminaries, or degrees. It comes through the volume of the Book written about Him to me—God's manna from heaven, His supernatural gift to me. After my salvation and then my Bible, I could never go back to the world and quit.

➤ We are to pick up the work and do the job

Then as last week I showed you, **He gave me a witness**. We are to pick up the work and do the job. I showed you last week in Matthew 20 when we were looking at stewardship. The stewards of the ministry. Remember that story about how he put different labors into the field from the third hour to the ninth hour and from the sixth hour to the twelfth hour? Then at the end they complained about how this guy went early and some went in late, but all were getting paid the same. What is the deal? The great lesson out of that for all of us, God has a plan for you. Some of you were saved before others, some of you have been saved longer than most other people. Some of you just got saved. God has a plan for you, and he wants to put you in His vineyard to

do the work. When we get to the judgment seat of Christ the question won't be Bob what time did you go to work? The question will be when you went to work, were you on the job? Are you doing the job that He saved you for?

If you want to know what is wrong with me today, I will tell you. I am out of my mind. People think Christians are crazy. They think I am crazy. One of the traits of being crazy is talking to yourself from the world standpoint. Yet when you get into your Bible, Hannah was talking to herself. The whole book of Psalms, David is talking to himself, to the Lord.

I am out of my mind. I got completely brainwashed by washing of regeneration by the word of God. I got out of my mind because I got into His mind. My job as a pastor is to brainwash you. Get you out of the mind that you are in and get you into that mind. Most pastors and most churches want to tell their people what and how to think. I am not interested in telling you what or how to think. I am just interested in getting you to think! Getting into God's mind, the word of God. The volume of a Book written to me. Investing your life in the word of God, being a steward of the true riches. Luke 16:11, the unsearchable riches of the word of God.

If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? Luke 16:11

Now look. I don't want to hear it. All of you young people: you are much smarter than I ever was. You have so much more ability and intelligence. **You stand as everything that God can take and use to fulfil His plan in your life. But you are going to have to put the will of God in your life first.** But there is no excuse for you. I can claim stupidity. You can't. You are better than that. It is why God brought you here. You are the best of the best. You are the cream of the crop. **Don't waste what God has given you.** He called you out of Egypt through the blood of the lamb and he is given you salvation and those eight things that I talked about last week. Now he has given you the volume of a Book!