

## I Review

Today we are going to move into Psalms chapter seven. I love places in the Bible, especially in the Old Testament, where when you get into a place and you start working it through, that you really get a piece of your Bible down.

The Bible talks about in 2 Peter 1:5 that after we are saved there are things that we add to our faith. He talks about back in Isaiah 28:10, here a little, there a little and you keep adding to what you already have. Today you will see how you take a passage like this, and a couple of key words will open up some things that you can add to your faith!

You will remember last week we saw a man coming back to God. We saw where he was out of fellowship typified by Israel and inspirationally you and me. We saw for us how we begin to do that too when we get out there in the far country. Hopefully, you are now set in your minds on rebuke and chastisement and how you understand them in your own life. All the heartache that we talked about last week, that comes when you enter into the chastisement of God. We also saw how it will not only **affect everything in your life, but it will also infect everything in your life** much like a disease. It will get into you, your family, and in time it will destroy you completely. We talked about **the great story of the prodigal son in Luke 15**. Doctrinally, that story is about the nation of Israel. From an inspirational or practical standpoint, it is great for you and me (or for your children). You will remember that in the story the young man is disgruntled with home and wanted his inheritance. He got it and left the father. The Bible says he spent it on riotous living. He wound up losing it all and living with the pigs. To add insult to injury, this guy is a Jew. So, for him to be with the pigs, that is also a violation of the law, which added to the problems he already had. The Bible says that he came to himself. We talked about the great contrast between what you have with the Lord and when you wind up in the pig pen. Also, how important it is when you have children that wind up in the pig pen, not to bail them out. Let the Lord and the Holy Spirit do what he does. We also saw in Luke 15 that he finally comes to himself and dumps his old friends and comes back to the father. The father was there waiting for him. All throughout our study we have seen how sin will come in and multiply and has a compounding affect in a person's life that will in time infect them in everything. I talked about the slow process and how it starts in your mind and your attitude of heart. Things start to change, and it is a slow process of sin that comes into our lives.

## II. Old Testament Stories Illustrate New Testament Principles

**One of the things about the Bible that you will learn is that you will find stories that will illustrate great New Testament principles.** There will be stories in the Old Testament that when you lay them out, take them apart and look at the key pieces, you will actually see that those stories illustrate New Testament principles. God does it this way so we can see the issues that we have to deal with better.

It is always better when I can see a principle illustrated in a story. It helps me put it all together. If you notice that in most children Bibles as you go through it, they will talk about Adam and

Eve. Then two or three pages after that you will have a picture of Adam and Eve in the garden. That picture helps them better understand what they just read. That is the way God does it so we can get a better understanding of the principles in the New Testament by the stories in the Old Testament that illustrate those principles. The quicker you get that, the quicker you will be able to put your Bible together. I've told you before that the key to understanding the books of the Bible, is to lay them out, one by one. Most people look at that and think that would be a horrendous task that would take years and years. That is not true. The job of the church and the pastor is to help you get the Bible as quick as you can. There is no fast track to it, but there is a dedicated way to it.

This is why years ago on the web site you have where I laid out each book of the Bible. I did it on a Sunday (it took 66 Sundays). Every Sunday starting in Genesis, I took each book of the Bible and gave you everything you needed to understand it. I broke it down doctrinally, inspirationally and historically. I gave you the theme and key verses. I gave you stories that illustrated things. That is on the web site! I did that because I wanted to leave something for people who wanted to begin to learn the Bible. That is where you start. You must put a framework together from the Bible.

Also you will see that going along with the stories in the Bible that illustrate principles. You will see in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all the people that had infirmities, diseases, and sickness. You are going to find a man who is lame and blind people. You will find dead people. Over in John 5 (which is one of the key places) you will find the story of the pool of Bethesda. Every year an angel came down and troubled the water. All around that pool were all kinds of people that had infirmities. When the angel troubled the waters, the first one that came down into that pool, got healed. It lists in that chapter all the problems the people had. I know that this is a picture of Israel and their infirmities. It also illustrates that under the Old Testament law, **not** everybody could get healed. **All those infirmities that they have physically are pictures for us for what we have spiritually. The law can't fix that. When Jesus Christ came and died on the cross, whatever problems you have today spiritually or infirmities you are struggling with, God can take it away from you.**

### III. The Compounding Effect of Sin

As you look at things like that, **the best story there is that shows the compounding effect of sin will be laid out in the book of Leviticus.** You are going to find in the Bible all the sickness and infirmities in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and going back to the Old Testament; (like Asa and the disease in his feet) everyone will be a story that will illustrate a New Testament principle about our getting right with the Lord.

When we look at Leviticus, it is the third book in the Bible. The outline of every book in the Bible is very vital. When we lay out the book of Genesis (as we did years ago), we know that Genesis is the book of beginnings. Almost everything you find in the rest of the Bible will be laid out and defined in the book of Genesis (if you know where to look for it).

Then you have the book of Exodus. **Exodus shows us chapter by chapter the Christian life in three aspects.** In chapters 1-11, you see our lives before salvation (1). Israel under the bondage of Egypt crying out and what happens, God sends them a deliverer. It is a perfect picture of your life and my life before we were saved. We were under the bondage of this world, but we cried

out and God sent us a deliver, the Lord Jesus Christ. He came down just like God sent Moses down to Israel. Moses being a type of Christ. Then we have our salvation (2), that will be Exodus chapter 12. We are brought out of the world (Egypt) by the blood of the lamb. From chapters 13 on you see every aspect of the Christian life, chapter by chapter (3). Once you understand the beginnings, (Genesis) now you can see in Exodus how our life should be. Then we get into the book of Leviticus, and he shows you how to do that.

#### IV. Sacrifice (The Way to God) & Sanctification (Our Walk with God)

In the **book of Leviticus**, you find **the Christian life is divided into two key segments**. Which is the key to you having a consistent Christian life. The **book is divided into two sections** and in **chapters 1-10 we find that the way to God is through sacrifice**. We find Christ made the ultimate sacrifice which is the model for us. Now that we are saved, the way to fellowship with God is through sacrifice. First, understanding his sacrifice and then realizing (Romans 12:1-2) that we are to be a living sacrifice. **This will be the great doctrine called “Standing and State.”** When you look at the first ten chapters you will find the different sacrifices.

Chapter 1. Burnt Offering	Chapter 2. Meat Offering
Chapter 3. Peace Offering	Chapter 4. Sin Offering
Chapter 5. Trespass Offering	Chapter 6-10 Offerings the Priests must do.

It is all a complete picture. For us, every one of those feasts (if you take the time to study it out) will be a different aspect of Christ’s sacrifice for us and how we sacrifice for him. It shows **our standing in Christ Jesus which is sinless perfection**. Our second section will be chapters 11-27, this will show us our state. **Your state is your fellowship with Jesus Christ every day**, whatever state you are in this morning. This will represent our walk with God on a daily basis. Where chapter 1-11 showed us the way to God is through sacrifice, chapter 11-27 show us that our walk with God is through sanctification. Being separated from the world. In these chapters you will find all the keys to staying clean before God (when you break them down). Purified before God, after you are saved, staying in fellowship with God. You will find the rules of purification. Then you will find the seven feasts and the sabbaths. You will find the atonement altar. You will also find your second set of purification rules. **Chapter 1-10 in Leviticus shows us the way to God is through sacrifice. Chapter 11-27 shows us that our walk with God is through being sanctified.** See how easy that was? Somebody said, well the Bible is complicated. No, no, it is not if you take the time to break each book down. If you really want to get into the Bible, this is where you start.

#### V. Our Walk & Relationship with God (Covered by the blood from head to toe)

In Leviticus, the first thing we realize is that our way to God is through sacrifice. Then we see that our walk with God is through being sanctified (set apart). Here is the real Bible key to your walk with God, right in the middle of all of this. An Old Testament story illustrating the New Testament principle, just like we have been studying in Psalms.

Turn to Leviticus 8 verses 22-24. I want to show you something about your walk with God. This makes a great devotion if you are going to have a volleyball team, or a softball team or a lifeline group. It is a great message.

*Leviticus 8:22 And he brought the other ram, the ram of consecration: .....*

**Do you see this? What we are about to see is a picture of somebody being separated from the world, sanctified by the word of God, and now consecrated to something.**

*....and Aaron and his sons laid their hands upon the head of the ram. 23. And he slew [it]; and Moses took of the blood of it, and put [it] upon the tip of Aaron's **right ear**, and upon the **thumb of his right hand**, and upon the **great toe of his right foot**. 24 And he brought Aaron's sons, and Moses put of the blood upon the **tip of their right ear**, and upon the **thumbs of their right hands**, and upon the **great toes of their right feet**: and Moses sprinkled the blood upon the altar round about.*

Notice when he does this, he does it to Aaron and his sons. Aaron is the priest. Moses is the leader who brings Israel out of Egypt, but Aaron is the priest. Aaron is a picture of what you and I are as a New Testament Christian, because if you are saved this morning, you are a priest. What happens in this story is **a picture of your walk and relationship with God, that you should be covered by the blood from head to toe**. Three areas of the body have the blood on them. Notice it is on the right side because that is always where Christ is seated. He puts the blood on the tip of the right ear. That represents what you hear and what you let into your life must go through the filter of the blood of Christ. Then he puts it on the tip of his right thumb which shows me that whatever I do or whatever you do for the Lord Jesus Christ needs to be consecrated through the blood. Then on the tip of the right big toe. That will represent where you go in your life. Your walk with God. You will find if you look at verse 22 and then verse 24 that the children get it too. Once it is in your life, it is your job to get it to your children. Consecration through the blood of Christ, head to toe will always separate you from the world. **That is the story that represents everything that we know in the New Testament that tells us about our relationship with God**. Genesis (the book of beginnings), and Exodus (chapter by chapter), together show you what the Christian life should be and what you need to have in your life. Then Leviticus, the book of the priesthood. **It shows you the way of God is through sacrifice and your walk with God must be through your sanctification.**

## VI. Three Stages of Unconfessed Sin in Your Life -- Leprosy

Let me show you what Psalms chapters 1-6 is talking about (all that we have looked at so far). We know from what we have looked at in many passages over the last couple of months is that our sin will separate us from God. I want to show you another story (we are going to look at several stories) in Leviticus chapter 13. Leviticus 13 will be the definitive chapter on leprosy. **Leprosy in the Bible will always represent sin in our lives**. This is the defining chapter on how sin gets into your life and infects you. When you begin to study leprosy, what it does and the disease that it is, you will find that like sin, leprosy gets into a man's body from prolonged uncleanness. When you get away from God and start to walk in the filth of this world..... Leprosy, the sin of leprosy. Not the physical sin, but what it represents. It gets into a man's flesh to start, then slowly it eats away at his flesh till it consumes him and he dies. Until he dies it leaves a terrible mark on his body, just like sin will do if not kept under the blood. Kept clean through putting the blood on the right tip of the ear, the right thumb and then the right big toe.

Everything in this story is an incredible picture of that. In this chapter is a great study for us in the New Testament church age. **Leprosy in Leviticus chapter 13 and 14 will come in three stages.** You need to see and understand this because these three stages are exactly how sin will get into your life and begin to eat away at your flesh. As I go through these three stages, it (sin) will eventually destroy you. This is a place where we know sin, and the ravages of sin, from the New Testament. Here is a story that shows you how it works.

### 1.) Leprosy (sin) in Your Body (Flesh)

In chapter 13:38-46 you will find leprosy in your body. That will be your flesh. Our sin will always start with our flesh. **It starts with your flesh by aligning your spirit with the wrong things. In time, it will affect your heart for God.** We know from Romans 7:18 it says that in my flesh there dwelleth no good thing. Like leprosy, if sin goes untreated by putting your sin under the blood and getting right, it grows! Then it compounds itself. It eats away at you and soon it destroys who you once were. **Now you are a different person.**

### 2.) Leprosy (sin) in Your Garments (Clothes)

The second type of leprosy is found in Leviticus 13:47. It starts in your flesh, and then the leprosy gets in your garments. **The things you wear.** It is in your clothes. So, you don't just act like the world, now you dress like the world. **What started inward in your heart attitude** the infection of the disease (sin) inward in your life. You don't just act like the world; you don't just talk like the world; you look and smell like the world. Every aspect of what you do in your life, what you wear, where you go, is different than it once was. How many times have we all had a campfire where we had a weenie roast, or roasted marshmallows. We got around the campfire and we were all talking and laughing and having a good time. When you go home your clothes smell like smoke. It smells like that campfire. It is because you got close to the fire, close to what was burning, the smoke infected your garments. That is what sin does. **Now you dress to attract the attention of the world., now comes outward. Your whole lifestyle has changed.** We see the outward manifestation of

### 3.) Leprosy (sin) in Your House (family)

The third type of leprosy. Leprosy continues to spread and next you will find in chapter 14:35 **that it got into your flesh, and into your garments, now you have leprosy in your house.** You bring it home and it has spread to your family. **The three stages of unconfessed sin are like leprosy in your flesh, in your clothes and in your house.** You brought your sin home to everybody just like if you had the flu or a bad cold. Usually everybody in the family gets it. Because of the leprosy in your flesh, and in your garments, it is now in your house. Every aspect of your life will not just be affected, but infected. Leprosy (sin) will eat away until you are dead spiritually, you and your family, through the flesh, the garment, and the house.

Now you can see by what I just told you how the stories in the Old Testament will illustrate a principle in the New Testament. When you see and read the story you can better understand how the whole picture of this works. It is not just reading a verse in the New Testament or a series of verses about your walk with God.

## VII. Psalms 7:1-2

Today we are going to continue on and move into Psalms 7. I want to show you another story. We are going to continue to connect the dots, so to speak. You are going to get a little lesson in observing this morning.

1. *LORD my God, in thee do I put my trust: save me from all them that persecute me, and deliver me: 2. Lest he tear my soul like a lion, rending [it] in pieces, while [there is] none to deliver.*

Again, this will be a tribulation Psalm. But I want you to notice that there is a little difference in its content. Look at those two verses, based on what we have studied so far in the first six chapters. If you are just scanning through it and remembering what we already taught so far; what do you observe out of these first two verses? There is something different. In time all of you will get there, many of you are probably there already. But in time you will get to the point where you can look at something like this and see the contrast between where you were and now where you are at. It is incredible! If you remember he has been asking God to help him, to deliver him. He has been crying out to God to give ear unto my word and my prayer. After last week we see a change in his prayer. Now he is back, and he starts his prayer by saying, oh Lord in thee do I put my trust. He is clearly trusting in the Lord now. He didn't do that in the first six chapters. He was in sin, and he was crying out, how long, how long! You don't see any of that now. He is back and the trust is back. He is back to God, but he still has to contend with the enemies of God.

In time you need to be able to see things like this. This is different than just reading your Bible. This is **observing what you are reading**. This is coming to the place where you are absorbing everything that you are seeing. You are keeping everything in some kind of context. You just finished six chapters where he was walking in the council of the ungodly, standing in the way of sinners. You just came through six chapters of this guy doing all the wrong things. Last week we saw him come back to God. Now his prayer changes and he is talking about how much he trusts God.

### ❖ Lion (verse 2) Key Word

For us as we read on through in verse two, we can see the reference to the devil. He says lest he tear my soul like a **lion**. This will be your next key word. **There is a difference between how he uses body and soul in the Old Testament and how we use it in the New Testament.** This can be confusing for many people. In the Old Testament he will use the body and soul interchangeably because they are stuck together. In the New Testament he will never do that because if you are saved, **the spiritual operation of God, (Colossians 2:11 spiritual circumcision) has taken place and the two are separated.** That didn't happen in the Old Testament, so you are going to read the word soul many times for the word body. Body will always mean soul in the Old Testament because they are one. **What you have here in Psalms 7:2 is a picture of the devil inspirationally trying to destroy us.** Everybody is familiar with the New Testament principle that this story is going to illustrate. Where it says in 1 Peter 5:8, *“Be sober, be vigilant because your adversary the devil as a roaring lion (there it is) walketh about seeking whom he may devour.”*

## ❖ Be Sober and Vigilant

There are some **key words** in here that we want to see and understand about this lion who wants to destroy all of us. **The first** thing he tells us that we should “*be sober and vigilant.*” **When it comes to the Christian life you need to know that the devil is out to stop you! So you never let your guard down.** Somebody said one time; the price of freedom is eternal vigilance. That is so true. You always got to have your eyes open and your ears up. **You never take the devil and his work lightly.** Every Christian needs to study **Job chapter 41 and 42. The greatest chapters in the Old Testament on the devil and get it down!** The Bible talks about in Job 41:12 that God will not conceal to us his parts, power, or comely proportions. You need to know what those are. You need to realize how the devil is going to operate and try to stop you. So, you need to be sober and vigilant.

## ❖ Your Adversary the Devil

**The second** thing he says is “*your adversary the devil*”. This puts a context to it all. Here is your real adversary. It is not the people who hate you or talk about you or gossip about you or lie about you. They are just pawns on the devil’s chessboard of life. You don’t want to get focused on them and then lose focus on your real adversary. All the things that are out there, people, places, whatever, that are out there to stop you, all come from your adversary. **The quicker you learn who your adversary really is, the better off you are going to be!**

## ❖ Roaring Lion

**The third** thing, “*roaring lion.*” There are fundamentally two lions in the Bible. 1.) Jesus Christ is called the Lion of the tribe of Judah (Revelation 5:5) and 2.) The devil is likened to a lion (1 Peter 5:8). The devil will always imitate Christ the Lord and everything in Christianity. He will do that to deceive you. I showed you a couple of weeks ago how the devil, your adversary does it two ways. 1.) He will do it openly with the world and then 2.) He will do it inwardly, secretly. Behind the curtain (so to speak) in false aspects of Christianity. The purpose here it says, “*whom he may devour*”. He wants not to just stop you; he wants to destroy you. He wants to devour you. He wants to completely swallow you up and consume you, your family, and everything in your life! You can see from this passage, and what the guy in Psalms 7 is worried about. The devil’s goal is to swallow us up. Let’s understand this as it applies to us in the New Testament Christianity. Then I want to show you a great story.

## ❖ The Devil can Possess 99% of Everything, Except Your Soul (if you are saved)

There is a question that I am asked from time to time. The question is, **can a Christian be demon possessed?** Somebody will say it is the difference between oppression and possession. That is how the standard answer is. But you know when you study it out it is quite a bit more than that. **Have you ever stopped and seen what the devil can possess in a Christian’s life?** We just talk about the terminology. We throw out oppression and possession and the difference between the two..... The devil can possess your body, he can possess your eyes, your hands, your feet, your mouth, your tongue. He can even possess your thoughts and your imaginations. He can possess your spirit and your mind. He can possess your desires and your heart attitude and your emotions. **He can possess 99% of everything except your soul. He cannot get your**

**soul.** Basically, he can possess everything that has to do with your physical body (your flesh), **but he can never possess the spiritual part of you, your soul.** Because Ephesians 4:30 says that you have been sealed unto the day of redemption. **But he can get everything else.** But what he can get through your flesh, your eyes, your mouth, your tongue, all those things; will render you useless to anything God wants to do with you. He will tear your spiritual life, tear your marriage, tear your family apart. **But for a Christian, he cannot devour you.** An unsaved man or woman you are absolutely going to get devoured. He will get your soul. For a child of God, he can render us to pieces. He can destroy us in the flesh. He can get every part of my flesh under his control, except my soul. **Patterns in the Bible!**

There is a great story in the Old Testament that will illustrate this teaching and principle. You remember back in 1 Corinthians 5:5 there is a good example of this. We see a saved man in 1 Corinthians 5 who **Paul tells the church to turn this saved man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh.** This man stepped over the line; he is unrepentant. He won't do what he needs to do, and they are tired of dealing with him. So, Paul says okay, all you have left to do is this. You turn that guy over to the devil. Let the lion have him. Let him tear him apart and rip him up. He has already given him his body. He has given him everything, so turn him over for the destruction of the flesh; that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. He got everything in his flesh and the devil could destroy it. The devil gets his flesh, but the Bible says he can't get his soul.

You are going to find in your Bible that there are **two different damnations.** There is a damnation for a lost person who dies and goes to hell. And there is a damnation for a saved person who the devil gets his flesh.

You are going to find there are **two types of "saved"** in the Bible. There is a type of saved when you get eternally saved. Then there is a type after you are saved that saves you from being deceived or physical problems, by staying right with God.

You will also find there are **two types of "faith"** in the Bible. There is faith that a man must have to get saved and after that there is a faith he has to have after he is saved. You are going to see that all through the Bible you will find this laid out in an Old Testament story. It is one of the greatest stories and one of my favorites. It is a story that has some great principles to it. I learned this many, many years ago as a young man starting out in the ministry. I think this is why the story is so special to me because I was a young guy just getting my feet wet in the ministry. I actually lived through some of these things we are going to talk about.

## A.) Two Ways of the Lion (the Devil)

We are going to talk about the two ways of the lion. The **devil has two ways he is going to try to destroy you.** Remember as a Christian he can get everything in your flesh, but he cannot possess your soul. Your soul is separated from your flesh. It is sealed and this will be the great doctrine of spiritual circumcision found in Colossians 2:11. Let's look at the Old Testament story back in 1 Kings 13. You will find this is why I took such time to lay out the New Testament aspect of this. Because now we are going to go back and see how this story in the Old Testament will illustrate everything that I just told you. This is a great story that will illustrate several truths about the Christians life. In particular us getting killed spiritually by the fake spirituality and/or the world.



1 Kings 13:1-2 *And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Bethel: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense. 2. And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee.*

I want to show you from an Old Testament passage right here the two ways that he (the devil, the roaring lion) is going to try to stop you. This is what the guy in Psalms 7:1-2 is worried about. This young man is called of God with the message of God. He is called to preach against the sins of his nation, the nation of Israel. During this time Jeroboam and Rehoboam have split the kingdoms. They are deep in Baal worship and far away from God. So, God sends them a prophet. And this young man here, even though we don't have his name, he comes and prophesies before Jeroboam and says there is a man coming. The next king down the line, Josiah, is going to be a good king. He is telling them that Josiah is going to burn all of these false priests of Baal, you included sir, on this very altar. And he is going to restore Israel back to God. This young man is a picture of what you and I should be. Really, any Christian! Any child of God and God having him right where he needs to be to do what he is has called him to do. Notice he gives him the message to do it. One thing I want you to see here is the word **"Bethel"**. **Bethel means house of bread.** Today it would represent any church, this church is your house of bread. It is where you get taught the bible. But as you will see the devil, the lion begins to get into works here. This young man is faced with two choices. Both of these choices are going to destroy him, take God out of his life, and he will wind up spiritually dead.

➤ The Devil Wants to Buy You Off with a Reward (Selling out to the world)

The first thing Jeroboam does is try to buy him off. He doesn't like the message and he doesn't want to hear that God's judgment is going to come on him as the king and the nation. So, he says come home with me and I will give you a really nice reward, just shut your mouth. So, he tries to buy the kid off. The kid said sorry, I got a message and I got to preach it. I don't need a reward here. That is what the devil wants to do with you, he wants to give you your reward down here. He wants to give you all the things that you think really mean something. **The devil wants you to have your reward here and when you get to the judgment seat of Christ, you are spiritually dead. You have nothing.** The first thing we see is the world trying to buy you off with a reward, so you don't preach the message of God. Is there anybody here that cannot see that? I love this story!

➤ A False Prophet (old prophet)

*11. Now there dwelt an old prophet in Bethel; and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Bethel: the words which he had spoken unto the king, them they told also to their father. 12 And their father said unto them, What way went he? For his sons had seen what way the man of God went, which came from Judah.*

*13 And he said unto his sons, Saddle me the ass. So they saddled him the ass: and he rode thereon, 14 And went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an oak: .....*

**NOTE: I don't have time to get into showing that this man is under the cross. Christ was crucified on an oak tree.**

.....and he said unto him, [Art] thou the man of God that camest from Judah? And he said, I [am]. 15 Then he said unto him, Come home with me, and eat bread. 16 And he said, I may not return with thee, nor go in with thee: neither will I eat bread nor drink water with thee in this place: 17 For it was said to me by the word of the LORD, Thou shalt eat no bread nor drink water there, nor turn again to go by the way that thou camest.

So, the kid says sorry I can't leave my mission with God. I am getting my bread down at Bethel. I can't leave and go to your house and have bread and eat with you, because the Lord told me to do this. Look at verse 18 (observe 666).

18. He said unto him, I [am] a prophet also as thou [art]; and an angel spake unto me by the word of the LORD, saying, Bring him back with thee into thine house, that he may eat bread and drink water. **[But] he lied unto him.**

Here is a prophet who claims to be a prophet of God. Who sees the young man that God is using out of Bethel. He says, you know what? Come back with me, eat bread at my house, study the Bible at my house. Come back and be with me. The young man said, oh I can't do that. He says God's given me a mission at Bethel and I've got to get it done. I've got to follow through with it. The guy (old prophet) said, hey I am a prophet just like you. Some prophets like to pretend they are prophets, and they dress just like the real prophets and everything else. They say I got the prophet cloth; I got my Bible I got this and that. The old prophet said I am a prophet just like you, and the Lord told me something different than he told you. But he lied unto him.

This shows the danger that a young Christian has to face today in two aspects. Most young Christians before they get their feet on the ground and get stabilized are very naive to the ways of this roaring lion. **This guy pretended to be a prophet. He projected a false spirituality.** He even told this guy that an angel told him. Right there for me it should have been a red flag because in the New Testament Paul takes about another gospel in Galatians. Paul says, even if another angel comes.... See those are all keys here! This guy pretended to be a prophet.

This story means so much to me because when I first got into ministry I was about as naive as you could get. The night I got right with God, I was as happy as I could be. People were patting me on the back and shaking my hand and saying praise the Lord. If somebody would have told me that some of those people were out of fellowship with God, I wouldn't believe them. If somebody told me that some of those people were gossiping with each other and trying to hurt other people or do this or that, I would have called them a liar. If I was this kid, given what I know now, and I had been in Bethel and God gave me a message. I am on my way with it and then I meet the old prophet and he goes on and on how great he is. God speaks to him, and he's got all this stuff and God told him that he now is going to take me under his wing, and I am going to eat bread at his house. If I was this kid, you know what I would have looked at that old prophet and said, if you are everything you say about yourself, why is God not using you? Where is your church? Where is your ministry? Where are your kids? Observe! Ever notice how wherever you go in these things the kids are always part of it? Verse 11 says it was his sons that told him about the man of God. In Leviticus 8:24 where they are putting the blood on those three parts of the body, they did it to the kids too. In 1 Samuel 2:21 is the story of Samuel and Eli. It talks about his (Eli) kids. **You can always spot a false prophet who will deceive you and wind up getting you killed. Not by what he says but by what he doesn't say.**

**Notice and observe the old prophet not one time ever says the words, “thus sayeth the Lord” until God uses him to judge the young man.** Not until it is all coming down around his shoulders. Pay attention to detail when somebody tells you something.

When I was back in Kansas City, I had a Sunday school class that was probably running around four or five hundred people. I have never been to Bible college. I didn't have any culture or doctor's degree from Calvary Bible college. But I had a master's degree in common sense. Back then Calvary Bible college was the place that many of these guys went. So, I get pulled aside by one of the deacons and he says, have you ever thought about taking some classes at Calvary? I said, you mean the one that doesn't believe the Bible is the word of God. He said, you know what you need, you need some culture. You need to take some classes at Calvary, and they will help knock off some of the rough edges. He said I am going to Calvary right now. I asked him, do you believe the King James Bible is the absolute perfect word of God? He says of course not. I said let me ask you a question. Why would I waste my time and money to go to a place that all they are going to tell me is that I don't have a Bible that I can trust? That ended our conversation! My point is this. I have had my share of old prophets in my life. I know how to smell them out. I know exactly what they look like, and how they talk.

In this passage is a young kid who should have said, hey if you are everything you say you are, why is God not using you? Where is your church? What is your ministry? And the Bible says the old prophet lied to him. So, the kid falls for it. Drinks the Kool-Aid. He leaves the house of bread, follows the old prophet, and eats his bread. Now they are sitting down studying the Bible, eating bread and having a great time. Then verse 24-28. God didn't wait very long on this one. God comes down and **boy you better get this!** The old prophet had never said “thus sayeth the Lord”, but when the Lord intervenes to judge his young kid, that is been deceived he uses the old prophet to judge him. Point being---**the wrong people you mess up with in your life will be exactly what God uses to judge you by.** Here the old prophet says thus sayeth the Lord. But it is God intervening that little bible study, the little bread fest. Now he is telling this kid through the old prophet you are in trouble and God rebukes him in verse 21-22.

*21 And he cried unto the man of God that came from Judah, saying, **Thus saith the LORD**, Forasmuch as **thou hast disobeyed the mouth of the LORD**, and hast not kept the commandment which the LORD thy God commanded thee, 22 But camest back, and hast eaten bread and drunk water in the place, of the which [the LORD] did say to thee, Eat no bread, and drink no water; thy carcase shall not come unto the sepulchre of thy fathers.*

So, the young man from Bethel gets up, packs his bag and says, hey man I got to go. You lied to me. You didn't tell me the truth. You told me that God told you and you lied to me. The Lord now has confirmed that. So, he goes his way and in verse 24 he meets a lion. Here he is, “in the way” your adversary, the devil going about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. **Here comes the devil,** 1 Peter 5:8.

*1 Kings 13:24 And when he was gone, **a lion met him by the way, and slew him: and his carcase was cast in the way, and the ass stood by it, the lion also stood by the carcase.***

The lion (the devil) slays him. That is probably a wrong choice of words. When you read the text it looks like he ripped him apart and cast him along the wayside. That is exactly what the devil will do to you.

**He will either try to get you through the world or he will bring in the false prophets like the Bible colleges and all of those things.** People who will destroy and take from you and lie to you. Then when you get destroyed by the chastisement of God, you know what the world will do? You know what the old prophet will do? He will cast you along the side of the road. The Bible says he is a carcass. Traditionally a carcass has no legs, no hands and no head. Just the carcass! This is a terrible tragedy! This guy who God wanted to use got deceived by the old prophet and now he has paid the price of being destroyed by the lion (devil). **If the devil can't get you to smell like the world, then he will get you to sell out to the old prophets. Both will get you killed spiritually.**

Here is the principle, Psalms 7:2 The guy is afraid, lest he tear my soul like a lion. Just like the kid back in 1 Kings 13. Remember the soul and the body are one and the same. I already gave you 1 Peter 5:8 your adversary the devil as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. Now come back to 1 Kings 13 and look at verse 26. In verse 26 I want you to also see that the lion was from the Lord.

*26. And when the prophet that brought him back (old prophet) from the way heard [thereof], he said, It [is] the man of God, who was disobedient unto the word of the LORD: **therefore the LORD hath delivered him unto the lion**, which hath torn him, and slain him, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake unto him.*

That old prophet knew he was lying to him and the moment he heard that this kid was dead, he didn't say, I wonder if he was hit by a car? No, he knew the Lord had done it because he disobeyed. You got to watch them old prophets. He rejected the world's offer in verses 1-10, but **he took the offer of the old prophet because it looked spiritual, it sounded spiritual, but it wasn't biblical.** There was no "thus sayeth the Lord" and he lied to him. Verse 26 says that he was disobedient to the word of God and that got him killed spiritually. God's chastisement now delivered under the lion (1 Corinthians 5:5) for the destruction of the flesh that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Here is the New Testament principle in verse 28 on being devoured. The old prophet goes down, he knows the guy is dead and he knows that the Lord did it. He also knows that he lied to the young man. He knows he is a phony, but.....

*24. And **he went and found his carcass** cast in the way, and **the ass and the lion standing by the carcass**: the lion had not eaten the carcass, nor torn the ass. 1Kings 13:28*

The lion is still there, and he had not eaten the carcass nor torn the ass. That is a picture of New Testament Christianity. **Our disobedience to the word of God, either selling out to the world or following the old prophet and all their teachings can get you killed spiritually.** The devil can kill you, destroy your flesh, but he can't devour you. He can't get your soul. As the old expression is, they can kill us but they can't eat us! It is against the law. For the New Testament Christian, he can kill you, but he can't eat you. **Your soul is sealed unto the day of redemption.** He can get everything about your flesh. It doesn't matter, it is going back down to the ground, going back to the dust. He can get everything you have, but never your soul. The young man is torn and slain and cast in the way. Now he is a carcass. Look at Isaiah 66:24 where it talks about an unsaved man and somebody going forth and looking into the bottomless

pit, or at least the Lake of Fire or maybe Hell, depending on the context. He says they go forth and look at the carcasses of men that have transgressed against God.

*And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh. Isaiah 66:24*

Here is a picture of a saved man's carcass. An unsaved man who rejects Christ winds up in a carcass in the Lake of Fire. A saved man or woman who doesn't keep themselves from the world and gets deceived, winds up as a spiritual carcass along the side of the road of life. You are saved and going to heaven, but you are going to lose everything that you have. You are worthless. We saw it last week where once you are in the grave there is no more remembrance of him. Why? Because you are dead. The devil is liken to a lion and **as a lion the devil is represented two ways** in your Bible. In I Peter 5:8 says he is **liken to a roaring lion who stomps up and down and destroys everything in his path**. But in 2 Corinthians 11:14 he is **liken to an angel of light who says all the right things, just like the old prophet did. Who will try to get you out of the house of Bethel that God put you in**. To eat bread at his house and wind up getting destroyed. Why? Because he lied unto him.

## VIII. Summary

The great key to unlocking the word of God (for those who want to get to that level) will be the stories in the Old Testament. You will want to get it down historically, doctrinally, and inspirationally. The key to this will be the stories that are throughout the Bible in the Old Testament. As you lay out those books of the Bible one by one and lay the foundation for them. Then through Bible study, Sunday morning and your own personal study you begin to work on the stories and learn each story and how it is represented in the New Testament.

When you find a place like Psalms 7:1-2 where a man now has come back to God, but he is afraid that the lion will get him. You follow the key words like the lion, and it will bring you into the New Testament principle of 1 Peter 5:8 versus Revelation 5:5. **There will always be a story or stories in the Old Testament that will show you the New Testament principle in detail, so you can clearly understand it.** Once you see this, you will never look at the Bible the same way again. Some of you have really dug into the Bible and it shows in your life. You will know when you turn the corner with your Bible. The way you will know is when you get it in the back of your mind some automatic things that you look for when you open up that book. You learn to observe! You learn that no matter what story you are reading, no matter where you are at, no matter what you are getting into. It only represents a New Testament principle that shows you through the Old Testament story, like this one. A guy worried about being eaten by the lion. Now you know as a New Testament Christian, he can kill you if you don't do what is right, but he can never devour you. He can't get your soul.!

**The Old Testament and the New Testament go hand in hand.** The Old Testament stories will reveal the New Testament principles. You use both sets of books together in a practical or inspirational way. You will always know the history, and the doctrinal is pretty easy, if you come to this Bethel (Old Paths Baptist) very often. **It is the inspirational, that you got to really work on sometimes.** You do that by knowing that every story is like I told you about in

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Every story about a man, woman or child will represent the nation of Israel in some spiritual form. Once you know that you will never look at those four books again the same way.

**When you can get your Bible down you will know that every one of these stories is key to unlocking a New Testament principle.** This is why, years ago, I laid out each book in the Bible. When a young man or young woman wants to begin to learn the Bible, this is where they would start. Basically, developing the context of each book. It takes time I know, and it takes discipline. But you got to take them one by one, then develop the stories in each one. Laying them out historically, doctrinally, inspirationally, and then adding to the foundation of the books of the bible that you have already worked on.

Sharon, I know you are listening this morning and you will remember this too. This is a little walk down memory lane. When I was a kid growing up, we had a lot of traditions in the family. On New Year's Eve my mom would always get one of those thousand-piece picture puzzles. You open up the box and my goodness, there are a thousand little pieces. My mom would start about eight o'clock. I was just a little guy, and my sister was a little older than me. I kind of faded out right after midnight when we all went out and beat pots and pans on the front porch and yelled, Happy New Year! We would be out on the porch banging those pots and pans and I would look in there and mom was putting a puzzle together. I would finally fall asleep, but when I woke up in the morning, that puzzle was finished. Years later I was spending some time with my mom, and we were laughing about something, and I asked her, how do you do that? How do you dump a thousand pieces on the card table and in the morning, it is all together and there is the picture? She says well Bobby (she called me Bobby) what you do is you spread all the pieces out and then you find the corner pieces. Then you start putting the corner pieces together and you get the top and then you come down the sides and across the bottom. Once you get the framework in, she says then it is a lot easier. Then you start working from the framework in and by morning, I have the picture because there is a system to it.

When she told me that immediately I thought to myself, that is exactly what I did with the Bible! **That is exactly what you need to do with the Bible! The Bible is a picture of what God is doing but it's a thousand-piece picture puzzle.** You know what some of your problems are? You just dumped it all on a table and are trying to figure out what part goes where. You got to build the corners first and lay a foundation in that Bible first. You got to get the books of the Bible down and learn some fundamental things. When you have that down, then like my mom told me, you build from the outside in. Then pretty soon one morning when you get up, the picture is going to be right there! Each piece you add to it when you come to Thursday night bible study, you come to your Bethel, the house of bread. You get this and you get that. You keep adding to the picture of the puzzle and someday the picture is clear, and you can see it.

Now you have a better context of Psalms chapters 1-6 where they are out of fellowship and now chapter 7 where he is back in fellowship, and he is trusting the Lord. **His fear ought to be our fear, because your adversary the lion goeth about seeking him whom he may devour.** He may not devour you, but he will rip you to pieces. **He will do that through the world or the old prophets.** Now you know how the devil will try to stop you. **He is able to destroy your flesh, but never able to devour your soul!**