

I. Review

Last week we saw one of the greatest biblical concepts for all of us today and it comes down to our understanding of what the Bible calls the times and the seasons. Helping us understand why things are the way they are. Down through the history of this country we have had things that have happened like wars, famines and droughts. They all come and go, but what we are facing today is not going to go away. It is going to lead us to the end and then take us home when the Lord comes back.

I laid out the importance of foundations. A solid base from which we build on. For the child of God, the most important is the foundation of our salvation (1 Corinthians 3:11-13). It tells us that the day that you got saved, you laid a foundation in your life. That foundation is the Lord Jesus Christ. The rest of your life you build on that foundation. That is spiritual growth. In this church we have a number of things for people who want to grow (Discipleship 1, 2, Principal classes). It is all about what the Bible says in Isaiah 28:10-13. **Once you lay that foundation, you build upon it, line upon line, precept upon precept.**

We saw last week from Isaiah 28:16 that God's foundation will always be sure. It will always be solid and eternal. I gave you three foundations that God established back in Genesis. Three key foundations that life on planet earth must have for it to function properly.

- 1.) The Church
- 2.) Civil Government
- 3.) Family

God established the church in the New Testament, and it was founded on the apostles. In the book of Ephesians, **the church** was God's plan to preserve everything in life on planet Earth for man. I gave you a picture of salt in the Bible (Matthew 5:13). The Bible says that God's people are the salt of the earth. We are to preserve as salt the things to keep a country, a nation from going downhill. We also saw how the Bible says that the salt had lost its savor. That is one of the problems with the church today. There is no more preserving of anything including the word of God.

The second one was found in Romans 13:1-4 which was civil government. God established governments to maintain law and order. To give order to things in society so it doesn't turn into anarchy or a world of crime.

The third one which is where we really focused last week was the family. When these three get destroyed then it is over for any society. I built the message around one key verse, Psalms 11:3 which says, "**if the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?**" We talked about how all three of those foundations in America and around the world have been destroyed.

I gave you **three things that the righteous can do to get through this time to preserve yourself, your family and our church.**

1.) **Proverbs 3:5-6** “*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*”

There are four key parts to this verse. It is one thing to memorize a verse. It is something else to apply the verse and break it down into its individual components and then apply it to your life.

2.) **Occupy Till He Comes.** This will be in relationship to our ministry as a church to our city here and in the world. I told you that in the times we live in, when you have the understanding that God provides for us, then we know we need to occupy. Many of God’s people are just scared to death of the day that we live in. If you are a Christian and have that fear, you have a right to be afraid if you don’t know what is going on. But for us who have understanding, those things shouldn’t make us afraid. Everything we do here is to train you to be able to stand in the day we live in. I told you last week we must make the lateral adjustments. Things in Christianity are not the way they were twenty years ago. It has all changed, the dynamics have changed. Everything is upside down. We as a Bible believing church need to adjust to that. We need to better understand where people are at with their struggles and fears. Then be there to help them because that is what the church is for. We need to be in their life a foundation of truth.

3.) **1 Corinthians 10 examples and ensamples of Old Testament saints.** 1 Corinthians 10 verses 11-12 talks about what the Old Testament saints went through. They had incredible struggles. Many of those struggles were much more than what we are facing today, and every one of them got through. It tells me that we are not alone in this struggle. The problem is we don’t understand it all. We don’t know where we are at compared to 1 Corinthians 10:11-12. In 1 Corinthians 10 it says that these things in the Old Testament happened unto them for our examples and our ensamples. It tells us that it is for our admonition on whom the ends of the world is about to fall upon. That is where we are at.

II. Psalms 11:4-7

Today we will focus on the second half of this chapter verses 4-7.

1. *In the LORD put I my trust: how say ye to my soul, Flee [as] a bird to your mountain?*
2. *For, lo, the wicked bend [their] bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string, that they may privily shoot at the upright in heart.*
3. *If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?*
4. *The LORD [is] in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne [is] in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.*
5. *The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.*
6. *Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: [this shall be] the portion of their cup.*
7. *For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright.*

Again, this is a tribulation Psalm. Yet just like last week there are some practical aspects that will be good for all of us to see and understand in the times we live in.

A couple of weeks ago I showed you the book of Esther and how it fits into the order of the books of your Bible. It is the only book in the Bible where God is not mentioned. There is no indication in the book of Esther that God is anywhere around. Yet as you read and study the book you see that God is behind the scenes orchestrating every event that deals with the regathering of the nation of Israel. I showed you that the book of Esther historically fits into the time slot for us, because I showed you in the Bible where God regathers Israel two times. We are living through the second regathering as God brings His people back and puts them into the land like He did in 1948. Now we are seeing in this country the complete opposition to God's people, the nation of Israel.

I watched a news broadcast this week where some of the pro-Palestinian, anti-Israel guys were telling a group of Jews that they wish that Adolf Hitler would come back and burn them all up and kill the rest of them. That is happening in America! There was a subway in New York City where the Palestinians got up and told the Jews to identify themselves and then said you better get off at the next stop. This is in America! That happened in Germany in 1935 thru 1937!

Understanding is the key to see how God is regathering His people the second time. Everything that you see going on here is about that. The second half of Psalms 11 will go right along with the book of Esther. A time when the foundations are destroyed. Then it says, what is the righteous going to do?

III. The Lord is on the Throne; Never take your Eyes off Him

Let's look at verse 4 because I want you to have understanding and the confidence in what God is not only doing but what He wants to do with you. And confidence in yourself.

The LORD [is] in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne [is] in heaven: Psalms 11:4

Doctrinally, I know this is a reference to the second coming, and in the Millennium. But for me inspirationally it is a great truth. I have told you before that your Bible breaks down into three basic formats. A historical application, which actually happens in history. Then you have the doctrinal application which is usually a future application to future events (tribulation, second coming, Millennium). Then there is always going to be a practical side (inspirational application) for you and me. No matter where you are reading in the Bible as you grow and learn your Bible you learn how to get those things and apply them in the proper format. So, I understand that the Lord is in His holy temple and that is going to happen in the Millennium. But I am also going to tell you that is one of the greatest promises to me. A lot of things that I give you out of here I don't presume to speak for you. Some of you may look at it and say oh I don't get that at all. I don't even care about that. That is between you and the Lord. But some of these things mean everything to me as to where I am at and where I need to be.

➤ No Matter How Bad it Gets, He is Still on the Throne & in Charge

Inspirationally, this verse shows me (because the foundations have been destroyed), that no matter how bad it gets, God is still on the throne (just like the book of Esther). He is still in charge! We should never lose sight of that fact. We can't ever let the surroundings around us get so dark and gloomy that we lose sight that He is still on the throne. I think back to Isaiah 6:1 where the Jews were going through a tremendous time back then just before they went into captivity. It says, he looked up and he saw the Lord in the throne, he saw him sitting on the throne. When you go over to Ezekiel 1, Ezekiel was in the captivity and God opened up the heavens..... In other words, **no matter how bad it gets, He is still on the throne**. The question is, can you see that? Through the darkness around us, the word of God not only penetrates the darkness, the light shineth in darkness (Genesis 1) and the darkness comprehended it not. In Genesis as soon as the light showed up, the darkness was gone. When you put the light of the word of God in your life, the darkness of this world and what is going on leaves. I understand the He is completely in charge and all this stuff around us today is just what must happen for God to finish His plan. We look at it like something went wrong. It is called God's plan for the end times. It is called the times and the seasons. **No matter how bad it gets I am here to tell you this morning, He is still on the throne!**

Let me show you two problems we have with this little verse that is doctrinally the Millennium. But my, my what a practical side it has. I can't speak for you, my trust in Him, Proverbs 3:5-6 as I laid it out last week, will be based on two absolutes that every child of God needs to have. The reason why we don't have the peace and understanding to get through this is because we don't understand these two concepts. The first one I just gave you. No matter how bad it gets, I understand that He is still on the throne.

➤ Is God on the Throne of Your Life?

The second one is even more important because there are two thrones in the Bible. There are two questions you have to ask and answer for yourself. The first one is, **do you understand that He is on the throne?** The second one is, **is He on the throne of your life?** Does He reign in your life in everything? When I say something like that, I don't mean you don't have struggles, or you don't have problems. What I am saying is fundamentally, foundationally, He is in the throne up in heaven. **Is He on the throne of your life?**

Not one thing will happen on this Earth that He has not allowed for His purpose. The quicker you understand that, the better off you will be. There is not one thing in my life that He does not have complete control over. You see sometimes when He is not on the throne of your life, things will happen, and you will lose sight of those because you think that it happened through happenstance or it happened because somebody was out to get you. Or you were in the wrong place at the wrong time. That may be true of an unsaved man, but that is never true of a child of God. The Bible tells us in *Psalm 37:23* that "*The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord*".....

In the day and age that we live in, if you have the understanding that He is still in charge up there, He is in charge here. Nothing will happen by accident.

Let me tell you a story of how Brian got saved. It was Saturday night at the Alexander farm down in Raytona Beach. There was a terrible thunderstorm. I was out on the porch and all of a sudden, I heard this freight train sound. I have this huge tree in my backyard that is not ten feet from me, when lightning comes down and hits it. That tree comes down and crashes barely missing the house. It was an absolute mess! I was thinking to myself, I will just call some guys at church with chainsaws and get them to come over here and we will get this cleaned up in no time. I got ahold of Josh, and he says that he has a buddy that has a chainsaw. So, Josh calls Brian. Brian says, I will come and help you. Brian ended up coming to church that morning and by the time I got home those two guys were over there going to town on that tree. Brian told me how much he likes church and the service. I am thinking that God is moving through something here. Brian kept coming and brought his daughter. Last Sunday morning when I gave the invitation, Brian trusted Christ as his own personal savior. All because of a tree. One tree! Hey, I have five more trees in my yard. I wish they would have all fallen down. We could have had five more people saved!

There isn't one thing you do in your life that God doesn't direct your path if you are doing what is right. He is going to use you! God will use your life no matter where it is. It is just the way it is! This is what God does on a continuous basis because He is on the throne of your life. I could spend the rest of the morning telling stories like this. Why? Because God is on the throne of your life and in the middle of this darkness that everybody else is scared to death of, you are willing to let God use you. **He is on the throne, folks!** It is no accident that each one of you are here. God could have put you anywhere on this planet. For whatever reason He brought you here and He revealed Himself through His word. You have to make a choice. To simply say I am in, or I am out. But just like the book of Esther, in spite of all the destruction He is still on the throne.

I showed you last week the four men who went through terrible times. But God brought them through and sustained them. The examples and ensamples that we were supposed to look at. Joseph, Daniel, Ezekiel, and Job. In fact, there is seven men in the Old Testament that the Old Testament is built around. Each one of them shows us a different aspect of victory in the Christian life. You have Hebrews 11. The whole chapter on God's Hall of Fame of people that went through horrendous times. All so we don't fall in the midst of it all. As I said Ezekiel 1 and Isaiah 6:1, in the midst of it all God opened heaven and used those men. **In the midst of it all, God will open up heaven and use every one of you.** Everyone of you are as valuable as the people that I named. I know that many of you God has used in the past and will continue to use.

➤ God Never Takes His Eyes Off of Us

There is another thing that I take comfort in. The end of verse four says "...his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men." (Psalms 11:4)

The key for all of us today will be to never take our eyes off the Lord. You know as well as I do the world, the flesh and the devil will do everything they can to take that one thing from you.

The reason being **you should never take your eyes off the Lord is because God never takes His eyes off you!**

When I saw that verse years ago, I looked at it and studied His eyes and His eyelids through the Bible. I saw an amazing thing that God never closes His eyes. In fact you can't even find any place in the Bible where God even blinks. Blinking of our eyes is a human concept. It lubricates our eyes; it removes debris and keeps them moist. But for a split second when you blink you lose sight of things. God doesn't need those human traits. He never loses sight of me in a blink. I think of **the story in Mark 6:48 which illustrates God never taking His eye off of me.** In Mark 6 the disciples were going through some tough times. They had become big time guys, and they needed a lesson in humility. So, the Lord puts them into a boat and sends them out in the middle of the sea. This sea is about 3 ½ miles across and they are right in the middle and the Bible says that it was in the darkest part of the night. It is in the fourth watch. That is the darkest part of the night.

The Bible says a great storm comes up and begins to beat that little boat. These guys are in a panic mode. They are trying to row their way out of it, but they can't get out of it. The boat is about to sink. It reminded me that is what life is for all of us. Sometimes it looks like your boat is going to sink. Sometimes it is so dark that it makes the fourth watch look like daytime. Sometimes you are so overwhelmed with everything around you. The darkness, the storms, the waves, all of those things and yet the Bible says that when Jesus sent them into the middle of that storm, He did it on purpose. The Bible says that Jesus went up into the mountain. That is a picture of spiritual Mt Zion in the book of Hebrews, Him being up in heaven on the throne. The Bible says in the middle of the night while they are struggling and afraid, in that mountain, miles away from them, Jesus saw them toiling in rowing. **In our life today in the midst of this storm, He never takes His eyes off of us. He sees us toiling in rowing.**

I first heard this in a sermon years ago from my father in the Lord, Mel Sabaka. He laid it out much better than I did, but he came down to the analogy that they are in this boat and the Lord saw them toiling in the storm. The wind was contrary to them. Storms are always going to be contrary to us. Then he brought the final point of his message. He said, **what do we learn out of that? Don't fear the storm. Don't fear the wind or darkness. Just row the boat. Occupy till I come.** That is our job! Our job is to row the boat and God will use your life like the examples that I gave you. We as a church just need to row the boat. We make whatever lateral adjustments we must make. We do whatever we have to do to make sure we are in the right spot to give people what they need. But in the midst of our darkness and our storm, pick up your oar and row the boat! **Row the boat!**

➤ There are Times in the Old Testament Where God Winked at.....

God never loses sight of us, yet I see in Acts 17:30 the Bible says that there are times in the Old Testament, God winked at.....

And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Acts 17:30

Now let me explain what that means. In the Old Testament when they were under the law the law was much stricter than being under grace. So, God put up with things through His long suffering that He necessarily would not do today, because we are under grace. The Bible says that there are some things that God winked at. One of them is with Noah in 1 Peter 3:20.

*Which sometime were disobedient, **when once the longsuffering of God waited** in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.*

The Bible says that for 120 years God put off the destruction of the flood to give man a chance and we already know that the Earth was about as vile and rotten as it could be. **But you know what God did through His longsuffering and patience? He winked at it.** He said, I will give him a little more time.

When you wink you only close one eye. You keep the other eye open. God never loses sight of man even when He winks. Now things like that probably mean nothing to most of God's people. But to me it means everything because in my life, (I know this is true) **I may lose sight of Him, but He will never lose sight of me.** His eyes and His eyelids will try me. He always sees what I see, exactly how I see it and then He watches me to see how I respond or react to it. I respond with the principles of the word of God, or I react to it by the way of the world through fear. I either apply the word of God or I don't. As I go through these final days adjusting to be able to occupy till He comes. **I can take great comfort in the fact that no matter what happens today, He never loses sight of me.** Each one of us as a child of God even though we are human and we do fail, we make mistakes, we ought to redouble our efforts and double down on the fact that we never lose sight of Him.

IV. The Lord Trieth the Righteous

Verse 5 says "The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth."

Each one of the four men that I gave you last week were tried by God through their ordeals. Those men that I gave you just like the men in Hebrews 11 and every example in the Bible. God allowed those trials to come into their life. We talked about Job and what he went through. What a terrible time he had. Everybody talks about the attack of the devil on Job. All that is true, but did you ever notice that it was God who brought Job's name up to the devil? God had a message for Job and all He did was use the devil as a delivery boy with a message. God will have a message for you and sometimes He will use the things of this world to deliver the message. The problem is we get so caught up in the world and all those things that we never get the message. **God never takes His eyes off of us. We should never take our eyes off of Him.**

- The Trying of Our Faith Worketh Patience

James 1:2-4 tells us that the trying of our faith worketh patience. As you develop patience in your life, (boy that is something we all could use) you learn to wait on God. The rest of it you don't have to worry about because the Bible says in James 1:4 that patience has her perfect work. When God brings patience into your life, He does that through the trying of your faith. Job was

much closer to God after what he went through than he was before. You will be much stronger going through what you are going through, if you keep your eyes on Him. The problem with God's people is they don't want the trials. They don't want any discomfort. They want to accept Christianity, but only the good things of it. They don't want to pay the price or go through anything that God may be able to use them to touch somebody else's life. That is how He does it. He said the trying of your faith worketh patience and patience has her perfect work in our lives. Then it says making us perfect and wanting nothing. It doesn't make us sinlessly perfect, but it makes us perfect in the work of God. **The best way to do the word of God perfectly, (even though you are going to make mistakes) is to never take your eyes off of Him.** Understanding He never takes His eyes off of you!

- Tribulation Worketh Patience, & from Patience Experience

Romans 5:3-5 tells us that tribulation worketh patience and from patience comes experience and from experience cometh hope. My job as your pastor, is to get you as much experience as I can and then get out of the way and let God do His perfect work in you, developing you. Let me define experience... **experience is learning how God does things. Experience is looking at the circumstances and seeing it how God sees it. Experience is getting into a circumstance, and you step back and look at the big picture.** Experience doesn't allow you to just look through the little vortex of the situation. Experience will show you the big picture. It will show you not only the circumstances you are dealing with, but what God is doing in the circumstance. It will put you in a better position that you will know what to do because you know what God is doing. That only comes through experience.

I told you before that I am not interested in just standing up here and giving you a nice little sermonette. I want to teach you how to train your families to have family ministries. That is the key to everything. I want to give you experience in every aspect that I can, in the time that I got left. That you too can develop that experience that leads to hope. Because you see the big picture of what God is doing. Not just in the people that you deal with, or in your own life or in your own family, but in everything.

Everything in life that you and I must face will have one little center that we look at, but experience gives you the big picture. **The big picture gives you the ability to deal with it the right way, the biblical way.** That is the key and that is why it is so important for you to get the trials and the tribulations in your life. It forces you to trust God. It forces you to go to Him. When everything is fine... you know as well as I do.... when we don't have to go to Him for the most part, we don't go to Him. But He forces us through the things that we go through.

- Patience, Experience, and Experience, Hope

Tribulation worketh patience and from patience comes experience and experience hope. In this church, in my ministry, my goal is to give everyone that wants it as much experience as I can so you can see the big picture and have understanding.

Look in Romans 5:2, when you get all that, then we take our stand. That is what is needed today.

*By whom also we have access by faith into this grace **wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.** Romans 5:2*

Fathers need to stand strong for their families. Husbands need to stand strong for their wives. Pastors need to stay strong and stand strong for the church. Christians need to stand strong with the word of God for the people they work with, the people that God puts in their life. I have learned a great lesson years ago. **If you stand for nothing, you are going to fall for everything.** Seeing what God sees!

V. God's Judgment on this Earth Already, is Just a Portion of What is Coming!

*Upon the wicked he shall **rain snares, fire and brimstone**, and an horrible tempest: [this shall be] **the portion of their cup.** Psalms 11:6*

Today, you can see God's judgment on this Earth already. But it is just a portion of what He says is coming. We see in our country places that have incredible drought, forest fires that burn millions of acres and floods like down in Florida. We have earthquakes, famine, riots and crime. We have wars and anarchy. The snares that he talks about are man's solutions from a worldly standpoint. There is nobody in America that can fix the problems we have. The only ones that could have fixed them was the pastors standing in the pulpits and preaching the word of God. They are long gone and there is no redeeming this. There is no fixing this. This is all by God's plan and the quicker you figure that out the better off you are going to be. **God saved you to take a stand in these last days for Him!**

Then he says, "*Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, **fire and brimstone**....*" The fire and brimstone are yet to come. **That is the great white throne judgment.** When God comes back and judges the unsaved dead. They get dumped into the lake of fire. It says, *the portion of their cup.* When you go through your Bible you will find this cup will be the cup of God's wrath (Isaiah 51:22, Jeremiah 25:15, Revelation 14:10). It is the cup of God's wrath that is poured out on this world.

VI. Don't Take Your Eyes Off of Him

*For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth **behold** the upright. Psalm 11:7*

To behold something is to see it. He never takes His eyes off us. This is a great follow-up to last week's message. The foundations are destroyed. What can the righteous do? I gave you three basic things. All of those three things will come down to one thing, **don't take your eyes off of Him, because He will never take His eyes off of you.**

VII. Summary

I love the parallels of the Bible between the Old Testament and the New Testament. I point them out to you all the time. You know in the Old Testament you have the prophets, major and minor. **The prophet books are unique unto themselves. They fall into three categories. Pre-exilic which is before the exile. Exilic, during the exile and then post-exilic, after the exile.**

You will notice that the pre-exilic books before God's judgment fell on Israel, will be books like Isaiah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah and Jeremiah. All the books that are written before the captivity of 606 BC. You will see just like today the prophets in the Old Testament are parallel to the pastors today in the New Testament. God has them warn the people of what is coming their way. In every one of these pre-exilic books the guy that writes it is warning them of the judgement of God to come because of their sin. Just like today, some prepared and some didn't. But in Isaiah 42:9 he always tells us before it comes and Isaiah 46:10 says he declares the end from the beginning. This is why Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 5:1 of the times and the seasons brethren, I have no need to write unto you. **Christianity is in the mess that it is in today because pastors and teachers quit preaching about the coming days and preparing their people.** Nobody ever took the time and said, here is how you get ready.

Today in society, we have what we call preppers. They prepare for the apocalypse that they believe is coming (and rightly so) so that they can be a survivor. Yet there should be spiritual preppers. You all ought to be spiritual preppers. Every one of you, if you have understanding. **You ought to be the spiritual prepper. Understanding that you don't stock your house with weapons or food, but rather you stockpile your heart with the principles and promises that are going to get you through. Realizing that He is not only on the throne of heaven, but He needs to be on the throne of your life, and we need to occupy till he comes.**

My goal for the days that we live in, is to save as many of them as I can. When somebody comes and wants to play softball next weekend you pray that they show up. The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord. There will be things that happen in your world that God will use you if you are paying attention. You save as many of them as you can. **I would say to all of you take advantage of what we have here to get as much experience as you can. Because if there was ever a day when we needed to understand and see the big picture of things, it is the day we live in. The only way you are going to get that is to get experience. Experience is going to come through the trying of your faith as God broadens you and proves Himself to you that He is on the throne. Then He shows you that He never takes His eye off of you. Therefore, we should never take our eyes off of Him!**