

## I. Review

Last week I showed you a key part of your Bible concerning God dealing with the nation of Israel. It was focused on Psalms 10 where it makes reference to the fact that God was hiding himself from the Jew, the nation of Israel. You know by now if you have been here any length of time, God has **two primary identities** that He works through in history. The Old Testament and the New Testament which He enacts his plan down through time. We know that the Old Testament will be the nation of Israel and the New Testament will be the church, the body of Christ.

I showed you last week in both cases, the one doesn't fully understand the other. There is a lot of confusion on both parties between Israel and the church. I showed you **that the key to understanding it all was found it was the book of Romans**. Romans is our handbook of Bible doctrine for the New Testament church and specifically dealing with Israel in Romans 9-11. Add to the fact that in both cases **Israel and the church are hated by the devil** and are continually under attack. All through history he's attacked the nation of Israel as God's people. He has attacked the church as you know, the body of Christ in the New Testament. If you remember, I showed you chapter by chapter in Matthew how that Christ came to the nation of Israel at the first coming of Christ and they totally rejected Him. It was very important for you to see that. I hope you got all that into your Bible.

The Bible says in John 1:11 "*He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*" The key chapter to understanding that as I walked you through Matthew is Chapters 12-13 and how at this point the kingdom of Heaven to the Jews gets postponed. At this point, we saw in Chapter 13 how he begins to speak to them in parables. You will remember that I laid out the twelve parables a couple of months ago on Thursday night Bible Study (3/14/2024). I showed you how there are seven here in Chapter 13, and then in Matthew 21 you find the rest of them. Hopefully, you can see how all this fits into Psalm 10. God hiding himself from the Jew. It may not sound like much but that is a key aspect of your Bible and we are going to develop it even further today. We will see how in the Old Testament and the New Testament they both work together for God to lay out what He is doing through the word of God.

## II. We Are All Students of the Word of God

Today my goal will be to show you how all this plays into the church age and how it really affects us, and what we need to know about it. I have said this many times that I am only interested in one thing with people that God brings here. That I can get involved in their life and help them become legitimate Bible students. There are no experts when it comes to the Bible. What you have when it comes to the word of God are Bible students. You find students are on

different levels, but **we are all students of the word of God**. Everyone is on a different level as a Bible student. That is the way you must approach it!

### III. Two Kinds of People in Churches - Permanent & Temporary

I have learned over the years (this is true of any church), that every church is going to have two kinds of people. You will have your permanent people and you will have your temporary people. Your permanent people are going to be people who see what God is doing, see what God is doing in their life and make their investment in that church that they are going to be part of the ministry. They catch the vision of the pastor and they line up with him that they are going to do the work and invest everything that they have. Not only themselves, but their finances, their families, everything. They are committed and they are permanent when it comes to the work of God.

Then you have people that are temporary people. I never say anything to anybody, but I can see as you look across any church, people that someday are not going to be here. They are temporary. They make no real investment; they don't ever get into the ministry or do anything. Most of them don't give anything and they just basically come for a while and then something will come into their life. Some problem will develop, and they are just not solid in the word of God when it comes to ministry. As I said, just as Israel is under attack today, don't think for a New York minute, that your family is not under attack today. You as a Christian are under attack today. When I say the devil hates Christianity, let me be more specific. **The devil hates permanent Christians**. He hates you folks out there who buy into the ministry. Not just here, but anywhere across the country in any church. You are going to make up your mind that you are going to invest what God has given you and invested in you. And the devil is going to come after you for that reason.

**The easiest thing for the devil is to attack temporary people**. He is always putting something glittering in front of them. So they think the grass is always greener on the other side of the hill. That is a popular expression from my day. Your kids don't use that anymore, but Mel Sabaka used to use that in his sermons. He used to say, most of God's people think the grass is greener on the other side of the hill. Then he would say but wait till you see the water bill. There is a lot of truth to that. Christianity today is about as confused as it ever could be. For the most part they have no idea how they fit into God's eternal plan.

#### ❖ Two Identities – Israel, God's Wife & the Church, Christ's Bride

It all starts with just a simple basic format. That simple basic format in the Bible, when you start to look at the two identities, (because the Bible is built around these two identities) **Israel is called God's wife** and in the Bible the **church is called Christ's bride**. Those are two different concepts that carry with them a magnitude of material to study. This will really show you exactly what God is doing. What He did in the Old Testament with Israel as His wife.

And what Christ is doing in the church with His espoused bride that He is coming for very soon. This concept has been (in both cases) completely lost today. It never ceases to amaze me how people can talk about the Bible without ever knowing anything about the Bible. At the first coming of Christ, Israel is a completely different nation than it was at its highest point under David and Solomon. If you would go back and look at the nation of Israel under David and Solomon, you would see that Israel was at its highest point with its relationship with God under the leadership of those two men. Now I know Solomon kind of falls off the wagon after a while, but initially it is close as it ever got in history. At the first coming of Christ Israel lost that. They are only a former shadow of what they once were. But having said that, this is where you got to see how it all ties together.

At the second coming of Christ, (the body of Christ) the church is completely different than it was from 1600-1900. The church was at its greatest as in Revelation 3:7 when it had the key of David.

*And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, **he that hath the key of David**, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; Revelation 3:7*

That key of David opened up tremendous opportunities for the body of Christ. We have lost the keys today. It is no wonder most of us lose our car keys. God's people have lost the key of David and today have no clue. We too are just a former resemblance of ourselves. I have laid out for you that **the two reasons that both fell apart from God's original plan for them was that the devil got Israel to forget God.** Once Israel forgot God, **they threw out His word.** As **for the church, the devil just changed it up a bit and got the church to get rid of the Bible** (first), and **then through that they forgot God.** When the Jews forgot God, they replaced His word with at least four or five different things.

#### IV. Israel Forgets God and Replaces His Word

- **The first book they replaced his word with what is called the Torah.** The Torah is a series of rewritings of the first five books of Moses, from Genesis to Deuteronomy. What they did is they rewrote those books, and reinterpreted those books so that the rabbis and the people would not have to go to the Old Testament to read it or study it.
- **The second book that they replaced God's Old Testament with is called the Midrash.** That is a book of interpretations on the books of the Bible written by the rabbis. The reason why they did this is because there were so many references in the Old Testament to the Lord Jesus Christ, the second coming of Christ and Christ as their Messiah, that they had to get rid of them. So how did they do that? They wrote their own book interpreting all the passages and leaving out the ones they didn't want.

- **The third book is what is called the Talmud.** This is a commentary on the law of Moses. Again, that is made up by the rabbis and whatever they wanted to make it say.
- **The fourth book is the Mishnah.** The Mishnah is a book of legal codes and terms that is also made up by the rabbis.

All of these books are what they have come up with to get around the Bible, (the Old Testament that God gave them). You need to see that and understand that. They forgot God and then they forgot the word of God. Then they changed it and made up their own concoction of what they think the Bible should say. So, **they have no Bible!**

## V. The Church Forgets God & Replaces His Word

**Stay with me here.....**When the church got rid of the bible, the New Testament, they too replaced it. They replaced it with the RSV in 1888 and refried that one in 1958. They replaced that with the ASV in 1901, then the NIV in 1973 and 1978. Then they came out with the New Living Translation and then the English Standard Version. The New American Standard Bible came out in 1977. They didn't get it right, so they did it again in 1995. They probably didn't get that one right, so they did it again in 1997. Then they came up with the Amplified Bible back in the 1950's, the Christian Standard Bible, the Contemporary English version, and Good News for Modern Man. The Living Bible, the Literal Standard Bible, the New American Bible and a hundred more!

So just like Israel who replaced the Old Testament to get rid of God in the Bible. The New Testament Christianity has done the same thing. In both cases, they don't have a Bible! Because of these two areas almost without exception, everything today (in Israel and in Christianity) is a counterfeit.

I know most people don't like to hear things like that and it can maybe be offensive to some. Somebody says well who does he think he is! Well, I am nobody, but I got a Bible that I believe. I am going to prove that point to you before we are done today. So, you can get mad, throw your little temper tantrum, call me whatever you want to call me. You won't call me anything that I haven't been called before. I start to enjoy it after a while. Some of them I can't spell, but they sound really neat.

Both Israel and the church today, are the fulfilment of 2 Timothy 3:5 where it says that they have a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof.

***Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. 2Timothy 3:5***

## VI. Psalms 10:10-18

Today we are looking at the second part of Psalms 10 verses 10 through 18.

10. *He croucheth, [and] humbleth himself, that **the poor** may fall by his strong ones.*
11. *He hath said in his heart, God hath forgotten: **he hideth his face**; he will never see [it].*
12. **Arise, O LORD**; *O God, lift up thine hand: forget not the humble.*
13. *Wherefore doth the **wicked contemn God**? he hath said in his heart, **Thou wilt not require [it]**.*
14. *Thou hast seen [it]; for thou beholdest mischief and spite, to requite [it] with thy hand: the poor committeth himself unto thee; thou art the helper of the fatherless.*
15. **Break thou the arm of the wicked and the evil [man]**; *seek out his wickedness [till] thou find none.*
16. **The LORD [is] King for ever and ever**; *the **heathen are perished out of his land**.*
17. *LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear:*
18. *To judge the fatherless and the oppressed, that the man of the earth may no more oppress.*

I showed you this last week, but I think it is important for you to learn how to digest these verses. You have verses 10-18. Let me show you how you set the context. **We know doctrinally this chapter is a tribulation Psalms.** Look at verse 10, there is the “**poor**” again. I told you last week that the poor will always be Israel. Look at verse 11, **he hideth his face**. We covered this last week, so you know you are getting the keys that are setting up the context. Verse 12, **Arise, O Lord**, that is the second coming. That is somebody asking God to come back. Verse 13, it talks about the people with the antichrist **who contemn God** and are saying in their heart, **God’s not going to do anything about it**. These are people in the tribulation, but we are pretty close to the tribulation because this is like a lot of people you will find in the world today, especially in America. In verse 14-15, we see he says that **he breaks the arm of the wicked and the evil man**. That will be the antichrist and the people that are with him. In verse 16-18 it says, the **Lord is King over all the Earth**. We have gone into the Millennium.

Do you see how that works? It is just verse by verse; if you follow the key words, it will define itself. In verses 16-18 we are in the Millennium. The Lord is king forever and ever. The heathen is perished out of this land. This is how you put these passages together. You use the key words.

## VII. God Hid from Israel – The Church Hides from God’s Word

Let me show you something. I think this is vital! The ignorance of Israel and their confusion came from their rejection of Christ at the first coming of Christ (Matthew 12-13), we saw that last week. We now understand because of that rejection, God hid himself from the nation of Israel.

**Stay with me**..... Today, we see the ignorance of Christianity and the body of Christ. This also comes from their rejecting the word of God. Now watch this! In the Old Testament when they rejected His word, God hid himself from the nation of Israel. But in the New Testament, God did not hide himself from the church. Rather, **the church hid themselves from God’s word.** This is why Paul and Peter told us of the “*seven things that we are not to be ignorant of.*” I laid those out for you at Thursday night Bible study (5/23/2024).

Revelation 3:20 which **talks exactly about the day and age that we live in.** The Bible says that Christ is saying this is the only place in the bible where you find Christ talking about a literal door. He says, behold I stand at the door and knock.

***Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. Revelation 3:20***

In the day and age that we live in, Christ is put out of His own church. They rejected Him and the Bible. He is knocking at the door of the church to come back in. If you read it, He wants to fellowship with them. He wants to sup with them. He wants to dine with them, as they feast together on the word of God. We are told in 2 Timothy 2:15 that we are to study to show ourselves approved unto God. Yet so many people have been saved, ten, fifteen, twenty years and still don’t know about the seven things they should not be ignorant of. Or truly, anything about the word of God, past the basics.

You are going to find, and I am going to say it again, when Israel rejected God, God hid from them. But He revealed himself in everything that He was going to do to His bride, the church. **In the New Testament, the church hid themselves from God’s word.** Did you ever notice that? Maybe this will make more sense now when you deal with people. I mean, you have a problem with pride, you know that pride is keeping you from doing what is right. Yet, the Bible tells you exactly how you handle pride. But you never do with it what the Bible says to do because you hide from what the Bible says. You just keep making up excuses and you are not willing to deal with it. So, you hide from what the word of God says, so that you don’t have to deal with the problem.

You find this all through Christianity today. And on the level of the Bible itself. Where Israel, God hid from them. God didn’t hide from you and me. **He gave us the revelation of God that has everything in it.** That is everything He is doing, everything just the way He wants us to have it. Why don’t we know that? I will give you five or ten years, if you have been saved that

long just to figure out what is going on. But come on! **How long will it take for God's people to quit hiding from the word of God?** When God has laid out in the book everything! Everything that you could ever want to know! It is just that simple!

## VIII. Seven Mysteries Given to the Church

I talked a couple of weeks ago about God's systematic theology. **You know God gave us the seven mysteries to the church?** The keys to understanding all that God is doing!

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| 1.) God is manifested in the flesh | 1 Timothy 3:16         |
| 2.) Christ in you (Holy Spirit)    | Colossians 1:27        |
| 3.) Christ and his church          | Ephesians 5:32         |
| 4.) Israel                         | Romans 11:25           |
| 5.) Rapture of the Church          | 1 Corinthians 15:51-55 |
| 6.) Antichrist                     | 2 Thessalonians 2:7    |
| 7.) Roman Catholic Church          | Revelation 17:5        |

Yet we are told in 1 Corinthians 4:1 that we as believers are to be stewards of these mysteries.

*Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.*

**A steward is someone that is found faithful in what somebody gives to them.** God gave them to us! God didn't hide from us; we hid from Him! He didn't hide the word of God from us. We decided to hide from the book and do something else. I want you to see that! I want you to understand this! You say, I don't like the way you are talking. You are going to like it less before I get through!

### ❖ Wise Men Study the Word of God

God gave us all this and more so we could be **wise men**. I told you in Matthew 2 those wise men came to exactly where Christ was. They got a guiding star that led them. They followed the star, but they knew when to head out. They knew what direction to head out and what town to go to. Why? Because it is all in the Old Testament. **They were wise men. Wise because they studied the word of God.** Wise men because even though God had hidden Himself from the nation of Israel, there were still men and woman out there who wanted to know God. God revealed through the Old Testament exactly everything they needed to know which brought them right to where He was. He does the same thing with us today. The problem is back in the first coming of Christ, (I don't know how many for sure showed up) they brought three gifts, so everybody says it was three wise men. I will stick with the fact that there were three gifts so that probably represents that there were three men. In all of the nation of Israel and all that God had done in the Old Testament with people, only three men were connected to the Old Testament. There should have been at least 100,000 people in that city that night who knew exactly where the king was going to be born. They should have been packing that place out. **Three.....**

**There were only three!** When it comes to the second coming of Christ, we have everything we need to be that wise man. To know the times and the seasons of His coming. I am not sure you could find three today!

Thursday night I laid out the seven things based on somebody's question that you are not to be ignorant of:

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| 1. The Gentiles                   | Romans 1:13          |
| 2. Israel                         | Romans 11:25         |
| 3. Baptism of Moses               | 1 Corinthians 10     |
| 4. Spiritual Gifts                | I Corinthians 12:1   |
| 5. Suffering for Christ           | 2 Corinthians 1:8    |
| 6. The Rapture                    | 1 Thessalonians 4:13 |
| 7. A thousand years is as one day | 2 Peter 3:8          |

I said earlier you know that there will be people out there that won't like my comments about most of Christianity being counterfeit. But you proved my point! Because many of you have been saved for ten, twenty, thirty years and you know nothing about what I am talking about. You prove my point!

**Wise men, three guys!** Three guys out of let's say ten million people back in Israel's day. Three guys found their way to where He was at the first coming of Christ. The Bible calls them wise men because they were wise in the word of God. To search the scriptures, to know when and where to be in order to find the king. I am telling you God has revealed to everybody in this building. Everybody in Christianity, every man and woman that has been saved and indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God. You have that Spirit, and you have the word of God and God will not hide Himself from you like He did Israel. He will reveal everything He has and does to you. It's not God hiding from you, it is you hiding from God.

## IX. Seven Books Dealing with Israel's Rejections & Restorations

Let me show you an amazing book found in the Old Testament. Honestly, maybe not at first glance you would not see this, but hopefully by the time I am done taking you underneath the surface, you will find that this book is the key to everything that we live in today.

We know that the premillennial return of Christ is the theme of the Bible. Called the day of the Lord. In the Old Testament you have an order of seven books in your Old Testament dealing with the nation of Israel concerning the first rejection when they reject Him in 606 BC and they go into captivity. You will find this first rejection in 2 Chronicles 36. You are going to find that the Jews are kicked out. Nebuchadnezzar comes in, Babylon comes in, and now the Jews go into captivity. They are kicked out of the land. The thing that you want to watch in the Bible is when the Bible will give you a little more information on that.



Once you see that, then if you are paying attention and you read over in Isaiah 11, it is going to tell you that Israel gets kicked out and restored two times.

- The first one is right here in 606 BC in **the book of 2 Chronicles 36**. But I have to look for the second one. After they get kicked out in **2 Chronicles 36**, we find that about 70 years later a remnant goes back to Jerusalem, and this will be found in the book of Ezra. The first time the Jew gets kicked out in 2 Chronicles 36 will match up to the second time they are kicked out in 70 AD under Titus. Those are the two times that the Jew is kicked out. If they are kicked out twice, they must be restored twice. That is why Isaiah 11:11 tells you that he regathers Israel two times.

*And it shall come to pass in that day, [that] **the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.** Isaiah 11:11*

- In **the book of Ezra**, 70 years later they go back, and they go back the first time at 536 BC. But the second time when they begin to go back will be around 1900-1918. So, they get kicked out twice and they get regathered twice according to Isaiah 11. Coming through these seven books, we have them kicked out in 2 Chronicles 36 and we have them going back in Ezra.
- Now in **the book of Nehemiah** we find them beginning to rebuild Jerusalem and this will be about 445 BC. This will be the first time after they go back. Fast forward to the second time they rebuild after they begin to go back the second time around 1900. The second time they rebuild like Nehemiah will be in 1948 when Israel becomes a nation.
- The next book you have is going to be the book that we focus on in a bit, which will be **the book of Esther**. In the book of Esther, fundamentally you have the end of a Gentile queen. She goes off the throne and Esther a Jewish queen goes on the throne.
- **The book of Job** is a picture of the tribulation period. Job goes through on the ground for seven days and loses everything that he has. He is attacked by the devil just like Israel will be. You will find that Job is in the land of Uz. He is a type of the nation of Israel. He loses all that he has but at the end of the book he gets back double. Just like Israel will do in the book of Isaiah at the end of the second coming of Christ. There are forty-two chapters in the book of Job and there are forty-two months in the great tribulation period.
- Now moving along to the next book, we are studying together, **the book of Psalms**. Psalms will represent the millennium after the tribulation and David is now on the throne.
- The next book, **the seventh book is Proverbs**. We know that Proverbs is the mind of God which will bring us up into eternity.

We have seven books that illustrate for us that God is going to regather Israel two times. They are going to get kicked out two times and regathered two times. This is what Isaiah 46:10 tells us that God will declare the end of something from the beginning and from time the things that are not yet seen will be seen.

*Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times [the things] that are not [yet] done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: Isaiah 46:10*

Isaiah 42:9 says “Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.” So, we see in the Bible that **God clearly is not hiding anything from us. He reveals everything to us.**

### ❖ The Book of Esther Matches Up Doctrinally to what God is Doing Today

The **book of Esther** will fill the gap doctrinally from around 1880-1900’s up to today and beyond to the rapture of the church. It fits into the times and the seasons of God beginning to bring back Israel. And signals for us that in God’s mind, God is moving toward the end of the *times of the Gentiles*. I would say from understanding the Bible and history that where we are at today would be where Esther fits in. I would say in God’s mind the *times of the Gentiles* were over around 1900-1918. Because you begin to see that God cares little about Gentile nations because they have rejected His word. In Romans 11:25 the end of the *times of the Gentiles* (Ezekiel 36-39) brings us up to the *fullness of the Gentiles* which brings us to the rapture. We are right there!

Look at the events in the book of Esther which will match up doctrinally to what God is doing today. First off, I told you there is a lot of confusion in Christianity today. That is because they have no Bible and they have forgotten God. So, when you come to the book of Esther which is a book that is relative to the day and age that we live in. You will find in the book of Esther there is absolutely no mention of God, the Lord, anything, anywhere, any place within the ten chapters of this book. It is almost as if God is non-existent. Yet, to the trained eye you can see God’s hand behind the scenes orchestrating every event that deals with the regathering of the nation of Israel. The last verse for anybody paying attention in 2 Chronicles 36:23, when he kicks them out of the land, he tells them that they are going to go back.

*2 Chronicles 36:23 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the LORD God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which [is] in Judah. Who [is there] among you of all his people? The LORD his God [be] with him, and let him go up.*

God begins to regather them to go back to the land. He does that after 70 years of captivity of Nebuchadnezzar. They are kicked out under Titus in 70 AD and then they are regathered back between 1900 and 1948.

Let's investigate this book a little more. **Let's look at our cast of characters in the book of Esther** and see how they are not only accurate historical figures. But they picture doctrinally the world stage that we are on today. Remember God hid himself from Israel, but today God's people have hidden themselves from God and that is why they can't figure this out.

- First off, you have a woman called **Vashti**, which is a Gentile queen. She represents the Gentile nations that are in existence during the times of the Gentiles.
- Then you have a man named **Haman** which is a type of the antichrist. He comes up to destroy the Jews. In fact, **Haman is one of the eighteen types of antichrists found in the Old Testament**.
- Then you have **Mordecai** which will represent the Jews in the church age today and also in the tribulation.
- You have **king Ahasuerus** which will be a picture of what God is doing behind the scenes, orchestrating the events.
- Then you have **Esther** which will represent for us the nation of Israel restored to her proper place which begins with the regathering of Israel around 1900 up to the time that we live in, through the tribulation, and then into the millennium.

In other words, the book of Esther shows us the body of Christ, how today amidst all the confusion of Christianity, God seems to be nowhere, but in truth He is behind the scenes. But **without a Bible, Christianity is totally lost by their own desire**. They have hidden themselves from God's word. So, they get no truth. They are part of a counterfeit Christianity which has a counterfeit Bible that follows a counterfeit God which follows a counterfeit Christ that does not resemble anything in the word of God. That is why in churches across this country, you have the world now branded as Christianity. You know what is even worse? God's people are okay with that. Why? They have hidden themselves. Paul was afraid in 2 Corinthians 11:3 that the devil as he beguiled Eve through his subtilty would beguile the body of Christ from its simplicity.

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

We have been beguiled today! We have been tricked! During this time God has been turning His attention to the nation of Israel. Every pastor, every church, every Christian ought to be so in tune with the word of God that you know what God is doing. Then we adjust our ministry, or we adjust the church. We adjust our lives to where God is going and what God is doing. It would change the whole plan of how we reach people and how we do the ministry.

We begin to see that God has turned His attention to the Jew to bring about Romans 11, the restoration of the nation of Israel. The regathering of Israel for the second time. **We are at the end of the times of the Gentiles and at the fullness of the Gentiles**. It is already around us. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 14:33 that God is not the author of confusion. So, when I see in chapter one and two of Esther that Vashti gets kicked off the throne as a Gentile queen and

Esther, a Jewish queen comes to the throne. I see a picture of God beginning to restore the nation of Israel today. As I said the end of the *times of the Gentiles*. God is now done with the Gentiles. This is why there has been no revival, no true revivals in America or around the world for the last 40-50 years. This is why you see salvation is watered down to such a degree. This is why you have seen there is no hard preaching in churches anymore. They don't have a Bible, so they have nothing to preach. There is no power in the pulpit that keeps peoples lives close to the word of God. This is where we are today! The church with understanding will adjust themselves to it. I hear preachers all the time on radio and television that tell their congregation that they still believe that God will bring America back to God. **There can be no great revival or coming back to God without the word of God. If you think God is going to bring a revival through a piece of trash like the ASV, the NIV or some godless piece of trash like that you have forgotten who God is.** It is just that simple!

**If there is any revival today it will be in individual hearts of men and women like you who find the truth of God and decide you are not going to hide yourself from God's truth anymore.** You are going to invest in something that is eternal and there are only two things worth investing your life in as a child of God. One of them is the word of God and the other one is the souls of men. That is it! You are going to decide what you are going to do and then with understanding we learn how to adjust to where we are at. I am not looking for a great revival. **I am looking to glean just the last couple of grapes off a disease-ridden vineyard that is racked with sin.** But there are still people out there that need to be saved. That is the reality of the ministry today. It isn't building big mega churches or seeing how many you can pack into a pew. Or how big you can make your congregation. It is about saving as many of them as you can but doing it God's way and not the world's way.

#### ❖ Book of Esther - Esther a Picture of the End of the Times of the Gentiles

In Chapters 3-7 we see Esther as a picture of the end of the *Times of the Gentiles*. And the beginning of Israel being regathered by the dethroning of a Gentile queen and the setting up of a Jewish queen. We see a man named Haman showing up. He is one of the eighteen types of the antichrists in the bible. Haman has a plan to kill Mordecai who represents Israel in the church age by setting a trap for him. Just like the antichrist will do to Israel. Let's look at Haman for a moment. In Chapter 3:1-6 Haman is put over all kingdoms and he demands worship. Everybody is to bow down to him, but Mordecai won't bow down. He is like Daniel. In Chapter 4 Haman comes after the Jews to kill them (Matthew 24). In Chapter 5 Haman puts a plan together to hang Mordecai so he builds a gallows. In Chapter 6 you see God behind the scenes setting up every circumstance to destroy Haman and in time exalt Mordecai. In Chapter 7 the famous banquet.

**Just a little side note here.** In Chapter 7:6 Haman is called the adversary just like the devil is in 1 Peter 5:8.

Haman puts this elaborate plan together to kill Mordecai (type of the Jew) but at the end of Chapter 7 verse 10 Haman (type of the antichrist) gets caught in his own trap. Just like Psalms 9:15-16 says he will. He winds up getting hanged himself. Just like Judas, and Absalom. You should note that Haman has ten sons (Chapter 9:10). They represent Haman as a type of the antichrist with the ten toes of Daniel. The ten kings in Revelation 13 and the ten horns in Revelation 17. They are all put together to destroy Mordecai. Notice Chapter 9:1 Haman and his men, his sons also, it says they hope to destroy the Jews and have power over them. Because just like today that is the plan of the devil because he hates them. But in Chapter 9:1, God turned it to the contrary. In Chapter 9:5 it all turns around. Haman gets caught in his own trap, in his own net. The Bible says the Jews smote Hamans's men with the stroke of a sword. Just like Revelation 19:11 with a sharp two-edged sword. It comes out of his mouth at the second coming. Haman's ten sons are now killed, the nations with the antichrist.

**You got to see this!** After this great battle, after Haman a type of the antichrist, the ten boys and all that stuff was put down. After all that happens in verse 17, they declare a day of rest and of feasting and gladness. There is the millennial reign of Christ at the second coming of Christ, at the end of the antichrist. ***That is what the word of God will do when you don't hide from it!***

*On the thirteenth day of the month Adar; and on the fourteenth day of the same rested they, and made it a day of feasting and gladness. Esther 9:17*

## X. Building Men & Woman to be Students of the Word of God

I have said it many times, I make no apologies for it. I mean it when I say this church is not for everybody. I understand that. I am not interested in building little Christians that just want to piddle around with it. **I am interested in building men and women who want to be bona fide students of the word of God, no matter what level you are on.** I don't expect if you just got saved to be up here with somebody that has been saved for ten to fifteen years. But I expect you to get there in time and you have to grow. There are things in all of our lives that we need to change about us. The only reason we don't change it is we hide from it.

God hid himself from the nation of Israel, but he never hid himself from us. You see in the book of Esther the things just like that that God hides in the word of God for only those who are going to be bona fide students of the word of God. Maybe you would not have gotten that today because you are not on this level. But you stay with it, you stay with me, you stay in that book and in time you will get there. This is what the word of God will do for you when you quit hiding from it and you say God I want to invest my life right where God has put me. I want to build students and have them on every level and continue to grow. **Christian strength comes from depth.**

I got a call last week from some guy who works with websites. He said, Mr. Alexander, I have breezed over your website and think it is quite deficient. He said, what I can do for you is come in and redo your website. He says then you will have an impact that your website will bring people through the door to your church. He said, "What do you think of that?"

I told him, this church is not like other churches. First of all, let me clarify something. My website was not designed to bring people through the door. Maybe when you work with other churches that is what they do. **My website was designed for people in this country and all around the world to learn the Bible on a level that will make them a bona fide student of the word of God.** I don't use my website to bring people through the door. My people in my church who were built on the word of God will bring the people through the door of the church to get saved. We use the website to train them all over this country and the world. Why would I pay you to do something that God is already doing for nothing?

Do you see what we have come to in Christianity? We think the success of Christianity is our advertising on a website. The idea that Christianity has relegated itself down to a garbage basement level where it is not the power of the Holy Spirit of God. It is not the power of the preaching of the word of God. It is your website that is going to do it. **Welcome to the Laodicean church period!**

## XI. SUMMARY

Do you see how this all lays out through the order of the books hidden in the Old Testament? Seven of them from the captivity where it starts, and then God tells you that He is going to do this two times. Now you have got to figure out where the other time is by tying it altogether with the key words. Through history God shows you how it all lays out because He told me that He will show me the things that are coming from the things that have been. The book of Esther, by God's hand, placed in the right order to show you the history of God's dealing with the Jew. For us, His working behind the scenes of a counterfeit Christianity that nobody can see Him unless you are in the right book. (KJV 1611).

Do you know how I learned the book of Esther? I remember reading it 30-35 years ago and I saw that it was a strange book. I saw that there was no mention of God in it. Then I bumped into (by God's design), Isaiah 11:9-11 and God showed me that He was going to regather Israel two times. Then I saw that in the books after the captivity of 606 BC which is 2 Chronicles 36 that if you look at the right order of the books. The way they should go in history is not the way they are laid out in the Bible. It should run 2 Chronicles, then Esther, then Ezra then Nehemiah. But God changed the order of the books to show me the future from the past. He showed me from Isaiah 46:10 and Isaiah 42:9.

I understood why Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 5:1 “*But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you*”. God may have hidden himself from the Jew because of their rejection, but in the church today, because of our rejection of Him, we hid ourselves from Him. **I am telling you all got a book in your lap, and it has everything you need in there.** You got everything in that book that you ought to be investing your life and the life of your family in. You got everything right there that God wants to reveal to you. So, you too can be one of those wise men. Then the rapture will never take you by surprise. The judgment seat of Christ will never be a fear for you because you know the times and the seasons. You know that the *times of the Gentiles* is over, and we are waiting for the *fulness of the Gentiles* to come in. God’s people are living their lives like they are going to live for a thousand years. They are living their lives today like they are living in the millennium. They are living their lives like they could care less if Jesus Christ ever comes back. But when the rapture does come, most of God’s people will be taken by surprise. Most of them are not even looking for it. Most of them are hiding from it. **Look at our lives how much we hide from what God wants to give us. Then we wonder why Christianity is a counterfeit.**

### ❖ A House Built on Sand or on the Rock!

Matthew 7:24-27 talks about two men and each of those two men built a house. One of them builds a house on the sand. The other one builds his house on the rock. The Bible says that when the winds came the house that was built on the sand collapsed. But the man who had built his house on a rock didn’t matter what came. Didn’t matter how bad the storm was it stood the test of the storm.

What a great example that is of what Christianity is today. Some people that have forgotten God and hid themselves from God. They built everything they have on sand and yet there is some of you, God’s people here have decided a long time ago that you are going to build it on the Rock! It is always interesting that guy that built his house on the sand, when the winds came it was torn down and the tough times came, the Bible ends it by saying..... and great was the fall of it.

The book of Esther, and Psalms Chapter 10, what a great picture. Showing us exactly how from an Old Testament, God wants to reveal these things to us. **The Bible is alive!** The problem is most Christians are dead to it. He wants to reveal it to you and everything He is doing!