God's Plan for His Son, Pt. 1

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Before we begin this primary sermon today in a new series, I wanted to mention something that I found very moving last Sabbath after we got home and heard something on the news. And I thought I would just read it word for word to you here in what an individual had to say. But what struck me even more so was thinking about what we have gone through in the sermon series concerning Esther, concerning fasting, Mordecai, and so forth. Then to hear what was said when we got home struck me even deeper in that respect because I know that this period of time and what we've gone through is going to come back to us one day to help us to understand what we experienced.

There are things we go through in life sometimes that we don't know fully what it's all about, but this one here will have a tremendous impact in time, and it'll come out. God will reveal that.

Anyway, another interesting thing about this was this was a speech given in the U.N., in the morning of last Sabbath, around 10 a.m., which I guess it was around 10:30, but that would have been about 3:30 U.K. time, which means that everyone in the Church by that time would have finished that series. Awesome.

So, this is a speech by the Israeli ambassador to the U.N., Danny Danon, and I thought I'd just read what he had to say in part of it.

> "...Mr. President, [speaking to the UN], this week Jewish families all around the world will celebrate Purim [which was, I believe, Monday and Tuesday]. Many Israeli citizens will do so now in a bomb shelter. The story of Purim happened more than 2,500 years ago in the same place, in ancient Persia.
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> An evil minister by the name of Haman sought to wipe out the Jewish people. And it began with words, with chants. It became a decree. It could have become a genocide. But Queen Esther refused to remain silent. She stepped forward. She spoke up. She acted before it was too late.
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> That is the lesson we learned. It is not only an ancient lesson, it is a moral one. Last week, I stood in the gates of Auschwitz with dozens of UN ambassadors. We stood in a place which shows what happens when radicalism and extremism grows and no one steps in in time.
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> Before the Holocaust, some leaders, serious leaders, believed they could calm aggression with concessions. They were completely wrong. Giving in did not stop evil. It strengthened it. Winston Churchill understood what Queen Esther understood long before him. When destruction is declared, and weapons are being prepared and assembled, leaders must act. Not later, now. Today, President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu understand that same lesson...."

Anyway, I thought that was quite interesting, the timing of it and what was said. Certainly, they deal with the world in a physical way, and there are things that should be dealt with in a world in a physical way with great power when it's there to stop the kind of things that are taking place. Very few have ever stood up to exercise those things.

And it is about standing up against others, in that respect, about what they think, in order to do what is morally right. Which, I thought, was good that he addressed some of that. Just like World War I, but especially World War II, people didn't stand up. And the more you see about some of those things that have to do with history, what people did know, what they did understand that was taking place, and they closed their eyes, and they closed their ears because it hadn't touched them yet. Sick.

Mankind's governments have always been sick and haven't been exercised in the manner that they should be. Thank God we're getting close to the end of all this and getting closer to a time of Christ coming, establishing the government we all desire, that some have wanted to see for 6,000 years, but just didn't understand how big that government was really going to be. They just thought it was for a certain area, for a certain part of the world at a certain time. Not understanding, no, this is worldwide.

Awesome what God has given to us to comprehend, to understand. We're watching it come together. And what's taking place right now is only a small part of that that gets us a little bit closer, a Thunder that is exceedingly loud around the world, truly.

Today's sermon will be a new series. It's been a few years since we have gone through a series concerning the life and death of Joshua the Christ. We did that through a couple of series back in 2017, which ran from mid-March all the way up through the last sermon given on the first Sabbath of July. So, that was quite a long series. I had to take a double look at that. Wow, that was long. Anyway, that was a lot.

But it's good for us to go back and review some of these things at times. And going back and looking at some of those things and seeing how much more we've even learned since then, to me, is always inspiring, to see that God continues to mold and fashion us, to work with us, to reveal more, to help us to be more inspired and excited by what He's giving us and by what is coming and why we're being given these things.

And two years later, we had a series in the month of March in 2019 that focused on the importance of His role as our Passover. We went through those things. So, we're approaching Unleavened Bread and Passover again this year, and it's coming fast, and we're going to have two or three sermons now, sermon series, I should say, on the subject of our elder brother, Joshua the Christ.

This first series is entitled*, God's Plan for His Son, Part 1*.

We're going to pick this up first in 1st Peter 1. From the beginning of time, God began to reveal the importance of His Son, and the coming of His Son, the coming of a Messiah, and what He was going to

do. Just little pieces here and there, small portions, things that were not meant for people to truly be able to grasp and understand fully.

But in time, they were to be recorded, and they were recorded, and in time, God would give the understanding of it as it continued on, and we live in some of that time. The apostles lived in that time, began to live through part of that time when those things began to come to pass, and Christ began to tell them what things meant that they didn't understand. Then they were inspired and given things throughout their ministry that hadn't been given yet. So, God has continued to add to it through time.

Anyway, in **1 Peter 1:17—If you call on the Father, who, without respect to persons**… He shows no partiality. He shows the way we're supposed to be. It's an example for us as well. We're not supposed to be partial in judgment in how we see things, how we think about things. Certainly, we have to judge, but it's not a matter of partiality for the wrong kinds of reasons like human beings judge.

…without respect to persons, judges according to every person's work. What we do, how we do it. We understand what that means, to have works. It's one thing that just blows me over when I have written about or think about some of the things having to do with, not the Gentile world, well, the Gentile world, traditional Christianity and what they have done and how they look at works and say that if you have works, then, you know, it's a matter of the law to them, "You're trying to be saved by the law."

And they're hypocrites. They don't even understand how hypocritical they are. They have works as well. Isn't that amazing? They believe in Christmas. They believe in Easter, and their works show up. That's what they observe. They believe in Sunday. And on and on it goes. Some of their practices, and on and on it goes. All their works. Well, we have works too, but it's according to God's Word, things He's revealed to us.

So, God judges according to every person's works. And we have to learn from that. How are people living? What are they doing? Sometimes we have to intercede. Sometimes we have to say something. Sometimes we have to stand up, just like Danny Danon was talking about. People throughout time, there haven't been many occasions when people have really taken a stand for what is right. So, there are times we have to stand.

All of us in God's Church are to always stand for what is true and what is right. So much of what we call our works, what our works might entail, reveal that, whether we do or whether we don't, and to what degree we do.

Conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear. What does that mean? "Conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here," in what God has given to us. Life doesn't last very long in this physical world. When you're 30, 20, 40, you don't really think about that so much. When you get older, you understand it; you grasp it in ways you couldn't before.

And so, God is telling us, “You're not going to be here that long. Conduct yourselves wisely, in essence, in fear.” Fear of going against anything that God has given to us, to understand what it means as far as our human selfishness, of what we're capable of doing. Because we're capable as human beings, if we're not close to God, if we don't remain close to God, it isn't all that hard to stray away. It isn't that hard to fall asleep.

Laodicea, we lived it. It just takes some time with right conditions, and it can hit everyone, everyone. And then some think, “Well, I wouldn't have done that,” or “If I'd been there, I wouldn't…” Yes, you would have. Different things throughout history. What would you have done? We're tried in those things, especially in the Church.

…knowing that you were not redeemed. Which means “to be released by payment of a ransom.” That's how the word is used in scripture. In essence, that's the definition of it in the word that's used here for redeem. Incredible. Christ's life. That was the payment made for us.

…you were not redeemed with corruptible things like silver and gold, from your aimless—which means “vain” or “to no purpose”—**conduct**. So, before we were called, we lived as everyone else has ever lived in times past, not knowing the truth, not knowing God's plan, just making choices of whatever we want to do and whatever we decide is right and wrong as human beings do.

Even people in traditional Christianity who have chosen different churches and bounce around to different ones, and what is it they want? What is it they're looking for? And they make choices by what they want, what makes them satisfied to a certain point in life. Or no religion whatsoever. Whatever it is, any parts of the world, aimless conduct. Worthless, as far as mankind is concerned. Because that is all you have. The only thing that follows it is death. And the vast majority of human beings since the beginning are all dead. They're not promised anything except one thing from God that they don't know or haven't known—they sure don't know it now because they're dust, as a whole—to understand there's a great resurrection.

How many people have ever known that? Some in the Church. Some speak of a resurrection, have spoken of a resurrection even in the time of Christ. Certain ones believed in a resurrection, and some didn't, but they didn't understand the process or what was involved. Not at all.

We have nothing unless God calls us to have something. Because, in essence, if we make the choices for our way of life, whether it be now or in the future in the Great White Throne, then that's all we have if we just choose our way. God wants mankind to be in a Family, His, to live forever. But if we don't choose that, it all comes to an end, absolute end, nothing else.

It boggles my mind when it's all said and done. With more knowledge in the Great White Throne than mankind has ever had, by the end of the Millennium, everything will have been revealed, powerfully so, and so much more by Christ, through Christ, through the 144,000, throughout the world. And people are

going to be resurrected into that truth. They're going to be able to see everything without a doubt of what is right and wrong. There's not going to be any squabbling about it or debate about it. It is what it is, and there's going to be power to back it up, to make it clear. It's going to be right in front of them, everybody.

And how many are going to say, I don't want it? I believe we have more to learn about some of this because I believe it's very, very vast. No one is guaranteed, in the sense of a promise, that we are owed God's Family. And yet, that's the way it's been treated by many in God's Church, as though it's owed. That's what their actions reflect, oftentimes. Or that God will let me do this or do that or whatever it is, and they go off in their own belief. It's really disgusting how mankind has treated God's truth.

…knowing that you are not redeemed with corruptible things like silver and gold from your aimless conduct through the tradition of your fathers. In other words, it's just it's the way everyone has ever lived. Whatever that is, whatever you've learned from your parents or from society, and you've chosen to do, it's just the same old thing that's been going on from the beginning of time. That's the way mankind is.

…but with the precious blood of Christ. So, some few in the past 2,000 years have had this opportunity – to be forgiven of their sins, to repent, to choose a different way, for their minds to be opened up to see things about God that they never knew before. The fact that they can learn that process and see them in itself should be something that should be treasured and be a powerful witness to each person, that there are things you didn't know, you couldn't know, and you come to see those things.

How do you know the truth? You just know it when God gives it in your mind. And if people don't treasure that and feed that with God's spirit through prayer and fasting, because they want to keep it, because they can't keep it if they don't do those things, if they don't treasure it, and realize that as a human being, you can lose it. You can lose your hold on it. The witness of that has been in every generation of the Church.

…but redeemed, in essence, is what it's saying, **with the precious blood of Christ, as a lamb without blemish and without spot**. He had no sin. **Who truly was foreordained**. How awesome is this? To understand this? **…foreordained before the foundation of the world**. The ages, candidly. It's not just talking about little old Earth. Before anything was out there. Incredible.

…but was manifest in these last times for you. So, this was almost 2,000 years ago when this was said. "The last times" because it was over the hump. It was past the 3,000 years that's going to go up to the 6,000 years for mankind's self-rule.

…who by/through Him, do believe in God. Choices, choices, choices. It's up to each one of us individually. **Who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory**. Meaning the first into the God Family.

Power. **…so that your faith and hope might be in God**. So, what a beautiful picture, what God says we can have.

Seeing you have purified your lives in obeying the truth. That's how you purify your life. You put into practice and strive to live by what God says we should live by. That's the process whereby we're purified. Because it's by doing it, by believing that this comes from God, knowing how God works with us and we do it, and we desire to do it, and we ask God for help to do it, and to keep doing it. We don't do it perfectly; we have sin in our lives. But God accounts it to us for righteousness if we continue in the process of repentance when we see sin, when we know we have sin.

…having purified your lives and obeying the truth through the spirit. It's the only way we can do it, through God's spirit. **…unto unfeigned love of the brethren**. Not a fake love, not a picking and choosing kind of love, but a love of all the brethren. The only time that ever stops with that kind of love and care and concern is when someone is no longer a part of the Body. What a horrible thing then, of how we have to live then, of what happens to us and choices we have to make, that we realize we don't have a spiritual fellowship any longer.

It smacked me in the face hard back around 1982. My dad called me up and told me that they went to the Feast in Branson, Missouri. We didn't have a Feast site in Branson, Missouri. What on earth are you talking about? He went with Garner Ted. Okay. The door was shut. We had no relationship. What do you have anymore if you've had that? What can you share? Because you can share physical things, physical life, and eventually we did a little bit.

But real family, real closeness in life comes through the power of God's spirit. And when He brings everyone together, that's the richest family of all, far above and beyond anything physical, far above and beyond anything we can have in physical relationships. And so, it's enhanced mightily through the power of God's spirit in a family environment. God says there's a way we're to respond toward one another. That's why it's so important that we're very careful, should be exceedingly careful, how we judge one another. Because that's in God's hands.

…unfeigned love of the brethren. Being genuine and true in that love and care and concern. That it not be put on like it is in the world and organizations in the world. **Love one another with a pure heart, fervently**. That's what God desires of us, that it be pure in heart, something of God's spirit from God because of understanding that is given to us.

…being born again, not of corruptible seed. So, yeah, we're born physical, and we're not God's children yet, we're not identified as the children of God yet. We just have human life. We're identified as the children of God once we have the begettal of God's spirit in our life. That's something God's just given us recently. The Church hasn't always understood that.

We ought to be dumbfounded by the things that God gives to us and not to take them for granted, but to understand how exciting it is to know such things that God gives to us, to give us encouragement as we continue to grow. We now are the children of God not yet born in His Family, but we started the process. We should want to be born then, go through the entire process, whatever it takes.

…not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible by the Word of God. It's where the Word of God comes alive in us. I love that. I love it when it talks about Christ, "The Word was made flesh." That is so powerful. That is something we come to understand more deeply the longer we're in God's Church and the more we grow spiritually.

…which lives and abides forever. That's what goes forever.

So, to understand that Christ's purpose itself was foundational, central to all things God was proclaiming is a wealth of knowledge beyond human comprehension. God has to show it to us. And He has. Awesome.

Let's turn it over to Genesis. So, God, through time, has progressively revealed truth about His Son, truth about a Messiah a little at a time. Because it wasn't for everyone to grasp and comprehend all those things on a spiritual plane. Because God's purpose has never been to work with the entire world or all of mankind. The first 4,000 years, He only worked with a few through that period of time. Awesome.

It starts with Adam and Eve. **Genesis 3:1—Now the serpent was more subtle**… So, terms like a snake or a dragon are used, and people try to picture a snake and a slithering snake. Well, it's something so we can understand something on a physical plane, to grasp something on a spiritual plane. It's not what they looked like, or he looked like on a spiritual plane, because we couldn't see it anyway, but God would have to tell it exactly what it's like.

When He gives different examples of things in Scripture about angelic beings, I look forward to seeing them, the majesty, the awesomeness of it. Because nothing like we can imagine physically. When you see something with four different faces, that's pretty tough to grasp. What would that look like? How would that blend together? I don't know. But in a spirit Body, it has to be a beautiful thing.

Now the serpent was more subtle (crafty, shrewd) **than any creature of the land which the Eternal God had made**. That's the way he was, he slithered… a snake is a good example. He slithered around. It's just his personality, his thinking. Deceitful.

Now, he said to the woman, Hasn't God told you that you shouldn't eat of every tree of the garden? How that happened, what was manifest, what she saw, I have no inkling. Literal snake, I have my doubts. But anyway, communicated with her, broadcast it perhaps into her mind? Maybe she didn't even see a being? I don't know. But we have to be careful how we think about such things.

Then the woman answered the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden. So, how many times in your life have you had things come into your mind, and you know that something isn't quite right, and you reason in your thinking about it? Perhaps not knowing even, sometimes, where it comes from.

…but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God said, You shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die. So, people reason in their minds.

So, whether it happened this way or by the reasoning, I don't know. But the point being is these are her thoughts, and she's thinking through it, and she's going back and forth. Have you ever gone back and forth with some kind of test, trial, temptation in life, in physical life? Because people do. Human beings do, knowing what God said and then reasoning with that?

Because you see, the danger is when you go through it after a while, and you decide you want it and you're going to do it. The majority of people who have been called into God's Church have done exactly that. They've gone back and forth. They've known this isn't right, or you're not supposed to. But did it really…? Is that what God really said? Is that what I'm…? Is that…? People begin to doubt and begin to doubt sometimes if there's even a God!

"You shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die." So, a person can begin to question that. Undoubtedly, there are people who have been a part of the Church who have had to think through some of those things. Die? Of course, when you know as much as we know now, it's a little bit different. But what an incredible thing. "Lest you die." You're not to sin, lest you die.

Well, in the beginning, especially for a long time, or even then, obviously, if you were told not to sin and you begin to reason in your mind, you see other things around you die, animals die, and you haven't experienced anything like this yet? It had to be a little bit different in your thinking, what you're going through. Doubting. Doubting? Easy to doubt what God said.

Then the serpent replied to the woman, You will not die. You think about human beings and how we reason. A lot goes on in the mind, and it's not always very pretty. And if you begin to step aside from certain things, temptations to do certain things, temptations not to tithe, not to send in all the tithe, not to save this, not to give it to God. It's blown my mind through time how that's been such a common thing, common in the Church of God. Which I believe still goes on today. Only you, whoever you are, can examine those things in your life as to whether you're doing it truthfully, righteously, and justly before God.

Then the serpent said to the woman, You will not die. For God does know that the day you eat thereof, then your eyes will be opened, and you'll be as God's, knowing good and evil. So, people decide for themselves. It's as basic as that. You go on long enough doubting certain things, wanting something

different, seeing something out there that you want, that God says you shouldn't have, and after a while, you go and do it, and then you deceive yourself into thinking somehow that it's okay.

That's what we do as human beings when we stray away, when we go away. And that's exactly what's being described here, a process that takes place in the human mind, in our human thinking. So, "You'll be as Gods." Now, people don't think about that when they do that. But that's what God is showing here. This is what happens when your thinking begins to go off course and you make decisions based on something that you're ignoring what God has said that should be clear cut. Clear cut: Don't touch that tree! Don't touch the fruit of that tree. Don't touch this. Don't touch that. Do this. Don't do that.

Human beings don't like to be told what to do. Not even from God. Human beings have fought against that, resisted that. They want to do it their way, if they do something at all. I mean, it's insane. It really is.

When the woman saw that the tree was good for food… Finally, she became convinced. How long did that go on? I don't know. Finally became convinced in her own thinking, she's going to do it. She made the choice she's going to do it.

…and that it was pleasant to the eyes. That's what happens to people. Maybe somebody wants something else. Maybe has purchased something that maybe wasn't so smart, shouldn't have probably done it, because now how do you make your budget work?

Or some other justification of somehow it's okay to use a certain portion. Maybe that great big TV I've always wanted, I'll just use second tithe, I'll just give myself a Feast gift. I've heard people doing dumb things like that. Did you take it to the Feast with you? That 16-inch TV, did you take it? Did you benefit at the Feast with it? Was it really that great at the Feast? Maybe, oh, it was to watch the video because you're going to be in your room. I'm just kidding.

It's amazing how we can deceive ourselves. This is what she's doing. She's deciding she's going to do it. "It looks good. I want to do it." That gives the justification. That becomes so strong that a person can begin to turn away from God. That's what takes place. It's as basic as that.

So**, when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and it was pleasant to the eyes, and the tree to be desired to make one wise…** In other words, for oneself. Not that she thought this through. People don't think these things through with any kind of wisdom, soundness of mind. When they go this far away, they've just done what this pictures.

…she took of the fruit and did eat it and gave it to her husband with her, and he did eat. She's not going to feel as guilty if he'll eat too. "I didn't fall over dead, and I ate of it. He's not going to fall over dead. It must be okay."

Then the eyes of both of them were opened. God is showing here what happens on a spiritual plane in the mind, what we do to our human mind that God gave to us, and how we can hurt our thinking as

human beings. Even if we don't have God's spirit, what people do. The more evil they practice and live, the more demented and distorted the mind becomes. They hurt and ruin the mind.

That's why so many in the Great White Throne are never going to want God's way of life. They've destroyed their minds. That's why God came along in the time of Noah, before that, and wiped out humanity because they had so messed up their minds. And rather than living on, there was no point. We're to learn from that. That's why that example is given. We're to learn from that. You have a thousand years to live, 900 years, 800 years? No, thank you. 70, 80, 82, 83, it's plenty for me as a human being, knowing what we know.

"Then the eyes of both of them were opened." A mind that begins to turn toward corruption, hurting the mind. **And they knew that they were naked**. Something else entered into their mind.

I'm kind of dumbfounded when I think about some of the things that that great, big—I'll just say it— ugly church did back in 325. Because it's ugly, sick, perverted, the things that they have done, and how screwed up their minds are toward sex, towards right relationships in life. Some of their teachings are really sick in those areas; they really are, things that they believe.

And they knew they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves a covering around the waist. And mankind has had these problems ever since. Because it's the very carnal part of human nature, because of the way God made us, men toward women, women toward men. There's a natural part of that, that when used right is good. But mankind, how often do they do what God has given to them and use it for good? Pretty much never.

Now they heard the voice of the Eternal God walking in the garden in the cool of the day. So, God was in their midst at different times, manifested Himself in whatever way to them, as He did in more than one way to Abraham even.

…in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Eternal God among the trees in the garden. Something happened in their minds that hadn't happened yet. They went against God. They hurt their minds. They had a guilty conscience because they knew that this wasn't pleasing to God, because they did something He told them not to do. So, this shame that began to enter in, this thinking that began to enter in. It's amazing.

All humanity has followed the same way ever since. That's just the way of carnal human nature. But a good example here.

"Hid themselves from the presence of the Eternal God among the trees of the garden." They weren't comfortable around God anymore.

So, because of what Satan had done, God told him what would follow him in the future. Awesome. Something we haven't known too long, something the Church of God hasn't understood in times past

because it wasn't time for it to be given, perhaps not even for the spirit world to understand all of it, most likely.

Verse 14—Then the Eternal God said to the serpent, Because you have done this, you are cursed. Well, it's a matter of sin. And he had plenty of sin before this, and he's just continuing on in the way of sin, doing things his own way, wrong thinking. And so, he's going to have more wrong thinking, and it's going to be harder on him as time goes on.

Because you see, he never wanted to see this in the first place. He never wanted to see the creation of physical human beings. When he learned, when the angelic realm learned that there was a creation going to be given that was greater than the angelic realm, that much of their purpose was in that, in the creation of mankind, he wanted to destroy it.

God didn't tell them everything, but He started a process enough that there are those beings who didn't want it. That's why they tried to destroy the earth in the first place, to thwart God's purpose and plan. Destroy it, then you can't put anything on it. I mean, how dumb can minds go sometimes? To think God is restricted in doing things? You look at the universe, and he should have known. Duh, duh, duh. Insanity.

It's like today. We should be dumbfounded of how much stupidity, of how much unsoundness of mind exists in this world around us today. There are people whose minds are just la-la. They are wacky as wacky can be on a carnal physical scale. Really! Seriously! I'm blown over by it sometimes. How is it possible that human beings come to the point they're not sure that they can even say it anymore, that there's just a man and a woman. And you can't have all these others? You can't have different sex or identities? “Yes, I can! I'm going to call myself they, them, it.” I don't know. I didn't try to keep up with that stuff.

After a while, I don't even know those letters. I think it starts with “L.” And then you have a string of letters. What is all that? You know, I really don't even want to know what it is. And I really to this day don't know what they are because I chose not to know. Now, I know what a couple of them are. But I don't even want to try to figure it out. Sick, sick, sick, sick, filthy, perverted world. I think God gave plenty of examples in scripture of what happens to human beings if they want to live that way. You want to go that far in life, to be so weird, to screw up your mind that is so precious to where you can't even think clear?

What would happen if God offers them His holy spirit? And that kind of a mind, does that mind change? A mind can go so far that it can't even be helped. That's why it had to be destroyed in the times of Noah. And now we live in times that are worse than that. Worse because of technology, the misuse of technology. It should hurt, hurt inside to see what's happening to people, what's happening to young people, how people are being affected by things. Choices, choices, choices.

And out of the midst of all the vastness of the billions of humanity God is going to work with some. His plan was never to give it to everybody, but it was to have a vastness of humanity from out of which there could be those that could be drawn and worked with to become a part of His Family. Things to learn from, to understand why. There's much to learn there.

He says here again, **Because you have done this, you are cursed above all living creatures and above every living creature upon the land. Upon your belly will you go**. In other words, in the lowest way, shameful. He's going to be made an example of, as time goes along, of how despicable he really is, how sick he really is.

…and dust will you eat all the days of your life. It started then. He didn't want to see it, and then after it was there, the example of a slithering snake and just going along and what's coming into you, the dust. Humanity that doesn't last for long; we turn to dust. This is exactly what it's all about. Awesome to understand what God has given us to comprehend. That's the part that brings him to greater shame because he's had to see God working with different ones at different times, things that God did to them, promised them, and gave to them.

And on and on it went, all the way up to the time of Christ. And then to see what He did with Christ and to know the power that was being given to Him and the miraculous things that Christ did, that God did through Him, and knowing, learning more as he went along because they don't know everything. They didn't know everything. That's why it talks about in scripture here that, I believe it is in Peter as well, that they desire to know. The angelic realm wants to know what is being taught by God. Whether it be before or the time of the Church, the past 2,000 years, which is what it focuses on because that's who it's written to.

"And dust will you eat all the days of your life." He's been eating a lot of dust through time and he's getting a stronger diet of it as time goes along. Good. I'm tickled pink. And he's about to be put away for 1,100 years. I am so looking forward to that, that evil beast, being, being put away, truly. Sick, demented, twisted, distorted mind. What do you think he's going to eat when he sees 144,000 coming with Christ? That's going to be almost the height of it. Not quite, because he's going to be put away right at that time. Kept away from the presence of God and mankind, from the angelic realm, and they're going to be put away, and then let go for a little season at the end. It's not going to be very long. He's going to stir up the world, what's there ready to be destroyed because they don't choose God's way of life. It's not going to be a hard job for him. He's a master at it anyway, and he's able to use his power again and deception and whatever goes on. But it's going to be very clear who is of God and who isn't by that time. And then he's just going to be destroyed, no longer having to have a diet of the dust of the earth. Because that's what God made mankind from.

Now I will put enmity between you and the woman. When these things were written, he had no idea what was being said about him. He didn't grasp it all. He doesn't grasp spiritual things. He learns things

as time goes along. He knows of them. Doesn't believe. Unsound minds. You can't try to understand them.

That's why I don't understand, I don't comprehend, and sometimes you watch certain things on the news, and you watch what people are saying, and you think, "What is wrong with you? This isn't that difficult. How can you be this way?" People can by their choices because they want something else so different, or their hatred is so great towards someone else that they'll say the most insane, dumb, backward things.

"I'll put enmity between you and the woman." Not physical, but spiritual. This wasn't about women. It's about the Church. The Church. In time, it would be revealed what it was all about. The Church is the mother of us all. That's how it's described in scripture. That's the woman. It's that which God creates, done so through begettal.

…and between your seed (offspring, posterity) **and her seed**. So, what is his seed? He can't produce anything. He can't make anything except for evil. He can influence evil and those who follow that way, his way. That's his posterity. That's what follows him. That's what's been going on, especially since 325 A.D. Sick, sick, sick perversions about God and about Christ. Really sick when you see it for what it is.

"And her seed." Christ. That's what it's about. **It** – that seed in other words, speaking of Christ – **will bruise your head**. It means "to crush" or "to break." It's about Satan's end. It's foretold here.

So, right at the very beginning, the first two people, and God tells him in essence that he doesn't understand and comprehend, but prophetically so, that will be your end. You are cursed. You're going to eat the dust of the earth all the days of your life, meaning whatever that time span is. Which he probably never really even had a twinkle of a thought that it could come to an end because he's spirit. Just as the Church used to believe.

So, he was allowed to believe it for how long, maybe? Perhaps all the way through Philadelphia and Laodicea? That he's a spirit being, has spirit life, he can't be destroyed. Well, got news for him. God revealed it. Yes, he can be. Anything God creates, spirit or physical, He can destroy. He can bring an end to it. They weren't given immortal life. They don't have immortal life inherent in them. Only God Almighty does, and only God can give it. What an awesome thing to know and to understand. How blessed we've been to grasp such things.

"And I will bruise your heads." In other words, Satan's end foretold. **…and you shall only**, as it is here, **you will bruise His heel**. He's going to see him put on a pole, beaten and whipped. You know, as perverted as his mind was, perhaps to think that he's going to be able to put an end to Him. He tried to before He was, well, around the time of His birth and Herod went down and killed all those children. Incredible. He was stirred up by Satan. Then you come to the time of toward the end of Christ's life.

All a part of God's purpose that it was allowed to take place. What a shockeroo. It had to be a shockeroo. Three days later. Because even the disciples never got what He was talking about. In three days, He's going to be resurrected; the Son of Man will be raised to life. He told them, and they didn't get it. They didn't understand what He was saying.

I'm getting ahead in sermons because I've got them quite a way forward now. I won't tell you what He said. Awesome.

I will bruise your heel, or **you will bruise his heel**. Small thing, little bruise. A bruise will heal. No pun intended.

Let's turn over to 2nd Samuel. So, from the beginning, God began to reveal the importance of the Messiah and things that would be fulfilled through Him. It started right here in Genesis. It went throughout the Old Testament. We're going to only look at a few things. But through time, progressively—I love that—progressively revealed more, more understanding as time went along. Not a whole lot in the first 4,000 years, and even there, progressively so, different things were revealed. A lot of the things that were revealed during those periods of time weren't even understood until the time of the Church, until the day of Pentecost, candidly,

Some of it wasn't even understood until the day of Pentecost, when Peter began to teach about some of those things and what they really meant. People didn't know before that. So, throughout the Old Testament, there are many things pointed out concerning Christ, concerning the Messiah, and what He would fulfill in God's plan. But it wasn't God's purpose to reveal it all, just a little here and a little there.

I think of some of the things that Christ said later on. There are so many places where it speaks of something that makes it clear that this had to take place because it's written. Something you would even know in the Old Testament, a sentence in the midst of a whole bunch of other sentences. And you think, you couldn't know that was prophetic except that God showed you that it was. Amazing. So, it wasn't until the time of David that far more about the Messiah began to be revealed, and a lot was revealed then. Beautiful picture, and the timing of when He chose to begin revealing more of that, and used a kingly line to do that.

2 Samuel 7:8. Now, this is from Nathan the prophet to David. Timing, timing, timing. **2 Samuel 7:8—Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, thus says the Eternal of hosts, I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel**. Just the story there alone, what an incredible thing. He gave power to Saul. None of it by accident. All of it, all of it designed by God. God was always going to use Judah, but He started out with Benjamin.

Which I didn't bring up in the series about fasting, which my wife mentioned here the other day, a while back, about the Agagite, the king, and one that Saul was supposed to kill, and he didn't. And lo and

behold, hundreds and hundreds of years later, in Persia, Haman the Agagite. If he had done his part way back then. But it's part of God's plan to show what happens, minds, how they think.

…following the sheep to be ruler over My people, over Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you and have made you a great name. Now David knew that. When that was told to him, he knew what God had done to him, for him. He knew who he was. He remembered what he did in herding sheep and some of the things he did, killing bear, killing lion. Most people would have more sense than to enter into that kind of a battle. But anyway, he did it.

...like the name of the great men who are on the earth. Moreover I will appoint (set or make) **a standing place** is what it means here, **for My people Israel, and I will plant them, that they may dwell** (abide) **in a place of their own**. Isn't it amazing? It wasn't anything about a physical thing that was to be fulfilled. That's a part and type. But it was all about something for the future that even here David wasn't given to comprehend.

…a place of their own and be moved or shaken no more. They've been shaken over and over and over again through time. **Nor will the children of unrighteousness oppress them anymore as before. Ever since the time that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel and have caused you to rest from your enemies, also the Eternal tells you that He will make of** or **from**, as it is here, **you a house**. Awesome.

Verse 15—My mercy will not depart from him, as I took from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Awesome. "Your kingdom established forever." So, fully about David? No, it's about what he's going to fulfill and what was going to be established through him, a kingly line.

Your throne shall be established forever. Not him. The promise wasn't specifically to him for his kingdom; it was about one that was to come from him. **…will be established forever**. In other words, what was going to come from him that would rule over Israel forever.

According to all these words and according to all the visions, as Nathan told David. So again, Nathan came before David at different times to tell him, give messages, some of warnings, some of correction, some here about things to come.

2 Chronicles 6:1. And so, it begins to play out. Just as things were given to Adam and Eve or said to even Satan there, that he didn't comprehend, things that were to come along later on through time and what God was establishing. Some of these are absolutely awesome.

2 Chronicles 6:1—it says, **Then Solomon said, The Eternal has said, He would dwell in the thick darkness**. Now, I've given this before where I've talked about the right translation of this because the words "but have built" is not the correct translation. It literally says, "I build." "I build," God speaking. **I build a house of dwelling for you**. Awesome. **…and a place for your dwelling forever**.

Then the king turned his face and blessed the whole congregation of Israel, and all the congregation of Israel stood. Then he said… So, we go through these periods of time where David wanted to build the temple, and Solomon was the one that was given it to be built. And then certain things reveal there, as is brought out here, that God revealed through Solomon as well.

And then he goes on to say, **Then he said, Blessed be the Eternal God of Israel, who has with His hands fulfilled that which He spoke with His mouth to my father David, saying…** Now, all he could grasp and understand was something physical being fulfilled. That's all the farther it went. He couldn't grasp, but no, this is far beyond that. It's forever.

Since the day that I brought forth My people out of the land of Egypt, I chose no city among all the tribes of Israel to build a house in, that My name might be there. Neither did I choose any man to be ruler over My people, Israel. So, all that period of time, some few hundred years there, all that they went through. **But I have chosen Jerusalem, that My name might be there**.

And just reading this as a story, what they believed, that's why so many, even to this day, there are people who call it the holy city. And there's nothing holy about it. God makes something holy. His presence makes something holy. But they didn't grasp and comprehend through time what this was all about, a place of peace, a city of peace, whose builder and maker is God. So, we understand what it means on a spiritual plane in God's Family.

…that My name might be there, and have chosen David to be over My people, Israel. Now, it was in his heart, or **it was in the heart of David, my father, to build a house for the name of the Eternal God of Israel. But the Eternal said to David, my father, For as much as it was in your heart to build a house for My name, you did well in that it was in your heart**. That was your desire. **Notwithstanding, you will not build a house, but your son, who will come forth out of your loins**. So most, when they've read these things, have only grasped that which is physical through time. Even Judah.

“Shall come forth out of your loins.” Spiritual. The primary purpose of it is spiritual. God gives us physical things to learn things that are spiritual. He’s given us examples of them, diagrams, whatever, blueprints of things we can see. Just like the temple. The temple itself, the structure of it, everything that's in it all had spiritual purpose. Awesome. One day we're going to learn what it's all about. We still don't know.

…he will build My house for My name. God Almighty gave to His son, Joshua, who had come from the loins of David in time. Awesome. He's the one that is going to build a house for His name. The Church of God, the Body of Christ, God's Family, Elohim. Christ is very much at the forefront of it all.

The Eternal, therefore, has performed His word that He has spoken, for I have risen up in the room of David my father. So, he only saw himself as being the one who was to do this on a physical plane, and part it was, but so much more.

…and am set on the throne of Israel as the Eternal promised, and have built the house for the name of the Eternal God of Israel. Incredible.

Then later on, or not later on, but before that even. You have to go back and read some of the things then to understand what happened later on, some of the things that are said in the book of Psalms.

Let's turn over to Psalms 2. There's so much in scripture as God progressively revealed things, but He did reveal a lot through David that wasn't understood by David himself, nor even by Solomon. And not even Judaism, as time went along, didn't grasp so much of this. If they had, things would have been a whole lot different when Christ came.

Psalms 2:1—Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together against the Eternal and against His anointed, saying… So, this is about Christ. **Let us break their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us. He who sits in the heavens shall laugh. The Lord shall hold them in derision, and He shall speak to them in His wrath**. It's about a time of judgment when all are going to be judged through time.

A period of time of judgment coming at the end of this age of 6,000 years and referred to as the wrath of God. And it is that which is a matter of judgment, the execution of judgment, because it's right, because it's just upon mankind. He's going to let mankind do what he's going to do for the first portion, and then when Joshua comes, He's going to destroy those who are destroying the earth. Awesome. Because He's going to establish His Kingdom on earth, powerfully so.

He shall speak to them in His wrath and bring distress upon them in His deep displeasure. Yet I have set My King on My holy hill, having to do with government, power, His Kingdom. **…of Zion. I will declare the decree: The Eternal has said to Me**… Isn't it amazing this was written so long ago, and yet Christ, when He read it, He knew exactly what it was about, or it was in His mind, actually. It was in His being. It's about Him and His Father and what God was saying toward Him.

The Eternal has said to Me, to Joshua, **You are My Son: Today I have begotten You**. So, it came to pass at a certain time. I hope we understand when this took place. Awesome.

Today he said it. **Today I have begotten You**. Everybody has to go through the same process of being begotten by God, of God's holy spirit. He was different and unique because He was the Word of God made flesh, powerful, powerful in ways we don't comprehend that mind, that spirit. But He had a spirit essence in Him that had to be impregnated with God's holy spirit. He had to go through the same process everyone else does. Incredible.

Acts 13. Let's notice what it says about this. **Acts 13:26—Men and brethren, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to you the word of this salvation has been sent. For those who dwell in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not know Him**, speaking of Christ, **nor even the voice of the prophets which they read every Sabbath, having fulfilled in condemning Him**. So,

they fulfilled what the prophets had written in what was going to take place. That's what he's telling them. “You've done it. You've fulfilled what they wrote, what they said, things you've read on the Sabbath.”

Even though they found no cause for death in Him, they asked Pilate that He should be put to death. Now, when they fulfilled all that was written according to Him, they took Him down from the tree and laid Him in a tomb. But God raised Him from the dead. Incredible. Just to teach something like this at a point in time that he did, that they did when they spoke these things.

He was seen for many days by those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. So again here, the forty days there, and so forth. **…who are His witnesses to the people**. And even speaking of those disciples that came with Him to that point in time when He was put to death. **Now we declare to you that good news, the promise which was made to the fathers**.

Verse 33—God has fulfilled this for us, their children, in that He has raised up Joshua, as it is also written in the second Psalm, You are My Son: Today I have begotten You. So, it takes it another step farther. Because there is the point where we have the impregnation of God's spirit, and there's a point where we are born, born into Elohim. This is what it's leading up to.

Also, that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to corruption. He has spoken thus, I will give you the sure mercies of David. In other words, the things that He had promised through David, things that are written in the Psalms, just like what we just read in Psalms 2, that's what God is saying here, or that's what is being said here about God and His relationship with Joshua, toward Him.

I will give you the sure mercies of David. Therefore, He, speaking of God, **also says in another psalm, You will not allow your Holy One to see corruption. For David, after he had served his generation by the will of God, fell asleep and was buried with his fathers and saw corruption**. So, they didn't grasp and comprehend things. The Jewish people didn't, obviously. They didn't grasp the things of what they had read, like it said here, Sabbath by Sabbath, it was said to them out of the prophets. And yet, what an incredible thing here he's showing them or telling them, “This is what's been fulfilled. These things have not been about David. What you read in the Psalms and so forth, it's not about King David, it's about Joshua. It's about the Christ. It's about the Messiah. Because David did see corruption.”

But He whom God raised up saw no corruption. Powerful scriptures.

Turn over to another one here in Jeremiah 23. So, we go through so many in Psalms and so many other places, but **Jeremiah 23:5—Behold, the days are coming, says the Eternal, that I will raise to David a branch of righteousness, a king**. So, think, how much farther was it up the road? It's quite a long time from the time of David all the way up to Jeremiah and what was given then. A little bit more, a little more progressive revelation, getting closer to the time of Christ's first coming, but still a long way away.

A king shall reign and prosper and execute judgment and righteousness on the earth. Can you imagine 1,100 years of it? Awesome.

In His days, Judah will be saved. Because it's about the name. Not just Jewish people. It's about what Judah means. It's about what Israel means. It's about what Jerusalem means. Names that God chose a long time ago that would be fulfilled on a spiritual plane. **In His days, Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely. Now this is His name by which He will be called, The Eternal Our Righteousness**. Now that's in the King James, but more accurately it is translated, should be translated, **The Eternal's Righteousness**, obviously.

Isaiah. I want to finish this. **Isaiah 7:14—Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Emmanuel**, or God with us.

So again, over and over again through scripture, things that are through Isaiah, things that are in Jeremiah, things that are in the minor prophets, things that were written about throughout the Psalms, things about Christ, God's purpose, God's plan for His Son. But He didn't give it all in the beginning at all. Not even in the first 4,000 years. So many of these things didn't come to light until the Church was established. And some of it, quite a bit of it, hasn't come out until the end of this age.

Isaiah 9:6—For a Child will be born unto us, a Son will be given to us, and the government will come to be upon His shoulders. What an awesome thing we understand this. Very few through time have ever known anything about this, what it was about. It's easy to take things for granted. It truly is.

…proclaiming His name to be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God. Part of His name. It's what He is. It's what God's offering. Elohim. God. The God Family. Not angelic beings. It's hard for us to grasp that sometimes. Not as the Father is the Father, Father is God, but awesome. Not as Christ is God. But in the God Family.

…be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, or **of the Father** if you will, more accurately. **Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace, there shall be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom to establish it from that time forward and forevermore. The zeal of the Eternal of hosts will accomplish this**.

So, yes, it does come to a fruition or to a completion once everyone is in that Family, in Elohim, and all of mankind is no more. But God's Family is forever. His Kingdom is forever. Beautiful things.

We'll stop there today.