

A Beginning

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October 17, 2024

Feast of Tabernacles Sermon

As I mentioned in the opening sermon, the sermons I will be delivering at this Feast of Tabernacles are a follow-up to the truths that God gave, revealed to us back at the Feast in 2010. I have always been amazed how God has done that, too. There are so many truths He's given to us to have at a particular Feast. I think of 2005 which was probably the most dramatic of all the Feasts that I've ever experienced in that respect as to what we were addressing and what God was giving to us. And then in 2010 more things were given to us.

And I want to quote you some of what was stated toward the beginning of those sermons given at that Feast in 2010. Stating, "This is going to be one of the most significant Feasts that God has ever given mankind." That's quite a statement going back and hearing it again, reading it again, going over this again.

"As I was writing this and thinking about what God was giving us I had chills up and down my spine. These sermons are a very powerful Seventh Thunder." And we should know what that's about. And it's about those things of God revealing Himself more to us just as He did in 2005 and then again in 2007, giving us even more. And so, continually blessing us with more insight, more understanding.

That's why in the opening today talking about how we can't absorb everything all at once when God gives it to us. Even in 2005 or 2010 or any other time, if God gives us something new we receive a certain amount of knowledge at that moment in time when we hear it, and depending on where we are in a spiritual plane in our own lives how much we're able to receive of that even there as far as knowledge, but the understanding comes later. We don't fully understand things all at once.

And that's why so often then, even Holy Days, year by year God has us address the meaning of the Holy Days, because it's continually adding to it for many of us that as we grow and He gives us more as well, but there are things that we are growing in and that we couldn't hear at a particular time in the sense of better understanding it. Knowledge is one thing but through experience and time, we're able to grow in understanding in a unity and a oneness with God, which is awesome to experience that process. And the longer we've been in God's Church the more we understand that process. But it's good to be reminded of that, that we don't hear everything all at once just because we've heard something, and we have knowledge of it. It takes time.

Another statement was made that I'll now quote, speaking of the sermons to be given that year at the Feast: "It," in other words, what God would be giving, "It is about God and His Family. It is about deeper understanding of how we become part of God's Family. It is new in understanding, and it is new truth,

new revelation from God that gives far greater understanding and appreciation of Himself and His Family, Elohim.”

Now, again, just because I said “more understanding” doesn’t mean we get it all at once. There is knowledge, but the ability of growing in the understanding, which is a matter of an agreement and a unity with God because we see God more and we are in agreement with God and we understand God then as a result of some of those things – the thinking, the mind that has been given to us.

Then I also mentioned how these sermons came together and how God was leading in this, and so another statement: “As I am writing this while in California in mid-summer, I again have had chills go up and down my spine thinking about what God is revealing.” Now, when that happens that’s a very moving time in your life, if you’ve ever had that happen, especially when it has something to do with something of this nature.

“All that is being revealed and given to us at a time when He, God, is getting ready to bring much of the spirit realm directly here to this earth...” So again, that had to do with the context here of the Kingdom of God coming with Joshua the Christ as King of kings, being established as King of kings at that time and dwelling here into the Millennium. And so that beginning of God’s Kingdom then finally coming to this earth. Awesome! “...that which is pictured in the meaning of the Feast of Tabernacles.” Because the Millennium is very much about the Feast of Tabernacles, the later harvest, the harvest that is far more plentiful.

And you have to think about some of that, the reasons for some of that. Here we are at a particular point in time. After 6,000 years we’re going to go through a period of one thousand years and here now all of a sudden God is pouring out His spirit upon the earth in a very powerful way as He’s never done and mankind then having the ability to be drawn to Him and them having the ability (if they’ll receive it) the truth, the mind, the thinking of God, from God, in other words, to understand things about God that they couldn’t understand before. Just like when we are called but now to the whole earth.

And it’s easier to see how so many are going to be able to be worked with, to grow in maturity, and people who grow up in those generations with one Church, knowledge of one Church around the earth, and not all the confusion and everything else that’s out there. Anyway, it’s going to be a time of incredible plenty as far as that which is being prepared for God’s Family.

So, we’re going to begin this sermon by focusing upon the spirit realm. So, we talked about some of those things as well back at that point in time by looking at specific terminology and examples spoken of in scripture, and again, repeating some of those things and building upon some of those things that were given back at that particular time in 2010. And thinking, where was I at that time? Where were you in your process of growth? How far along were you? How long have you been baptized?

And understanding that, as I mentioned in the sermon, the first sermon here, the prerecorded sermon, of how there were some who were very young back at that point in time who weren't yet at a point of being able to be baptized. They weren't of that maturity or of that age, and yet coming along later. And so, all of us being moved now by having an opportunity to go back and build upon some of those things and striving to make sure that we are at one with God, that we have grown in understanding.

So again here, this sermon today obviously entitled *A Beginning*.

Incredible, the things God has given to us to understand that we didn't have in the Church before, that because of technology there are things we're able to "see" or come to grasp more quickly even now in the sense of just like what Herbert Armstrong gave when they had radio and it was Radio Church of God, and showing that there is that which can be broadcast to the mind in a spirit world, from a spirit world if you will and that even which is bad in the spirit world can broadcast and we can receive certain things.

So, to be able to grasp that ability of a receiver and something broadcast, it was time. It was the time that God was going to use to help the Church come to a deeper understanding of the process of how we are worked with, of how we're able to be molded and fashioned, of also the battles that can come at us at different times. And so, we can see those things in an easier way because of some of that.

Think, it's going to be so much greater in the Millennium. It truly is.

Going on: "We know there is a physical realm and there is a spiritual realm. And from the beginning only that which is spirit existed, and it was only in the form of the one we know as our Father in heaven..." So again, we came to understand and grasp those things in a deeper way, and as time went along, especially with 2005 and getting rid of the idea that there was more than one in the godhead, finally, once and for all. And it took time to get to that point to where God gave that to us as a Church.

So again here, "our Father, the one Eternal God, the Self-existing One, the God of all Eternity."

So, we're going to take a glimpse of some of this beginning of which we can only see in a slight way and build upon some of that. But as time, considering time, and we only see it in a slight way at this time. And we really do see so little, we truly do. We're so puny. We're so small. And it's good to be reminded of those things too, of how great God is, of striving to grasp that. We really can't grasp that but striving to grasp it more and more and being more thankful.

Because you see, again here, I want to reiterate what was said this morning or for some of you listening to this later on in the Feast, on that first sermon you heard in the opening sermon. So again here, the mind and how God works with us, of what we're able to grasp, what we're able to see, and realizing the time it takes for us to see those things and to understand those things and to grasp how small we really are and how great Almighty God is. And only through that, as I mentioned, do we grow in greater gratitude.

If we see the things, if we really grasp and see more clearly the things that God is giving to us and sharing with us – the Seventh Thunder, Him, more revelation about Him and His power and His might and how we... Not just of Him but how He works, why He works in the way He does. And we're learning those things. We're seeing those things in ways that we never have.

And so, if we grasp those things and we are so thankful that God is sharing those things because we grasp how great that is... Not taking it for granted. It's easy to take things for granted and think that we've always known certain things and we haven't. And to grasp how awesome it is that people have never known some of these things and now all of a sudden God has given it, has shared it with us, that ought to be very moving to us. And the more thankful we are of that the more we are able to genuinely rejoice before God. And that's God's desire, that we rejoice in what He gives to us. But we have to be thankful first and foremost. Rejoicing is the fruit of that, of being thankful to God because we see something that we otherwise... We see how blessed we've been. We see how much God has given to us, totally giving in every way to us.

And yet we live in carnal bodies that are very selfish and sometimes we are not thankful. And if we're not thankful we're not going to be able to rejoice as much in certain things in relationships and friendships and so forth, and maybe even with the Church.

I marvel sometimes over the years in God's Church, even to this present time, how often second tithe has been sent out and given to people and we never, ever, ever hear thank you. Should we be thanked? If you just have a relationship between you and God, you're missing something; you don't understand how God is working. He works through servants. He works through a structure of government.

And it's not that we have to have thanks, because I remind people where this comes from. The ultimate thanks obviously is to God, but just to have a prayer to God — if we even do that, because I don't think it happens a lot in some cases. To not thank God for certain things we're able to receive and help we receive?

So, if we don't even do it on a physical plane in our lives are we thankful for things that people have sacrificed to give to us, and we make that known? It reveals something in the mind. Because if we grasp what we've been given and we deeply appreciate it, you know what? You're happier because of that. You rejoice more because of that. You rejoice in that friendship and that relationship more because of that. And that's what God desires from us, that we be thankful to Him, that we grasp what we've been given so that we can be filled with a greater fulness of life, of rejoicing, happy in the right way, on a spirit plane, not on a physical plane.

But we start learning it physically if we learn it. So again, I just thought I'd throw that out there because sometimes things boggle my mind. We are here for a purpose. We administer God's government on earth. And so, there is a process there of if we know that there has been thanks in something received then it does something to us in that relationship as well, of how someone is being worked with and

where they are in their development or where they are not in their development and where they need to grow more. So, we need to be conscientious of those things.

That's why when we travel to different areas and oftentimes, I've tried to express it in a way that when we're able to be at a certain area and when we are able to go out. Sometimes we can't with such groups, large groups, but we do it quite a bit—but sometimes we can't or don't—and the cheque is picked up, the church pays for it. And there is a gratitude at times that people obviously come up and say, "Thank you for that," and I always tell them, "Well, you know who to thank." But still, to understand that's important to do too in large part, that we are thankful, we are grateful, and we're able to share in what we have sent in, what we give. It's kind of like I use the analogy of during the Old Testament when they brought in the sacrifices. The people were able to partake of those sacrifices.

And so, God has blessed us to do that in part in learning there are things that He enjoys sharing with us and giving to us that are administered to us in some of those cases and it draws us closer together as a family with appreciation. And if we have that kind of appreciation, I'll tell you, you have more rejoicing in your life, in your mind. It goes together. All comes from God but there is a way that God works. And so, if we can learn that in the process then that's good. There is structure, organization that God gives, and we're not in it alone between us and God.

So, let's look at what God reveals about Himself, which is stated many ways in similar fashion that which mankind cannot know, cannot receive, not able to understand, but is understanding that can only come in essence through what God reveals. God has to give it. He has to give it within the mind when He chooses to reveal it. And that's a powerful thing if you stop and think about it.

If you're able to see certain things when God gives it, even the knowledge, if you can see certain knowledge and it all makes sense to you and you begin to build and grow on those things and fit it together more and more as you grow with understanding then of it as well, it's an awesome thing, it's a beautiful thing, and realizing what God has given us. We should understand we are richly blessed, and to be so deeply thankful that we are so richly blessed in everything God is giving to us especially at this time just before Joshua returns.

Revelation 22:13—I am Alpha and Omega. I can't understand that. You can't understand that yet. We can think about it, we can try to appreciate it, but to really grasp it? There are some things we don't know yet. There are things we cannot grasp yet because to us "alpha" has a start, and "omega" has an end. Not God. But it's just showing that God is forever. Incredible. We cannot understand that. We can't comprehend that.

I am Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. In other words, this is... He is everything. It's not talking about He is going to have an end or that everything else is going to go away and He's all that's going to be left. That's not what it's talking about. He is everything. There is nothing else. His way is the only true way. It's not somewhere else. He is the end of it all in that respect and He is the beginning of it

all. From Him is what we talked about in the opening sermon. He is Creator and He's still creating. Right now He's creating in us.

What an incredible thing to understand that so many other things have been created so long ago when were created so quickly, so powerfully. But for us it takes time. It's a transformation of a mind. The greatest creation of God Almighty yet is working in us. How thankful are we for that, that we have such a relationship with God that He continues to give us more and more and more?

So again, mankind can't understand this. Well, we can't either. But to a point. But we see it and comprehend it far more deeply because of what it's saying obviously.

So, the physical creation with physical laws and physical elements cannot see, cannot comprehend a spirit realm. It just can't. We can be told about it, we can learn certain things about it ourselves because of other truths and things that God has given to us about His plan, and we can see those things to a point in a way the world can't even begin to comprehend it, and we believe it. Then we grow in understanding of why God did it that way, why it had to be done that way. That's beautiful.

I'm going to read what was written concerning this in *The Rest of the Mystery of the Ages* that came out of that period of time when this was written then that's on the Publication of the Church website.

The Rest of the Mystery of the Ages. So, asking here:

Who can understand such a thing? Mankind's existence is temporary and short lived. In this modern 21st Century, man has the use of great technology and seeks to ever understand more about our existence and even the very creation of the universe (while omitting the possibility that God created it).

God isn't in the picture as a whole.

Great advancement in science has led man to peer into the universe several billion light-years away. Yet the concept of a single light-year is nearly impossible for man to truly grasp, let alone the concept and truth of eternity.

We can't even grasp what's physical.

Eternity is beyond man's ability to see and understand. The capacity of the mind of man is limited to physical laws, existence, and science. Man cannot know nor understand that which is of the spirit unless God grants him the ability to do so.

How blessed are we He's granted us the ability to see many things that the world simply can't that are on a spirit realm, in a spiritual way?

Otherwise, it is simply impossible to know that which is spirit or of a spirit realm. Yet God says again of Himself, *“For thus says the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit...”*

So, saying something so profound, so engulfing, in a sense that we really can't fully... We can't begin to grasp the concept of eternity and yet God says He will dwell there, or He dwells there, will dwell there because this is prophetic in that respect. “But will dwell there,” as it says here, “with them also that are of a contrite and humble spirit.” Because that's all God can work with. He can't work with a mind of pride. If we have pride that means we reject Him in the first place.

But if we can be humbled, if we can have a contrite spirit and realize this has to change? And we learn that. We get to the point where we're excited about the fact that we don't have to stay the way we are, that this mind can be changed and it is being transformed into something new, a creation from God. But we have to yield to it and not resist it. We have to make the choices if we want it and desire it and want to receive it to ourselves as He gives it to us.

...whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit [it's a spiritual thing], to revive the spirit of the humble...

Basically meaning, to make alive, to bring it to life. Because we have a physical life but something spirit, we don't have that in us, that which will endure in through time, which is difficult to grasp. So, again here, “To revive,” to make alive, “the spirit of the humble.” So, God will begin working with someone He calls to bring them to a point of humility and then we have to embrace that with all of our being, that we need to be of a humble spirit. We learn to hate pride. We learn to reject it. We begin to see it in this mind that's selfish. And when pride pops up its ugly head, we want to beat it down, get it back down, get it back under the watery grave.

...and to revive the heart of the contrite ones” (Isaiah 57:15).

Going on here, reading this:

God clearly reveals that He dwells in, lives in, exists in eternity.

I believe it. I don't understand it all. I don't grasp it all. I can't. We don't have that experience. We have a temporary, physical existence of understanding in the sense of experience ourselves, but there are things we can believe about God and as He tells us those things because He gives us some of that ability. But to really see it all, to grasp it all, we're at such an infant stage.

I was thinking this morning here about how that it's like trying to teach a baby when it's in the womb. How does that go? How do they learn the ABCs or whatever letters to talk? And then even once they're

born how long does that process begin to take? How much can they receive? And this is so far beyond that, what we're talking about here about God and what He gives to us and where we are, we need to see ourselves in that state.

We need to see ourselves as Herbert Armstrong was blessed and inspired to give the example of being in the womb not yet born. We need to understand what a humble place that is for us. We have nothing to be lifted up, nothing at all. We're so puny! And yet we're so blessed above other people throughout six thousand years.

Yet even with God's spirit that communicates such a truth, it is still impossible to fully grasp and comprehend His words about eternity. We are limited to either choosing to believe Him or not believe Him. So, the physical creation with physical laws and physical elements cannot "see" – cannot comprehend the spirit realm – cannot understand God and His existence.

And so, that's a humbling thing to understand. We just can't save to what degree God gives us ability to grow, to grow in understanding of various things, truths that He gives to us, and to be able to begin piecing those things together more and more, to see God in that respect more and more. We're very blessed to have such opportunity, to have such ability, such favor from the Great God of the universe, the Almighty God.

When we say Almighty, that word doesn't really capture it, but we try to appreciate it more and try to understand it more in the sense of recognizing what we are and just being more thankful. And with that how can you not rejoice in God, in what we're given? That we're so puny and so small and yet He loves us so much He gives us things. He gives us of things that are of incredible wealth that the world looks at in a different way because it's so physical. And we begin to grasp it, no, this is the wealth. This is what is forever.

So, I think we can't even comprehend a physical universe let alone things in a spiritual realm except what God shares with us to see here, pieces here and there.

Well, let's go back as we can, go back as far as we can to the very beginning of revelation from God from God. And to do this we're going to review again and then begin to build upon what God gave us in greater depth back in the Feast of 2005 as well in a sermon entitled *The Revelation of the Word of God*.

John 1:1—In the beginning was the Word. And I think of when we were in Philadelphia, through that period of time – and Laodicea isn't even worthy of being spoken of in that regard because things began to be lost again, somewhat like Sardis almost. But anyway, when we think of what was being given to us through God's apostle at that time and what we're able to grow in, things like this, we didn't grasp, we couldn't comprehend.

And so again here it says, **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** Now, our understanding at that time, talking about Philadelphia, we were still maturing and growing, and God was feeding us and giving us things and building upon things to be given more and more as God was working to solidify eighteen major truths through Herbert Armstrong to be in the Church, to grow in, to be molded and fashioned in.

But there were other things that we weren't ready for yet. We couldn't build in those areas yet. We weren't there yet. Other things had to be constructed and built that go together in the structure and God chose not to give them yet. So, to understand some of these things, how they were taken, we could only take them in that regard more on a physical plane because we're physical. And so, we would read things like this in an English translation and get the impression here that there is another God being. That's why that existed for so long.

Able to get rid of quickly, God revealed very quickly here this thing about the "holy ghost," that there's not a being called the "holy ghost" or the holy spirit, whatever you want. But because of the King James and how it was written as though there was a third member of the God Family, which that church in 325... You think, all the garbage and the stupidity and filth they brought along has endured for so long. Satan is a powerful being, the power to deceive.

So, we looked at the word "with" back then. It says that "The Word was 'with' God," and so again, how we took that or how we would take that, again, would depend upon what was in our mind, what kind of thinking. So, if I think that something is with God, "The Word was 'with' God," it's like there is somebody else there with God. "And the Word was made flesh." Okay, there it is. There must be another being.

Not really grasping what was being said because God hadn't given it yet. And we can't see, let alone begin to understand. If we can't receive the knowledge, if we're not ready for that, if God deems that it's not time yet to give it to us, we're not going to grasp it. But when it's time a little here and a little there. And we're still building on those things.

So again, how we took the scriptures, or we take the scriptures depended on what was in the mind. If we take it as something separate from God we might think as so many have that, again, that this Word is a separate being in the God Family. So, there is a word that in the Greek that means "to be with" someone, but this isn't it. And so, we learned that the word here had the meaning of "unto" or "to" God and we went through some different scriptures, and we went through some different scriptures to point that out.

I'll read those to you; you don't need to turn over there. But I think of **Matthew 26:18—And he said, Go into the city to...** So, they didn't put the word "with," you know, "with such a man." "Go into the city with such a man." No, he was to go to them. And that's what this is, "unto" or "to" or it can have the

meaning of “at.” **...and say to him, The Master said my time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at...** In this case, that’s the same word. Here they translated it as “at” because that’s what it’s talking about, “at; unto” or “to.”

So **...to keep the Passover at/unto your house.** In other words, into your house, it’ll be at your house, **with my disciples.** In this case, a word that does mean “with.” “With my disciples.” So basic.

But when things haven’t been translated well it’s taking time to work through all that. And God has allowed that, and much of it having to do with this process of Him gradually revealing Himself to us over time and a process that we’ve had to come to understand as a progressive revelation. Six thousand years on and now we’re at the time of some of the greatest and we’re getting ready to enter into a new time when Joshua will be here, the 144,000 will be here, and a quantum leap forward after that as well. But we’re going to have an incredible foundation set by that time, truly.

Another scripture here, **Ephesians 3:14—For this cause, I bow my knees unto...** Now, they wouldn’t put “with” there, would they? “...with the Father?” He’s going to bow down too? No, it’s “unto.” So again, simple. One little simple word like that that can mess everything up in the understanding and cloud... And that’s why Satan inspired certain things to be done through that group back at 325 and then on. It was perpetuated and all the confusion that came in then as others translated things from out of Greek or out of Latin or whatever it might have been, Hebrew, and put it into different languages, and that inspiration or not inspiration but that spirit, that wrong spirit that guided and directed them to keep things in the dark as much as possible, to confuse. And yet have enough in there that keep people going in a certain way of a certain belief, about a distortion about God and about Christ and about God’s plan. That being was very, very conniving. He’s a powerful conniving being, deceitful being.

So again, **For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Joshua the Christ.**

So again here, **John 1:1** correctly—**In the beginning was the word, and the word was unto God.** It was God’s, unto Him. It was His and from no other. It was all from Him and all of Him. A beautiful thing to grasp that helps to clear up a lot of things, especially about Joshua. It made it clear he wasn’t there. He hadn’t existed forever. He wasn’t the word. **And the word was God.**

So again here, loving the things that God revealed to Herbert Armstrong about this. The revelatory thought. That’s what the word is. It’s the thinking, it’s the mind. It reveals who God is. So, when God gives us, reveals more to us about Himself, the Seventh Thunder, and we see more, we grasp more up here, it’s this process of the revelatory thought. God is, through the power of His holy spirit, revealing what’s in His mind, what’s in His being.

The truths reveal the mind of God, the thinking of God. We come to understand why even God has done things the way He has. Why we’re made physical; that was an incredible revelation to the Church, why

we had to be made physical with carnal, selfish minds. Why we have to go through this. If we didn't go through this there wouldn't be that, the possibility of a creation, of Elohim that begins inside of us, in the mind through the impregnation of God's spirit. We had to be this way, thank God, even though we suffer. We don't suffer long.

I think of those who lived nine hundred years. I don't know if they grasp that they were suffering. But when the truth is there, you know that you're suffering, and you grasp it a different way. So again, incredible. Thank God that we go through... That's why we talk about, we learn this. I've made the comment so often, I'm so thankful for every hardship I've ever had to go through. They've helped to mold and fashion me. I wouldn't trade. They're of great value. I wouldn't trade them for anything else.

So often when people get into trials and hardships we pray for deliverance. We don't want to suffer, we don't want... And there are times God does deliver us from some of those things. But there are a lot of times it's better if we go through it because there are going to be things that we're going to be able to come to grips with with God's spirit working with us that we otherwise wouldn't be able to. So, thank God.

In the beginning was the word, and the word was unto God. And the word was God. The same was in the beginning unto God. So again, beautiful when we understand it, when we grasp what is being said.

All things were made by Him, and without Him, nothing was made that was made. So, God gave power to the angelic realm, but it was from God. It was everything that was made, everything that happened, whatever God gave and whatever God did Himself it was all from God. Whatever happens within the Church it's all from God. We have choices to make, and when He gives us the opportunity to be a part of it, but it all comes from God, that which molds and fashions and changes. But to be a part of it, to share in it, it's hard for us to grasp the beauty of that. And then to be thankful? Absolutely! And then to be able to rejoice inside?

Just like last night walking through some of the area there where everybody was coming in together and just seeing God's people from different areas. It was very moving to me. It's very humbling and very moving and to me such a beautiful thing. It was rejoicing, candidly, inside in spirit of something that God was doing and being so thankful that there are those who continue to fight and persevere, that are wanting to have the name Israel, to persevere, to fight, and yet going through different kinds of suffering at times, going through different trials at times, fighting different battles at times, and hopefully, growing closer together as a Body, that we want each other to succeed and not become upset and learn to control self.

Like today, some didn't control themselves really well at certain times when certain ministers spoke to them, and some people had some bad attitudes. It was very evident. Shame on you! At a Feast of Tabernacles? Do we grasp what God has given to us? I hope you're able to go back to your rooms and

repent if you spoke in an improper way to God's servants in that regard and you had a bad attitude because things didn't go your way. Well, things didn't go my way necessarily either. Don't have to get a huff and a puff and be offended by something. You know, that's disgusting, it really it.

My greatest desire today was to see everybody get their meals and to see that things were taken care of because I know what we're working with there, because we've dealt with the establishment for a long time and it's not a pretty thing. And so, I wasn't shocked when people weren't getting their meals and they didn't do what they said they were going to do, that there were going to be people, staff out there who would know and be able to tell when their meal would be coming out as far as gluten free and dairy free and so forth. And so, had to find somebody. Finally, I found an individual that said what they would be doing and where people could stay in a certain area. And that didn't even... We even had to work to make that work.

And different ones, we were counting and so forth, they were trying to count to make sure that everybody that had signed up were able to get their meal and so it was like... You know, I didn't care. If I didn't get to eat, big deal! But sometimes it's like people panic and send in 10 dollars and think it was 10 million. And it's like, we can eat later.

So, what is it we want? Where do we receive our enjoyment from, our ability from that enhances life and makes life better? It's not from being selfish and wanting self taken care of and pampered. So anyway, carnality. And so, we see this carnality in us, and we learn to fight it, and thankful to God He shows it to us and work hard to conquer it and pray to God for help to conquer it. Because you can't conquer it yourself. If you have any of those traits, if you have any kind of traits – everybody, we all have traits that are not good. We have human nature, and we have to fight them, we have to see them and then be willing to acknowledge they're wrong and then ask God for help to fight them. Because you can't do it yourself. You can't change yourself. What a blessing to understand that.

All things were made by Him, and without Him, nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. In other words, it comes from God and it's what God would be giving in time, the word that gives life in the mind. It's a process that starts life within us that is meaningful. Not just carnal selfish life. All human beings will have carnal, selfish life but not all will have the growth of the impregnation of God's spirit continually growing within them to the point of birth. Not all will receive that.

Something we're thinking about sometimes. There's a time we held on to too much so that there is going to be this great ability to, almost as it were, to save everyone. You can't. Doesn't work that way. Because that's the thing about free moral agency. And there are those in life that just want something different, and even if it means death they don't want God. They don't want to live that way. It's a choice. There's going to be a lot of that...a lot.

In Him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. Comes from God, came through Christ to mankind. **Even the light that shines in darkness, and the darkness does not comprehend it.** So, it's out here, the truth is out here, but others can't comprehend it in the world. They're in darkness. Until God begins to draw them out of that they're not going to be able to see until God gives them that ability to see because of their repentance and because of their desire to change, and they hear the truth and God's spirit is poured out there and they begin to be drawn in the Millennium. So awesome.

So, God has given us another example that we oftentimes use when it comes to this matter of "the word" and understanding it's the revelatory thought of God. And yet He wants to share that with us. He wants us to understand. He wants us to grow in understanding and this is the next step, when it becomes permanent inside of us. When it's been created fully within us we receive knowledge, we grow, we have time to deal with the knowledge and we go through experiences and then finally certain things start fitting together and then we begin to understand it. Not right away.

And then as we choose to live it and we are in agreement with God, we're at one with God in it, we're one hundred percent in agreement with God then it becomes a matter of what we live and that's what wisdom is.

Proverbs 8:1—Doesn't wisdom cry out, and understanding put forth her voice? So, the most basic beginnings, again, in what's understood as wisdom, is coming to a point of wisdom.

She stands at the top of the hills, or the context here **...of the road of life.** It's about life and how to live life. We don't learn because we're selfish as human beings and until... And yet it's out there. But mankind doesn't want it.

Along the way in the places of the paths of the road, in other words, of life. **She cries at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in, at the doors.** In other words, at every opening before us in life if we were able to see it. But we can't see it without God's help. That's what's amazing. We can't see it. It's out there but we can't receive it. It's in the universe and we can't see it, we can't receive it. Man is so stubborn.

I call out to you, to all of you! And my voice is to all of mankind. O, you simple minded, understand wisdom. And you foolish, be of an understanding heart. In other words, strive to receive what God has, in essence, when it comes to... Because it's in God's word and it's there. But again, we understand that we have to receive of God's spirit in order to have such thinking.

I think of something here that I wanted to read because I think of just the universe itself. It's so amazing the things that are taking place out here and yet mankind is so stubborn. And you have to... You look at the... When this talks about foolishness to disregard what God has placed before us, life, the existence of life, what happens after death, the whole process of life itself and how it should be lived, what makes it the most fulfilling, the most rewarding. And yet people resist that. Mankind as a whole resists those

things because that means then you can't do what too often you want to do. People want to sin. They want to do things that aren't right.

And so, even though it's out there it's resisted mightily because we have a different nature, we might understand certain things, but it means swallowing our pride. And yet certain things can be known but it won't be practiced and lived because of the selfishness we have. That in itself is a sermon, and we can receive it to varying degrees.

I wanted to read something here because we've been going through a part of this as we've been going along, that God is so incredibly infinite and beyond our comprehension. Eternity is beyond our comprehension. God's existence in it, He exists in eternity. We can't see that! And so, I think of things like this that mankind is slowly but surely seeing and having to acknowledge. I want to read some of this. This is about the James Webb Telescope.

It says they're learning; this is what they feel that they're learning now in a way they haven't understood in times past. They're able to prove it by a period of time of watching certain things within the universe and mapping things out and seeing... This is what they're seeing.

The universe is stretching out as the space is stretching.

For a time there, there was this concept that these are moving farther and farther out, when what they're saying now is space itself is becoming more distant inside. It's as though space itself is spreading. I don't understand that, but they feel that they see things there that they understand, by what they've proven now in some of these areas of comparison, that space itself is stretching out. Well, maybe it is, I don't know. There's a lot out there, space. Most of it is space.

That's what's incredible to understand. A wall, we see it, we hit it, we can touch it. What an incredible creation of God and the atom and the structure of it and how things are held together and they're so strong. And yet when it's looked at closely it's mostly made up of space because these things are moving so fast and the power that's there to hold things together we can't comprehend it, we can't see it with the naked eye. And yet the more that they're able to grasp and comprehend, the structure of those things, and to understand that most of it is space? I can't comprehend. I believe it but I can't comprehend it.

And then the universe, it's, they say, is stretching out.

The most intense, long lasting, and powerful explosions ever seen, 10 times brighter than any known supernovae are still erupting even now, was discovered in a galaxy whose light has been traveling to us for eight million years according to new research revealed in May.

Well, I read that, and I think, how many of us grasp that one? Just because the light...? I mean; to think it's taken eight billion years for the light of it to get here. Time has gone by so fast they have no idea

what's happening out there to those things. They don't know! Because they don't have anything to compare it with. They think that they understand some of those things, but you think, no, the mind is so puny and time, the vastness of time? Eight billion years. What can happen in eight billion years? Well, I can't remember everything that has happened in seventy-five years.

I was telling someone today I was 76. My wife reminded me, no, you're still 75. I guess I'm trying to get up there faster!

But to grasp time like this? We're puny! And yet God is so far, far... You can't compare God to this. So far... What can one say? Another one here:

The universe is larger than we realized.

Think, yeah. Yeah, they can't find the end of it. They don't know what it is. They don't know how big it is. But they're learning certain things now that are disproving previous ideas like the Big Bang. They believe that it didn't start with a big bang. And you think, you know, really, just scientifically where did all the stuff come? If there was one big bang, where did all that come from? It's like, well...?

It's like asking politicians certain things and they give you different answers because they can't answer that one because it wouldn't make much sense. It's kind of like the trinity. And we're so foolish. We think we're so smart. We think we're so intellectual.

All the information contained in this list so far has been strictly for our Milky Way Galaxy.

So, this is from an article I read. And so, they're just talking about something within the Milky Way Galaxy, and they were talking about earth-like planets in the Milky Way Galaxy.

That's right, there is an estimated 40 billion potential habitable Earth-like planets in the Milky Way alone.

Now, they can't really know that. But they've estimated that because of what our solar system is like and what some of the planets are, that they've basically come to the point and grasp that there are planets around all the stars in essence that are out there, and that because of certain distances and stuff that there are those that would be similar as far as distance and heat and anyway, to life that we might be able to have here on earth.

So anyway, so they're saying there could be "A potential of 40 billion potentially habitable Earth-like planets in the Milky Way alone." So, what value is that to us? If life were to go on without there being God, if that was the case, and without God's plan, and people were to be able one day move faster than we move today to eventually get out of the Milky Way system into some other – which is nonsense, basically, with physical limitations – but anyway, how long is it going to take to get people there? How long do people...? How many generations would it be before someone got somewhere where they could...?

You know, some of the thinking out there is...? The Star Wars thing, it's like this is the way... Not Star Wars but what was the one going into space where no man has ever gone? Star Trek. Some of these things that truly are sci-fi.

However, these scientists now predict that there may be as many as 200 billion galaxies in the universe. That's 199 billion galaxies in addition to our own Milky Way. Each potentially containing billions of stars, of planets. This has led us to the belief that the universe is much, much bigger than anyone ever predicted.

That's what we're finding out. The more we learn, the more we don't know. The farther we go into space, the farther these things go out there to look into space the more we recognize we don't know. We don't get it. We don't grasp much. We're peons. We're pretty puny. We're pretty small compared to what's out there.

So big, in fact, that the chances of Earth being the only planet with intelligent life on it is currently estimated in 1 in 6 trillion. That would be 6 followed by 21 zeros if you were curious.

I'm not that curious because I know that's a stupid statement. It's all starting here in the Milky Way Galaxy around this sun and Earth. And yet it's all out there for those whom God has created, given life to on this earth to potentially become part of His Family. And yet it's all out there for a purpose that will last into billions and billions and billions... I can't grasp that.

To me, it's exciting to know that God's plan goes on and on and on and that there are things that are going to be done that are going to be exceedingly exciting, especially within a family of every one of the same mind and agreement in what we're doing and excited about it, and you know, having real peace in life and real friendships without any selfishness involved, without jealousy and envy and all the other crazy human things.

It's hard to even begin to imagine but we can see it in part, and we embrace it with all of our being. We choose it.

Those are astronomical odds, and it literally hurts our minds to attempt to comprehend just how big the universe may be.

Well, there may be some scientists out there with minds that are hurting when they try to comprehend it, and they need to hurt in some cases because there is a God who put it out there for a purpose. And what an awesome thing one day when they come to understand that, when they have their minds open to grasp that it's an inheritance for God's Family.

Proverbs 8:6—Listen! For I will speak of excellent things. So, this is from God. It's the word of God. This kind of wisdom is from God. It's the mind of God. It's the revelatory thought of God. God has a desire to give to us, but we understand in the timing of His calling. And yet it shows what mankind has done for six

thousand years as a whole because we've rejected God. People just reject God. Our carnal nature rejects God. If God hadn't called me, if I'm still alive, I'd still be rejecting God. That's just the way we are. We'd have our own ideas about anything and everything, which sometimes is a big enemy to us anyway and we have to get rid of our own ideas for sure.

Listen! For I will speak of excellent things, and the opening of my lips come forth right things. So, in the Church, we've come to understand that. We embrace that. We know that everything that is right comes from God. Well, hopefully, that's where we're all at and that's where we're growing. Because the reality is if there is something there where we don't fully believe God in that, in that knowledge that God has given to us, that everything that comes from Him is right, then if we choose something different what does that say? What does that say about us if we refuse something that's right?

So, do we really believe that, or do we really believe that there is this God that we're talking about today? What a horrible thing that within the environment of the Church that people could come to that point where they could think such nonsense. Because it's like saying, "He isn't really God. There might be God in something else and..." I don't know. It's hard to grasp and imagine such thinking.

For My mouth, in other words, that is of wisdom, that's where wisdom comes from, that's what he's saying. **...speaks truth.** So, that which is right comes from God and that which is truth comes from God. And we have to develop and grow to the point where we say, "I believe that with all my being. I know it's true."

So, we receive the knowledge of it, but in time if we continue on, we can grow in understanding of it more and more, as we're able to piece together more, as God gives us more. Like all the truths and we are in agreement with them, and we begin to understand them more fully, what it's all about, what God is doing, and why He is doing it that way and we're in agreement with that, that there is no other way.

I think of what's going to happen at the end of a Hundred Years. There is no other way. There is no ability to save what is left out there that doesn't want to be saved. After that period of time, if they don't choose God, if they don't want God, there is no ability to save any of it no matter what our relationships might have been like with them at some point in the past. We agree with God, it must go. It must come to an end. There cannot be the kind of Elohim and the kind of purpose and plan that God has for eternity, everlasting life from that point on without such a thing taking place.

Because God is going to get rid of everything that's wrong, everything that is evil, that resists Him, that doesn't want His way, that doesn't agree with Him, that isn't at one with Him. So simple in so many ways and yet we can make it so hard. And we begin to lose then soundness of mind.

For My mouth, in other words, of wisdom, **speaks truth, and wickedness**, or if you will, **evil is an abomination to my lips.** And that's the way we have to choose to become. And hopefully, that's what's happening to us, that everything that resists God is evil and it's wicked. It's evil. Everything... And so, we

have to choose “That’s evil and I don’t want it in me. I don’t want that in my life. I don’t want to be influenced by evil. I want it away from me and I agree with God. It’s an abomination to my lips. I don’t want it.” I loathe evil. I loathe drama! I truly do. I loathe it. I’ve learned to loathe drama.

All the words of My mouth are righteousness. Because everything is the product of something. It has to do with how we think. “All the words of my mouth are righteousness.” It’s absolutely right. God’s always right. To think otherwise is just dumb, blind, foolish.

And there is nothing devious or perverse, in other words, distorted in them. To have something that pure, that good, it’s hard to grasp. And yet we begin to see it more and more in God, in His Family, His plan, His purpose, and in what He’s given us in the Church of how we’re to live and live toward one another and live toward others. And then we begin to understand that and see that. We begin to understand giving and the other way of selfishness and what they both produce, and we can come into greater agreement with... We have the choice to come into greater agreement then and we understand it more clearly then, how things are to work. But it takes work on our part; it takes right choices on our part.

They are plain to any who have understanding and right to them who find knowledge. So, if we’re blessed to find what is true, to find such knowledge and we begin to grow in understanding, incredible!

Receive my instruction and not silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold. Now, sadly, in the world too often people would choose the gold, the wealth, thinking that’s going to take care of their issues and their problems and make life better. It doesn’t.

You know, people who win these great, big lotteries, they go out and in time it’s gone. It’s mind-boggling some of the stories and things that are out there and of what happens. And if I’m not mistaken, I believe that happens to a majority of those who have those things happen to them. It doesn’t solve their problems in life. On the contrary, it creates more. More division in families, more division in life, more unhappiness in life. It’s like that doesn't solve problems.

So, it’s all in the mind as to what we think is valuable. And when it comes to God’s way, we have the chance and the opportunity to begin saying, “This is what I value.” When it talks about the “pearl of great price” sometimes that can be kind of a... just a saying. And yet there is so much meaning in it on a spiritual plane if we grasp what is being said, truly.

For wisdom is better than rubies, and all things that may be desired are not to be compared to her. So, what can we compare to truth that God has given to us? What is to be compared to it that’s of greater value? What can you compare to it? And yet, people leave for the craziest of things. Doesn’t even have to be gold. Doesn’t have to be rubies. Doesn’t have to be silver. Though sometimes it comes down to that because people don’t want to give to God anymore or they want to squander it, and they disobey

God, and they go by the wayside because their mind becomes tainted and begins to be destroyed from within because they're not faithful and true to God, so God won't continue to give them more.

So, if we understand that on a plane of what we live? And yet other things that people consider to be valuable, certain friendships, certain relationships, certain ways that people might see us, and we don't want to be embarrassed, we're ashamed of God and His truth, like what was read earlier.

Verse 12—I, wisdom, dwell with good judgment, and know where to find knowledge and discernment.

So, where does the good judgment come from? It comes from God. So, we learn how to judge, we learn how we're supposed to judge, and we begin to go through those things, and we repent of the areas where we're not doing what is right, we're still judging from our own standards, our own way of evaluating things as far as human nature is concerned. But we have to learn to judge the way God says to judge and to do it righteously in dealing with one another or dealing with mankind.

So, I think of some of these shows that I enjoy watching. There is one on TV down in Australia, *Opal Hunters*. I love it because I love opals. To me, they're fascinating. When we were blessed to be down there at different times in times past we'd go through some of these different stores and you'd see something, such beauty, but so hard to get out of the earth. And that's why they become valuable – because they're so beautiful and rare. But they really are beautiful.

Gold. I love some of these stories about gold. But man, it's not easy to get, and most people who try to get it go under. And yet you see the struggle for something on a physical plane, we have to fight that on a spiritual plane for the real value of things in life that God has given, and we have to persevere in ways that go way up and beyond them, truly.

You can be of interest when you see certain characteristics in people on a physical plane and I respect that when I see it in people who just keep pushing and keep striving and are striving to learn as well and not being blockheaded. Because sometimes people are so blockheaded you can't teach them anything and so they go under. But those who listen and those who learn from the experiences of what they go through in life, and they keep pushing to... You know, there is a respect in that, the hardships that people go through.

But we go through it on a spiritual plane. Do we see it? Do we grasp the value of it? The more we grasp that, of what God has given us, what God is sharing with us the more we're able to rejoice because we're thankful. We become more thankful the more we see what God has placed before us and continues to place before us. It's beautiful.

The fear of the Eternal is to hate evil. Choices, choices. We have to learn to hate evil. We have the knowledge that we're to hate evil, God hates evil. Well, why? Well, we have to come to understand what it does in relationships in life and learn to hate evil, hate to see it. We don't want things within us and so that's why we want to fight more to get rid of it, to get rid of wrong thinking.

Therefore, I hate pride. Why does it say “therefore?” Because it’s evil. “Therefore, I hate evil.” “...to hate evil and that which is perverse, therefore...”

The fear of the Eternal is to hate evil. So, the more we respect God, honor God, see what God is doing, come to understand things that God is doing we’re blessed ourselves then to come to the point of hating evil. God hates evil.

Therefore, I hate pride and arrogance, corruption and all that’s perverse. Those are the choices we have to make in our own life, but we have to see those things in us. We have to see the things that come out of us that aren’t right and then repent.

Counsel is mine. Comes from God, comes from the wisdom, the mind, the being, the revelatory thought of God. Everything that’s pure and good and answers everything that we need answers for, it’s from God.

...and sound wisdom. Soundmindedness. What a blessing to have soundmindedness. Today, sometimes it’s so frustrating to hear certain things on TV and politicians and the arguments and the back and forth. It’s just like, what’s wrong with you? And yet people get so wrapped up in certain things, get wrapped up in lying or twisting or distorting something here and there in order to put forward a certain picture.

And yet, we do that in human life if we grasp that. And those are the things we have to fight in ourselves as human beings.

I have understanding. To give. God has that to give to us. **I have strength.** To give. God wants to give those things to us. God has strength that we lack, and He wants to give those things to us. Awesome!

And then a few verses later, **verse 22—The Eternal possessed me in the beginning of His way, before His works of old.** So again, it’s the mind of God, wisdom, the mind that’s there of what we... We can’t even begin to comprehend it.

I was established from everlasting. How long back was that? Well, everlasting. Eternity? What is it? It’s forever going back and going forward. **...from the beginning, before the earth was.** So, from the beginning of the earth in essence. Does it say there is a beginning, nothing was there and all of a sudden there was a beginning? No, that’s not what it’s talking about at all. It’s showing that there was only God when you look at the different scriptures, only God.

Before the mountains were settled, before the hills I was brought forth, speaking of wisdom; **while as yet He had not made the earth nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world.**

When He prepared the heavens, I was there. Because it’s the mind of God. God did it. God created. He set out the plan, the purpose of it all, why it’s there. We don’t even know why it’s all there yet, but He says it’s for His Family to inherit.

When He established the clouds above, when He strengthened the fountains of the deep, when He gave to the sea its decree that the waters should not pass His commandment, when He appointed the foundations of the earth. So, we have choices. Do we believe that knowledge that's here and available to us? Do we believe it with all of our being? Because, if we do then it's a matter of believing the One True Eternal Almighty Self-existing God and everything that He gives to His people. Choices. Choices, choices.

Then I was by Him (toward Him; unto Him), **master crafter**, an artisan, architect, if you will, as it's talking about here. In other words, it's what comes out of this wisdom, the mind of God, **and daily delight, rejoicing always**, in other words, **continually before Him**.

So again, the mind, the being of God is hard to grasp and comprehend but to understand that He's offering those things to us and we're able to grow and we receive these things. That's why in times past I've had chills run up and down my spine because it's a matter of grasping something that God is giving to us that is so immense and so awesome. And who are we? And yet we're so loved by God, so blessed by God to receive it.

Well, we can go on here for quite a while with some of these things, but I wanted to push forward just a little bit more here.

So, God blessed us to understand something that only Yahweh Elohim, Himself, Almighty, the Self-existing God has existed forever. He inhabits eternity. Something we really cannot grasp fully but I believe it. And that's the choice. And the evidence is all around us. The evidence in all the truths that God has given that fit like a hand in a glove so perfectly. Everything fits together so well, exactly, and everything comes together in a way, and that gives inspiration then when we see those things come together, just as we did with the name Joshua.

What a beautiful thing to come to understand that we're to use that name now and we are to... and it separates us from everyone else. That's an exciting thing to understand where we are, to understand that he had a beginning, that he had a beginning in life, and what that meant in a very powerful way.

Not to think that he was some kind of God being and gave up his power to become a human being and then died. And then, how does God die, and things that we couldn't answer, wouldn't answer. Sometimes people would stumble at trying to answer because there was a time when ministers lived by a kind of a thing that they had to give an answer, some kind of an answer because kind of, we have to know everything, don't we? No, we don't.

We know what God gives us when God gives us as we grow as a Church and unity and oneness and hold on to what is true and right.

So, what an awesome thing to understand that God is spirit, that He has that which is His mind of the holy spirit, that He can share it with our minds, of that same mind that He communicates up here,

wherever that is, that spirit essence in us, and yet God communicates those things to us, and we can have a relationship with God and pray to God and not even out loud. We can pray right up here in the mind to God. We don't have to speak words. They don't have to be said out loud. God knows everything that's in here and He communicates to the mind and we're able to communicate to Him. Beautiful!

So, we learned at the Feast in 2010 that even before the angels were created God created a spirit realm. We never understood those things. Had to create a place that's referred to as heaven. Now, we refer to three heavens that we grasp. The heaven around the earth in the sense of the atmosphere around the earth, and scriptures use that word "heaven" where the birds fly and so forth and clouds are. And then beyond that is another heaven that's referred to where the stars and the moon and other things are.

But there's a third one that we have no knowledge of, we can't see. And yet, it's a place. How do you describe it? I don't know. But God's there, spirit life is there, spirit exists within it. Again, I don't grasp and comprehend all that by any measure. Neither do you. We just don't. But we believe it, we "see" it, God's given us the knowledge of it and then we begin to grow in understanding of it as time goes on in that respect, as to how some of those things work.

So, the angels were not brought into nothingness. They had to be brought into something, and God created that which could be seen spiritually. I don't understand that. When it talks about various things in scriptures about the various things that are described that they're described to John in Revelation as physical things and yet they were spirit in composition. How can you understand something or know something...? We just have a choice to believe that knowledge or not, and I believe it—that's of my choice—because of everything else that God has given that's true and right and just and perfect and beautiful.

So, when it talks about a "sea of glass," can't comprehend that. It's far beyond our ability.

So again, I marvel at the things God gave to us to understand a spirit creation, that angels were created within it, and because of creation, we came to understand that that which is created, whether it be physical or spiritual, God can take away. He made it. He sustains it. He sustains everything in a physical universe. I can't begin to grasp that kind of knowledge, that kind of mind, that kind of being, that kind of power. None of us can.

And the same thing in a spirit realm, that which exists there. And so, God led us to understand that just as much as things can be destroyed in a physical realm, they can be destroyed in a spirit realm. And what an awesome thing to come to understand, as we heard on the Day of Atonement, to know and understand that there is a being that we look forward to the time when he'll no longer be around to harass, to work against God and God's purpose and God's plan.

But His purpose is to have allowed him to continue on in a limited way within the realm of this earth to be the deceiver, to stir up human beings, and to broadcast to human beings. And there's a process then

whereby we can have that example before us when we're called to begin to learn and understand how destructive, how horrible such a mind is because we begin to see ourselves and what human beings do. We are destructive by nature because we are selfish by nature. We destroy relationships. We create drama in life. We create pain and suffering in life. And all those things cry out in wisdom if we could only hear it, that that is not the way to live.

Man speaks of peace and realizes this is a good thing to have. But how to have it? Mankind resists it because I already mentioned why. Because we want to do something different. We want to do something different. We don't want to follow certain rules and laws, which actually then come from God, those that are right and good that produce peace in the first place.

So, with that, we're going to quit here today and come back tomorrow with a follow-up sermon.