

I. A Review of Some Great Spiritual Keys for Your Life

It ought to be pretty obvious to you by this time that we're doing an in-depth study of the book of Psalms. Most of the studies you're going to find on Psalms are surface level stuff. They don't get into the prophetic or doctrinal side of things. I'm not saying that isn't valuable, but there is so much more to Psalms. When we decided to do this, I made up my mind that we were going to get everything out of it that we could; therefore, when we're done with it, you will have a really good understanding of how the book of Psalms fits into your Bible. There are key places in Psalms that really unlock some things in your Bible, and Psalms 12 is one of them.

Last week in Psalms 11, we saw some great Biblical principles on getting through the times of trouble that we all face. We know that Israel goes through their time of trouble, but we're having ours right now. It's nothing compared to what Israel is going to go through, but certainly worse than most of God's people have ever experienced. With times the way they are and what I'm trying to accomplish, I wanted you to come away with a couple of great spiritual keys for your life.

➤ God is Still on the Throne

The first one we talked about was the aspect that no matter what happens, God is still on the throne. There has never been a time in the history of man where God was not in charge. Sometimes it seems that way, and many Christians without a good working knowledge of the Bible may feel that way; however, **there is never a time that He is not on the throne.** The world down through history has tried to reject Him, deny Him, and some have said He didn't even exist. Others told the world that God Himself had died.

Around 1882, there was a man by the name of Friedrich Nietzsche who was a brilliant man but steeped in pagan philosophy. In a speech before hundreds of people, he told the world that God had died. Everyone broke out in applause with the idea that Christianity was finished because God had died. Then in 1900, Nietzsche died. Several months later somebody went to his grave and painted on this tombstone, *Nietzsche has died --signed God.* That must have been a Bible believing Christian.

➤ God Needs to be on the Throne of our Lives

The second thing I want you to see is that not only is God on the throne of everything, but He needs to be on the throne of our lives. **He's either Lord of all, or He's not Lord at all.** It's putting God first in everything that we do and trusting in His leadership. We broke down Proverbs 3:5-6 over the last couple of weeks, so you know how that applies.

➤ There is Nothing in our Lives that He Doesn't Have Complete Control Over

Studying through these two spiritual keys for your life, we have a great comfort in knowing that **nothing will happen in your life or my life that God is not in charge of—there are no**

accidents or surprises. There is nothing that catches God unaware. It's simply God using us in these last days to finish out His plan for the church age. We talked about how we as Christians, as well as our church, need to adjust to that.

I gave you a great verse in Psalms 37:23 that we all should memorize and hold close to our hearts.

Psalms 37:23. The steps of a [good] man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

I told you how the Old Testament is built around seven men, and you can read what they went through. Each one of them shows us a different aspect of victory in the Christian life to help us with what we're going through. It will primarily show you this great concept that God is in control.

➤ God Never Takes His Eyes Off of Us

I also laid out the amazing teaching that no matter how bad it gets, God never takes His eyes off us. He never loses sight of man and where we are or what we're going through. There's an old song based on Matthew 10:29 called *His Eye is on the Sparrow*.

Matthew 10:29. Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.

There is not a sparrow that falls to the ground that God does not see. He never takes His eyes off us, and based on that great truth, we should never take our eyes off Him. It's seeing Him through history, seeing how He does things, seeing how He works through established patterns, and most importantly, how He works in our lives.

II. Psalms 12: A Key Chapter on God's Work Down Through History

Today we're going to start Psalms 12 which will be one of the key chapters in the Bible on God's work down through history. It will show us the big picture of what is really going on around us today. Sometimes we get so focused on the little narrow things that permeate our news media that we lose sight of the fact that there is a bigger picture to why all this is going on. **Psalms 12 helps you begin to see everything from God's perfect perspective—seeing it with understanding but putting it into a perfect context.** Also, never losing sight that the word of God is the Light that shineth in darkness (the darkness comprehended it not), and that Light will guide us and help us to see clearly.

Christianity today is blinded, and it can't see the truth. The world is even more blinded, and they will never figure out the truth. I want to read Psalms 12, and we will continue to cover it in the coming weeks. This is probably one of the most important aspects of your Christian life and what God is doing and where we fit into it.

Psalms 12. Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men.

2. They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: [with] flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak.

3. The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, [and] the tongue that speaketh proud things:

4. Who have said, With our tongue will we prevail; our lips [are] our own: who [is] lord over us?

5. For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the LORD; I will set [him] in safety [from him that] puffeth at him.

6. The words of the LORD are pure words: [as] silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

7. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

8. The wicked walk on every side, when the vilest men are exalted.

Historically, this Psalm will be the nation of Israel as they begin their demise. Doctrinally, this will be the Jew in the tribulation period who is struggling and going through all the things they are going through. Inspirationally, we can see this in the last years of the church age—from about 1940/1950 up to where we're living today in 2024.

➤ *Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men (Psalms 12:1).*

- **Godly Men Ceasing & Faithful Men Failing**

I was born in 1950, and I've had the unique advantage to watch this very thing happen in churches that were once founded on the word of God. This included men who started the Bible movement with J. Frank Norris when he came out of the Southern Baptist Convention and established what we know as the real fundamentalism based on the word of God. In the beginning, these men all stood strong on the King James Bible. As time passed, higher education began to seep in and destroy their thinking process. By the end of their ministries, they dumped the Bible and in time moved into the Neo-Evangelicalism movement that has no truth to it whatsoever.

I knew these men. I watched and learned from their ministries. I've even preached in many of their churches over the years. My home church, Canton Baptist Temple under Harold Henniger, started out believing the King James Bible was the word of God then went into the mindset that it wasn't, and now it's pretty much in apostasy. The Akron Baptist temple, founded by Dallas Billington, was torn down a few weeks ago. Temple Baptist Church in Detroit, one of the

churches which J. Frank Norris pastored, doesn't exist anymore. High Street Baptist Church in Springfield and Kansas City Baptist Temple started by Wendell Zimmerman...both gone now. The First Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana with Jack Hyles—what a mess that is. Blue Ridge Baptist Temple, with Parker Dailey, one of the finest preachers you could ever hear, is completely gone. It's that way all over the country. I've watched them come and go, and I've watched why they all went. Every one of them went the same way. Verse one... *for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men.*

- There is Always Overlap in What God is Doing

It is the attack to destroy Christianity and churches that leads the world into the tribulation period. I must remind you that this is all in God's plan. It's not like the devil snuck in and did this; God allowed it. **You're going to find that in everything God does (Old Testament to the New Testament, church age to the tribulation, tribulation to the millennium), it will always have an overlap.** God never stops the church age on Tuesday and starts the tribulation on Wednesday—there's always overlap that comes in. It always goes through a process of working its way into the next section of God's plan. Most likely, what you're reading here about men failing and ceasing is exactly what Paul is talking about in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3—the falling away of the church that leads to the tribulation period.

2 Thessalonians 2: 1-3. Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and [by] our gathering together unto him,

2. That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

*3. Let no man deceive you by any means: **for [that day shall not come], except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;***

That verse is used all the time about the tribulation period, and I get that; however, there is always overlap in what God is doing. **What you're seeing right now, with churches failing and men denying the word of God, is leading up to this time that has been talked about in the word of God.**

Remember, this was our warning in I Corinthians 10:1-12. We talked about this a couple of weeks ago. It's our examples and ensamples to keep us from idolatry (v.7), committing fornication (v.8), tempting Christ (v.9), murmuring (v.10), for our admonition (v.11) upon whom the ends of the world are come. That's us! Then verse 12, *Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.* There are a lot of people who think they are really standing when they are not. They're going to fall, and they're going to fail just like Psalms 12:1 tell us.

➤ *They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: [with] flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak (Psalms 12:2).*

- The Salt has Lost its Saviour

This is so true today: there's no real Christianity. It's all a sham! People say one thing, but they do something else. There's no real truth in the basis of churches and Christianity today. It's like Matthew 5:13 says, *if the salt have lost his savour*. It's empty words with no power. It's flattering words of a sermon that has no basis of truth or no impact. **It's a pastor standing in a pulpit telling people what he thinks they want to hear instead of telling them what they need to hear.**

A really good passage on this is found in the Old Testament in Isaiah 29:12-14.

Isaiah 29:12-14. And the book (word of God) is delivered to him that is not learned (Now, I can't speak for you, but that's me getting the word of God right there!), saying, Read this (I tell you all the time to read the Book that God gave you), I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned (that's you and me—notice there are no PhDs here).

*13. Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as **this people draw near [me] with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men** (there is modern day Christianity which gets rid of the precepts of God and all you get is the precepts of men):*

14. Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, [even] a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise [men] shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent [men] shall be hid (boy, if that isn't where we're at today in Christianity).

He gives His word (*the book*) to the Jew in the Old Testament and to the church in the New Testament. In both cases, the unlearned (you and me) are told to read it, but they tell God what they think He wants to hear. They have services which they think are going to please Him, they sing songs that could be sung in a bar someplace, they give him lip service—but their heart is not with His heart because His heart is the word of God. **If you don't have the Book, you don't ever get His heart.** End of story, and because of that, they don't get the precepts that come from the word of God anymore. Now they have to get the precepts that come from man. Then God takes away wisdom and understanding from them.

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

Welcome to the 20/21st century Christianity.

➤ *The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, [and] the tongue that speaketh proud things:
(Psalms 12:3)*

Now this verse is simple and really defines itself. In the Old Testament, when Israel dumped God and His word, they got cut off. In like manner, when the church today dumped God and His word, we too got cut off. Today all we have is man's precepts.

- **The Contrast Between the Church of the Open Door and the Church of the Closed Door**

This will be a great study found in Revelation 3 based around two verses—Revelation 3:7 and 3:20. In Revelation 3:7, you have the church of the open door. It's a church that God used mightily around this world, and God opened the door and no man could shut it. It's when the word of God went around the world many times. We know it as the Philadelphian church age.

Then in Revelation 3:20, you find the church of the closed door. This is the church where Jesus Christ is on the outside and knocking on the door to get back into the church. This church has lost sight of God. We're told in Revelation 3:18 that this church is told to go get some eye salve and anoint their eyes because they can't see the things of God. The eye salve will be the word of God that will allow them to see clearly. This is today's Laodicean church age.

- **Building a Philadelphian Church in the Laodicean Church Age**

I saw this contrast many years ago, and I said to myself that if I ever built a church, I would build a Philadelphian church in the midst of the Laodicean church age. At the time, I had no idea the trouble that would cause me; the rejection of people because they live in a world of the precepts of man. They have gotten so satisfied that they don't want the precepts of God anymore. **I went one step farther. I decided that when I started to work with, build, and train people, my job was to build Philadelphian Christians in the midst of the Laodicean church age.** In the day and age we live in, that's not going to be popular. The closer we get to the end, the more the precepts of man override the precepts of God. This is why many of God's people don't make it. They don't get to the point where they ever get the word of God into their lives.

- **Counting the Cost**

It's going to take people who are really dedicated and see the big picture of what God is doing. The Bible says that most people, when they start to get into something, don't count the cost. When you put an addition on your house, you're going to find out it was a bigger job than you thought, it cost more than you thought it was going to cost, and it took you longer than you thought to get it done. Welcome to New Testament Christianity! It's going to cost you something, and most Christians are not willing to pay that.

2 Timothy 2:3. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

If you can't take the little things that happen, how are you ever going to stand up to the big things that come your way? If you just fold up because your emotions are in control of you, how will you take a stand? It will be just like verse 1... *for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men.*

I've got the truth; I'm going to give it to you. If you don't like it, I don't know what to tell you. I'm not going to lie to you. I'm not going to get up here and tell you the world is great. One place I've never screwed up in my life is preaching the truth of that Book...and let the chips fall where they may.

2 Timothy 4:2. Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.

So I look at you, my Philadelphian Christians in a Laodicean church age, building a Philadelphian church in the Laodicean church age. It's having the church of the open door where God brings them in from around the world.

➤ *Who have said, With our tongue will we prevail; our lips [are] our own: who [is] lord over us? (Psalms 12:4)*

- Who is Lord Over us?

Now they say, after the first three verses, that they will prevail without God. **Their lips are their own; they're teaching man's precepts.** And then the great question: who is the lord over us? You know that's not a question for an unsaved man or woman. It's a question for a 20/21st century child of God in the Laodicean church age who has dumped God and dumped the word of God. **It's a great question for today. Who is the lord over us today? Who is on the throne of our lives?**

➤ *For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the LORD; I will set [him] in safety [from him that] puffeth at him. (Psalms 12:5)*

Boy, if that isn't where Christianity is today! God's people are the neediest people on the planet. They're saved and on their way to heaven, but they "sigh" their way through life. They're oppressed on every hand, not just by the world, but by fellow Christians.

Then he says, *now will I arise, saith the LORD; I will set him in safety from him that puffeth at him.* Doctrinally, we know that's the tribulation and the second coming; God protecting the Jew. **Inspirationally, that is God giving me who was unlearned a Book, and then prayed that I would read it. That will be a time of safety from all those that are against me—saved and lost.**

➤ *The words of the LORD [are] pure words: [as] silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever. (Psalms 12:6-7)*

Now we come to the heart of this thing, and it will take a couple of weeks to work this one out. **Here we have two of the greatest verses in all the Bible giving us what I like to call the big picture of what God is doing.**

- Seeing the Big Picture

Some of you older folks may remember when the first television came out. It had a terrible picture on it, the screen was convex, it was small, and it was all tubes. There were no computers or relay switches. When your TV went out, the repairman came in with a box of tubes and changed the tubes. Now you can go to Wal-Mart and get a 72" plasma screen TV. It's so drastically different from that little 10" tube.

A lot of God's people are still looking at life through a 10" tube. You need to get the 72", 82", or 100" plasma TV of the big picture of what God is doing. It's much clearer, much more profound, the colors are more vibrant, and you see everything in the perimeter, but many of God's people just refuse to get rid of that 10" TV.

It's the same way with marriage. God's people will find the love of their life and get married; however, they'll never see the big picture. They'll never understand why God gave marriage in the first place. They never understand what the husband-and-wife relationship was really designed to be, and then they'll have kids. They're still looking through the 10" screen. They never see their family as part of the training ground to build a family ministry together, and it all comes down to the fact that they can't see the big picture of anything.

- Bible Numerology and the Number Seven

*Deuteronomy 32:4. [He is] the Rock (talking about God), **his work [is] perfect: for all his ways [are] judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right [is] he.***

Now in your Bible, you're going to find that there are certain numbers that God is consistent with and that set up a pattern. We call it Bible Numerology. **The number seven in the Bible will be the number of perfection; therefore, God (based on Deuteronomy 32:4) being a perfect God with a perfect work, will always work through the number seven.**

In Bible study last Thursday (06/21/2024), I told you **the number one aspect of God is His consistency.** When you study and learn the consistency of God and everything that He does, in time, if you stay with it, you'll develop your own consistency which is very important.

In the Bible, you've heard me talk about God's Systematic Theology to teach you the Bible. It's what I brought you through in the first several years of Bible Institute. It's all based on the number seven because it's God's perfect theology. This isn't taught in any Bible College anywhere that I know of because they give you the precepts of men; however, these are the precepts of God based on God being perfect and using the number seven.

You have the seven mysteries, seven resurrections, seven baptisms, seven judgments, and the seven sevens series (one day with the Lord is 1,000 years) in the Bible. When you look at Noah, he took all the clean animals into the ark by seven and the unclean by two. Why is that? When the walls fell in Jericho, they went around them seven times. There are seven years in the tribulation period, seven periods of church history, and all the feasts in the Old Testament come in multiples of seven. The Bible says there are seven things a Christian is not to be ignorant of, seven marriages, seven barren women, seven key men in the Old Testament, seven things God loves, seven things God hates, seven apostles to the church, seven key aspects to the word of God, seven suicides, seven things you add to your faith, the seven things that please God, and on and on it goes. In life, you have seven members on your body, seven openings in your head, the cells in our bodies change every seven years, seven notes in music, and God created the Earth in six days and rested on the seventh.

The word perfect has seven letters. **They're all through the Bible because God is a perfect God, so whatever He does is through the pattern of sevens. We read here that the word of God has been purified seven times. When you come to Psalms 12:6-7, you now have one of the greatest keys to God, man, history, and understanding God's plan.** Now, let me show you here the big picture. We're going to throw away your 10" Motorola today and get you an 80" plasma.

- **God's Perfect Plan Through History to Give Man His Perfect Word**

The words of the LORD are pure words. So, **the word of God is perfectly pure.** Most Bible colleges and churches tell you that you don't have a perfect Bible, that you don't have the pure words of God, and a lot of people believe that.

As silver... **we know that silver in the Bible is the price of redemption.** Christ was sold for 30 pieces of silver, and we see people being redeemed throughout the Old Testament with silver. We now know that the pure word of God is going to be primarily about man's redemption.

Tried in a furnace of earth... **Deuteronomy 4:20 tells me that this furnace will be Egypt, and Egypt is a type of the world. Genesis 2:7 tells me the earth is where man came from the dust of the ground. Now I'm beginning to see that God will develop His word and purify it through man and His working with him in the world system through time.** God does everything in a programmed processed way that we can track.

If you want the verses on the purifying of the word of God and man with His word down through the history of the Old Testament, read Isaiah 48:10, Proverbs 17:3, Proverbs 27:21, and Ezekiel 22:18-22.

2 Peter 1:21. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake [as they were] moved by the Holy Ghost.

What you find in these two verses is God, through man in the iron furnace of this world, trying man and giving him the word of God. As it goes through history, God purifies that word until it gets to a perfect point.

The big picture will show you that God uses nations and man down through history to develop and purify His word. We see it in the Old Testament, and we see it in the New Testament.

III. God Used Seven Nations in the Old Testament to Perfect His Word

In the Old Testament, you will have seven key nations that God used to develop not only the nation of Israel, but to develop His word and to keep it pure. As they went through history, God added to that word, developed that word, and you came out with a complete perfect Masoretic text of the Old Testament.

These nations will show how, in spite of their wickedness and ungodliness, God uses them as part of His overall plan. He uses them, then He destroys them.

Seven Gentile Kingdoms:

1. Babel/Nimrod—Genesis 10:10
2. Egypt/Pharaoh—around 3150 BC and reigns through a number of dynasties
3. Assyria/Sennacherib—around 1365 BC or 700 BC depending on the numbers you follow
4. Babylon/Nebuchadnezzar—around 606 BC
5. Persia/Cyrus—around 536 BC
6. Greece/Alexander the Great—around 336 BC
7. The Roman Empire—around 146 BC. It starts out pagan & winds up papal.

You see God not only developed Israel as a nation through these nations, but He gave them His word as they were tried through these nations in a furnace of earth. By the time you get to the New Testament, the Old Testament is complete—it's perfect, it's finished, and it was tried and built along with Israel through these seven nations purified seven times.

Within the Old Testament, there are 48 prophecies given before Christ was born. These 48 prophecies detailed aspects of Christ's life to such an incredible degree including the days, the places, the manner in which he was to die, and the place where He was born. A mathematician would tell you that the chances against 48 prophecies coming to pass given about one man with the details given are 10^{57} , or the number one with 57 zeros behind it! When Christ showed up at the first coming of Christ, all 48 prophecies were fulfilled. **Bible Christianity is the only religion in the world not based on the teachings of its founder but rather the certainty of its perfection and its ability to tell the future.**

- The Testimony of Jesus Christ

Revelation 1:2. Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

You find this in Revelation 1:2 where it talks about the testimony of Jesus Christ. You know we all have a testimony, and sometimes we blow our testimonies. We don't think much about Jesus

Christ having a testimony; however, He's got one, and He could blow His testimony. **The testimony of Jesus Christ, as it's defined in Revelation 19:10, is the spirit of prophecy.**

*Revelation 19:10. And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See [thou do it] not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: **for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.***

If there is one prophecy that Christ gave that doesn't come to pass, He has lost His testimony. There are 48 prophecies in the Old Testament on the first coming of Christ, and there are over 500 in the Old Testament on the second coming. *The words of the LORD are pure words: [as] silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.*

IV. God Used Seven Periods of Church History in the New Testament to Perfect His Word

After Christ's first coming, you see God perfect His word through His church. They too were tried in a furnace of Earth, this time through Rome. First through Pagan Rome and then the Roman Catholic Church. While you had seven nations in the Old Testament, now you have seven periods of church history in the New Testament. **It's through these seven periods that the church gets purified and the word gets purified. Seven periods of church history through the furnace of Earth that man and the word of God is perfected.**

1. Ephesus—Starts around Acts 20 and goes up to around 200 AD. It's the church that is called "Fully Purposed." This is a good church which holds the line, but you find in Revelation 3:4 that they left their first love.
2. Smyrna—Around 200 to 325. It means "Bitterness" or "Myrrh" This church was severely persecuted by the Roman Empire under Ceasar. This is the time of the 10 Official Roman Persecutions, and they are brutally murdered.
3. Pergamos—Around 325 to 500. It means "Much Married." This is a time in church history where the church through Constantine is literally married to the world. Now instead of Pagan Rome killing Christians, it's going to be the Roman Catholic Church through Papal Rome.
4. Thyatira—Around 500 to 1000. It means "Odor of Affliction." This is the time you read about in *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*. The Roman Catholic Church is at the height of her power over the nations of Europe and is trying to wipe out every Christian she can find as well as destroy every Bible she can get her hands on.
5. Sardis—1000 to 1500. It means "Red Ones." This is the time of the Crusades. The Roman Catholic Church tries to kick the Turks out of Jerusalem so she can have it, and God used the Turks to not let that happen.
6. Philadelphia—Around 1500 to 1900. It means "Brotherly Love." It's also the church of the open door. We now see the light of God's word in its perfect form, and the light of God's word shines to the whole world.
7. Laodicea—Around 1900 to right up where we're living today. It means "Rights of the People." It's a time where God's people want their rights, and care nothing about God's

rights. This is the time period where you're going to find issue after issue, and everybody has rights except for God.

V. Summary

Today we see the final attack on the church and the family. The devil takes the word of God from them, and it all falls apart. Isaiah 29:12-14 is in full swing, and God's people are asking, "Who is the lord over us?" What the devil couldn't do through the persecution of Rome, he accomplished through the higher education of Rome.

God uses the nations in the Old Testament and the churches in the New Testament to purify His perfect words through a furnace of Earth seven times. As Isaiah prophesied in 800 BC, now the book is delivered to him that is not learned and they are told to read it. Some do and some don't.

In Psalms 12:6-7, you're looking at two of the greatest most powerful verses that will unlock and show you what God has been doing down through history, and why we take a stand that the only Bible on this planet that is perfect and pure is a King James 1611 Authorized Version.