

Psalms 42 and Psalms 43

Sunday 8/9/2026

I. Review

If you have your Bibles this morning, I want you to turn back to the book of Psalms. We've been out of the book of Psalms now for a couple of weeks. We had camp, and I had sermons that we preached around that. But now we're back in Psalms today. And actually, we're not only going to look at Psalms 42, but also Psalms 43. You're going to see that Psalms 42 and Psalms 43 go together. I wanted to cover all the material by looking at them together.

Without a doubt, once we begin to read this—and maybe you know this already—Psalms 42 and Psalms 43 are most definitely tribulation Psalms. You've heard me say many, many times that the book of Psalms doctrinally deals with future events. It has a historical application, but also an inspirational application for us, which we all love. The prophetic (doctrinal) application is going to be about one of three things: Israel, typified through the life of David, going through the tribulation period; or Israel praying for the second coming of Christ, which are the second coming Psalms; or you'll find the millennial Psalms, when Christ comes back and establishes His kingdom there in Jerusalem, which is laid out in Ezekiel 40-48.

And this Psalm basically is going to be the Jew longing for the Lord to come back during the tribulation period. This time period you're going to find in Revelation 6:9-11 when the fifth seal opens. It is typified there by the souls under the altar who have been martyred for their faith by the antichrist, and the Jews that are still going through that terrible time, asking God, "How long until you come back?" crying out for them to be avenged and to be delivered from the hand of the antichrist.

II. Nothing in History can Compare to the Great Tribulation

It's hard for us to understand really what the tribulation is and how it's going to impact the nation of Israel. I know we know everything about it in the Bible. It's called Jacob's time of trouble. It's called the time of trouble. It's called Daniel's seventieth week depending on where you find it described. In Matthew 24:21, it's talking about the last three and a half years of the tribulation period.

You know that the tribulation is broken down into two three-and-a-half-year periods, which total seven years. The last half is called the great tribulation. And the Bible says in Matthew 24:21 that such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

<i>Matthew 24:21. For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.</i>

Now, that's a powerful statement. In the history of man, in the history of the world, there have been a lot of terrible things. But he's telling us here that nothing in the world up to this point can compare to what they're going to go through. I know we talk about it, we read about it, and we

preach on it, but it's hard to comprehend. It's hard to imagine the horrible time Israel will face in the last three and a half years of the tribulation period.

The Bible tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-18 that during the first three and a half years, when the antichrist shows up, he makes a covenant of peace and safety. He brings in a false peace to bring Israel under his leadership as the supreme leader of the world. Then, at the middle of the tribulation, at the three-and-a-half-year mark—and you'll find this in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12—you see the antichrist now reveals his true identity, reveals his true purpose, and now he turns on them. For the last three and a half years, he puts them into the great tribulation, where he tries to wipe them out and does down to probably 144,000 Jews.

In Matthew 24:15, it tells us about the abomination of desolation. You'll find this talked about in Daniel 11, also in Daniel 8. The abomination of desolation is at the beginning of that three-and-a-half-year mark. The antichrist, who up until now has just been satisfied to run the world, now goes into the temple in Jerusalem, sits down on the throne of God, and claims to the world that he is God and Christ. At that point, he goes after God's people, the nation of Israel, and it's an incredible time.

III. The Horrors of the Death Camps

Now, it's hard for us to imagine all that in a real-time context, but I want to tell you that the Bible makes it very clear that in history, we see a great example of this in our own lifetime, in a pattern and in type. What happened—and I've told you this before—God gave us at the beginning of the twentieth century, from 1933 to 1945, those twelve or so years there, what is clearly the last complete picture in its entirety of what the antichrist is going to do to the Jews. He did it under the pretense of the Nazis and Adolf Hitler from 1933 to 1945 with what we know today as the Holocaust.

Over eight million Jews from 1935 to 1945 died in Europe. Before World War II, there were twelve million Jews in Europe in all the different countries. By 1945, two out of every three of those Jews were killed, and Israel was wiped out to a small remnant. This was called the Final Solution. They met outside of Berlin in 1942, and all the SS leaders gathered under Reinhard Heydrich and Heinrich Himmler, and they decided what they were going to do to eradicate the nation of Israel off planet Earth. I can tell you right now, in the first three and a half years when the antichrist is here, he's going to be doing the same thing.

There were over a thousand camps and sub-camps spread out through occupied Europe, most of them in Poland. You had places like Dachau, Treblinka, Ravensbrück, Auschwitz, and Sobibór. These names are unknown to 99.999% of the people today, especially our young kids. As the Nazis took over Europe, one country at a time, they started with the annexation of Austria. Then they took Poland. Then they took Czechoslovakia. Then they took France. Then they took Belgium. They already were in Italy and North Africa. Then they took Crete. Then they took Holland. By the time we got into 1942, they had conquered every nation in Europe, and the Jews were their first primary target.

➤ The Ghettos

The Jews were first rounded up. Most people don't know this, but there was a system to their eradication of the nation of Israel. The first thing they did was go into a city, and they collected all of the Jews and put them in one section of that city. They walled up that section of that city, and they packed all the Jews in it. They were called ghettos.

Now, we think of the word ghetto completely differently than the original term of what it was used for. We think of it as poor urban areas where all the crime is, and that may be true. But the original ghetto was for the nation of Israel. They rounded them up and put them in those ghettos in their own city. The most famous one is the one in Warsaw, Poland—The Warsaw Ghetto—and you can read much about that. They walled up the sections, and when they wanted to implement the Final Solution, they already had them rounded up in the cities, locked up in those ghettos. Now the SS and the Wehrmacht would go in and systematically transport those Jews out of those ghettos to ship them off to the death camps, and they were killed by the millions.

➤ Over Six Million Jews Murdered and Massacred in Concentration Camps

The estimate is that there were over six million Jews that were murdered and massacred in the concentration camps, and that's probably very accurate. Most people don't know that when they invaded Russia in Operation Barbarossa in 1941, in every Russian town that they went into—we talk about the war in Ukraine right now, but nobody understands the history of Ukraine. It once belonged to the Soviet Union, and that's why the Soviet Union wants it back today. In World War II, it belonged to Russia.

When they invaded Ukraine, they went into all those cities—the cities that you hear about now, Kiev and those places over there that are the major cities—those cities were the great killing grounds in World War II. When the Wehrmacht went in and took those cities, conquered those cities, and moved on, then a group—there were four of them called the Einsatzgruppen—went in, and their sole purpose was to round up every Jew and kill every Jew in that city.

There are pictures of the lists that they were sending back to Berlin, where the guys that were commanding these groups were showing how many hundreds of thousands of Jews in each city were eradicated. Then they sent them a final report: in Kiev, no more Jews. They would make them go out in great pits and dig their own graves, big mass pits, and then they would line them up—women, children, moms and dads, mamas holding little babies. They would make them strip their clothes and stand on the edge of the pit and then shoot them and push them down in that hole. Then more would run up, and they would shoot them. It would go on all day long, to the tune of probably another three or four million that aren't even counted in the Holocaust in the concentration camps. By the end of the war, Europe was almost eradicated of God's people.

And the example is like this: they would take them out of the ghettos, load them up on trains and cattle boxcars, and they would pack so many into them that they couldn't sit down. Then they would have a train trip from wherever it was to wherever they were going in Poland, three or four days, with no food, no water, and no bathroom privileges.

When they got to a camp—we'll say, for the sake of argument, Auschwitz, which was in Eastern Poland—and when they disembarked into those camps, they were told that it was a work camp. When the trains pulled in, the Nazis had Jewish prisoners that were still alive playing Mozart and playing Wagner and music as they got off. They were told, "Welcome to Auschwitz. This is a work camp. If you work hard and don't give us any problems, you have nothing to worry about." Over the gate going into this camp were the words, "Work makes you free."

When they got to that camp, when they got off those trains, they were immediately separated into two categories. It was the famous Dr. Mengele, who was coined the Angel of Death, who was the head doctor in Auschwitz. He had a line of doctors sitting there in their white coats. He would walk up and down, and each Jew would come up and he would examine them. If he flicked his stick this way, you went to this group. If he flicked it that way, you went to that group.

He separated the healthy, and the men and women who had specialty jobs, who could work in their factories, in their shops. But all the other ones went to a group that was going to be completely eradicated. The old folks, the mothers with babies, the little children, the sick, and the feeble were all put into one group. The stronger ones who could work for them, they would work until they died, or until they got more people coming in and they had to replace them, and they would kill them. The stronger ones who could work went into the camp and did various jobs and various things that needed to be done. Over the next month, they worked them to death.

➤ The Gas Chambers

The second group was told to leave their baggage, and that it would be returned to them. They marched them off to the work camp. The first group was told that they must shower before entering the camp. They used the bogus excuse, "We've had typhus in the camp, we've had malaria, and we've got to maintain cleanliness, so everybody's going to get a hot shower." They marched them off to these large shower rooms that could hold four hundred or five hundred people. They had to strip off all their clothes, and they went into those shower rooms to get washed.

Only they were not shower facilities; they were gas chambers. There was a guy sitting on top with a little thing there that had a canister of what was called Zyklon B. He put it down into that canister, opened it up, and for the next twenty, thirty, forty minutes, you could hear the screams and the wails of God's people being gassed together. When it initially hit, they all ran to the front door, and you know what happened—five hundred people, the people in the front were crushed. They waited twenty or thirty minutes for all the crying to stop and the wailing to stop, and then they opened the door, and other Jewish prisoners had to cart off those bodies. They gassed five hundred men, women, and children at a time, twenty-four-seven.

Then their bodies were carted out to the crematoriums, and they were burned twenty-four-seven. At night, you could see the glow in the sky of the ovens burning up the Jewish bodies. This is all prophesied in the Bible, by the way. The ashes from their bodies floated down over the camp like a snowfall.

➤ Two Movies Worth Watching with Your Families

I would suggest, moms and dads, because of the state of our education system and what your kids don't get—maybe you haven't gotten it either—I would suggest, one way or the other, and they're easy to get your hands on, I would sit down with your children and I would watch two movies together that are the most graphic and probably the closest to what it was really like, if that's even possible. The first one is *Schindler's List*. Oscar Schindler was a German who rescued many Jews from the concentration camps to keep them from being murdered. The other one is a movie called *Escape from Sobibór*. Sobibór was a concentration camp in Eastern Poland. It's the only concentration camp that they had a successful escape from. They put a plot together, and it's a great movie to watch how the plot unfolds and how they do it, and over five hundred people escaped out of that camp. Incredible. Those two movies will give you an understanding, in some limited way as we can understand it, of what they went through during the Holocaust.

IV. What Happens When You Lose Your Perspective of History

Now, having said that, and this happens all the time: Today, there are those who think that the Holocaust didn't really happen. These will be the antisemitic groups who don't like the Jews anyhow. Believe it or not, you'll find people—I don't know if they are or aren't, but they're so-called Christians—who really deny that the Holocaust ever took place. I can tell you three things about people that are in that persuasion before I even get to meet them:

1. They have no clue about the Bible.
2. They have no understanding of history.
3. They have no clue of what God is doing with His people—then and today.

I remember reading at the end of the war in 1945, the allies were overrunning the camps. General Eisenhower, who was the Supreme Commander, when he was notified of the camps, went and visited the camps. He ordered everything in those camps to be documented with a movie, a film, because he said there's going to be a day when people will say this did not happen.

Many of you saw the movie *Nuremberg*. Nuremberg, Germany, was where they held the war crimes trials for all the people who eradicated the Jews. The chief prosecutor was a guy by the name of Robert Jackson. Years later when people started to deny that it ever happened, he kind of laughed and chuckled and said: all the men who committed the war crimes in the concentration camps, every one of them had their own excuse. Some of them said, "I had no idea." Some of them said, "I was just following orders." Some of them were honest enough and said, "I hated the Jews, and yes, we killed them." Some said they were forced to do it. But Robert Jackson said not once in all the trials did anybody say it didn't happen.

This is what happens with time when you lose your perspective of history. As time goes on, and you lose in this country and around the world any perspective of where you came from and the history that got you where you're at, it's the conspiracy stuff that starts, which tries to erase what really happened in history.

➤ More Atrocities

I said all that to say this: no matter how bad it was in those camps—and it was, six to eight million of them murdered. When they wanted to shoot mothers with babies, they wanted to save ammunition, so they made the mother hold the baby in her arms and shot the baby, and the bullet went through the baby and into the mother and killed them both with one bullet. I've seen pictures where, just for fun, they'd line up in a row, six or seven Jewish men standing in front of each other, and then they'd take a nine-millimeter Luger and shoot the first guy in the head and make bets on how many heads that bullet would go through with one shot. It's incredible.

They had Jews that had tattoos on their arms; they cut the skin off and made lampshades out of the skin. They even made shrunken heads out of many of the Jews and sold them. They did horrible medical experiments with them. They would put them in a tub of freezing ice water, dress them in a Luftwaffe flight suit, put them in a freezing tub of ice water, and then stand there and record how long it took them to freeze to death so they would know what an Air Force pilot's time was if he was shot down in the North Atlantic in the cold water. Incredible.

There were bags and bags, millions and millions of dollars of gold. It wasn't gold bullion; it wasn't gold coins. It was gold that, after they killed them, a group of German Jews went in and pulled the gold out of the fillings of their teeth, to the tune of millions and millions and millions of dollars. I remember being at Dachau, and in one of the rooms of Dachau, one of the greatest examples that really brings home the truth of it was a room filled to the ceiling with little kids' shoes. Who knows that today? And you know what's wrong with this generation? Who cares? Who cares?

You see, when you lose your perspective of history, then you come to the state that we're in right now, and this is why. We can talk about the tribulation, the Jews going through it, the 144,000 being killed, their heads cut off, and all that stuff—it's just words on paper without an understanding of history. And in Psalms 42 and 43, here you have a record of the Jews in the midst of that terrible time of trouble praying for God's deliverance. In my mind, Psalms 42 and 43 are probably two of the most graphic tribulation prayers found in the Bible. So, I want to read both of them to you, and then we're going to make some comments on it. Let's start with Psalm 42 first.

V. Psalms 42 and 43: Tribulation Prayers for Deliverance

Psalms 42:1-11

- 1. As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.*
- 2. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?*
- 3. My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God?*

- 4. When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday.*
- 5. Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance.*
- 6. O my God, my soul is cast down within me: therefore will I remember thee from the land of Jordan, and of the Hermonites, from the hill Mizar.*
- 7. Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me.*
- 8. Yet the LORD will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life.*
- 9. I will say unto God my rock, Why hast thou forgotten me? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?*
- 10. As with a sword in my bones, mine enemies reproach me; while they say daily unto me, Where is thy God?*
- 11. Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.*

Psalms 43:1-5

- 1. Judge me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation: O deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man.*
- 2. For thou art the God of my strength: why dost thou cast me off? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?*
- 3. O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles.*
- 4. Then will I go unto the altar of God, unto God my exceeding joy: yea, upon the harp will I praise thee, O God my God.*
- 5. Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.*

VI. The Lukewarm State of the Laodicean Church

Now, with that history and the future of Israel, their time of trouble, I want you to know that most certainly here, there is an inspirational or a practical side to all this for you and me to consider. Now, I understand the history of the New Testament church. Revelation 1-3 very clearly shows us through the Bible the natural breakdown of the two thousand years of church

history. We all know—I'm preaching to the choir here—that there are seven periods of church history recorded for us in the book of Revelation in the first three chapters.

Knowing what I know about that to be true, I also know, as I've written several books on church history and taught it, I don't know how many times, that in every period of church history, the Christians of those periods paid a tremendous price for their stand with the Word of God. Every one of them had to face the persecution that came their way from the Roman Catholic Church because of the stand that they took. Every one of them except one: that is the period that you and I live in.

In Revelation 3:14-22—and you know the story—it's called the church of Laodicea. Laodicea means "rights of the people." The last church age before Jesus Christ comes, which we're all part of, there's a bunch of Christians that care more about their rights than God's rights. Because of that, God's people today are so satisfied and complacent. Intellectually they know it, but in a practical way, they care nothing about the Lord's coming back. Most of them care nothing about going to church. You go to church when it's convenient. You get into your Bible when it's convenient, or when you have some trouble in your life.

➤ Persecution Always Makes Christianity Stronger

In Psalms 42 and 43, the prayer of deliverance could and will fit into every period of church history that they went through, except ours. Persecution always makes Christianity stronger. The lack of persecution always makes it weaker. Our church period is laid out very clearly in Revelation 3:15-17. I'll be honest, if God's people understood, really understood what I'm saying today, there would be not a revival in churches, there would be a revolt in churches. There would be a rebellion in churches. God's people don't care. We like being satisfied. We like being not burdened. We like not having to face any kind of adversity. Most of God's people can't handle adversity anyhow. They can't handle criticism. They can't handle persecution. They fold up and fall apart.

But our church period is laid out in Revelation 3:15-17 when the Lord Jesus Christ says this:

*15. I know thy works, **that thou art neither cold nor hot**: I would thou wert cold or hot.*

*16. So then because **thou art lukewarm**, and neither cold nor hot, **I will spue thee out of my mouth**.*

*17. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that **thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked**:*

This church is called the Church of the Closed Door, whereas the church period before, which was Philadelphia, which was the greatest period in church history under England, was called the Church of the Open Door. This church that we belong to today; their understanding of the Bible and God is they don't need anything from God. They don't need anything at all.

The church today looks at itself as being rich. Pastors live their lives much higher than the people that are in their church. They drive better cars, they live in better houses, and it's almost a caste

system. And churches are increased with goods. There are churches out there that are building buildings costing millions and millions—fifty, seventy million dollars. Because of all that, they actually get into their minds that big buildings and a lavish lifestyle is somehow proof of God's blessing in your life. They've come to the place now, and you see it every day, they have need of nothing.

But in reality, they need everything. In truth, the church today in God's viewpoint—not mine, God's—according to Revelation 3:17: they're wretched, they're miserable, they're poor, blind, and naked. And the naked there will be connected to the judgment seat of Christ—2 Corinthians 5 and 1 Corinthians 3.

I will say this based on fifty plus years in the ministry: God's people today, even the people that we have to work with and I work with, are the most dysfunctional people on planet Earth today. Their marriages are broken, busted, their families are scattered, their individual lives are broken, and they're disillusioned, and they are miserable. They're on every kind of drug that you can find, Prozac and everything out there that's going to help them not think about the world system that they're part of, instead of coming to the Word of God.

VII. The Last Remnant of the Philadelphian Church Age

I've told you before, I hate being in the world that I live in, I would have much rather have been back in the fifteenth or sixteenth century someplace back there, but at least when God stuck me in this one, he put me at the right time in 1950. Because as a young pastor growing up in the midst of all this, I saw what was happening. I preached a couple of weeks ago about the three men that God used to hold the line together for us to have a Bible: Billy Sunday, J. Frank Norris, and then Peter S. Ruckman.

You see, I was trained by the old guard, the old breed, so to speak. I was trained by men who were trained by them. Men who saw what was happening, took me under their wing, and tried to keep me from falling into that trap. They were the remnant of Philadelphia. They were the men that, many of them, were saved under Billy Sunday. Most of them came out of Norris's group, and most of them found their Bible through Peter S. Ruckman. They were the old guard.

And as I've told you many times, my goal, my vision was to build to the best of my ability and understanding a church that is as close to the historical perspective, the true line of a church found in the book of Revelation that kept the Word of God and stayed faithful to God, the Book, and the people. And I've said it many, many times: **building a Philadelphian church in the Laodicean church age, a church of an open door versus a church of a closed door, building down the line, twenty or thirty years if Jesus doesn't come, you young men and women who then form the old guard based on what was given to you.**

And if as a pastor you do that and stay with it like Mike Veitch does, like Miles does, and like Fernandez does, and Kevin does down the road here, and Mark, and Patty, and Sam does, I am telling you, you will most certainly become the minority of Christianity very quickly. Ninety-nine percent of New Testament Christianity, God's people in churches that meet every Sunday,

this morning having great song services, Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday night—the only problem is they have no Bible.

You don't believe me? Just go to whatever church you're going to. Go to your pastor and just ask him one simple question: "Do I have a complete, perfect Word of God in the English language that I can trust as the very words of God?" See what his answer is, because we, just as Israel, we too have lost the true value of things today.

In Luke 16:11—a play on words, I guess: 1611—there are the true riches.

*Luke 16:11. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust **the true riches**?*

➤ We've Never Had to Pay a Price for What we Believe

Here's the reason in our period of church history, Laodicea, which started around 1900, moving right up to where we're at today in 2026. I'll tell you what our problem is. I'll tell you what my problem is, and I'll tell you what your problem is, and I'll tell you what your problem is on the internet out there: we've never had to pay a price for what we believe. **The value of anything will always be tied to its cost and your love for it.**

God's people today have lost the cost of our having our salvation and the Word of God that God has given us. We think ball games are more important than Sunday church. We think this or that is more important than the Bible. We've lost the value because we never, never had to pay a price. Because we have gotten so far from true Christianity and the Word of God, this is why we have become complacent. This is why we have become weak. This is why we go through life miserable. This is why we wonder, "Is this all there is to the Christian life?" No, there's a lot more to it. You just don't want to pay the price to get it.

I watched it all down through church history. I watched it in the first two hundred or three hundred years of the early church. I watched the people called the Nestorians. I watched the people called the Manichaeans. I watched the people called the Montanists. And there's where it began. The Nestorians were called after the man that was their pastor, Nestorius. The Manichaeans were called after their pastor, Mani. And the Montanists were called after their pastor, Montanus. And because these pastors took a stand on the Word of God when the world at that time—the Christian world—was leaving the Book, they were labeled a cult. They were labeled a sect. And their followers were called after the men that they followed. Hence, twentieth century: Norrisites and Ruckmanites. And they paid a terrible price.

In the mid-church age, nine hundred to what, fourteen hundred? You had the Waldensians, the Albigenses, the Paulicians, the Cathari, the Huguenots. And they paid unparalleled persecution for what they believed from the Roman Catholic Church. They went through the Inquisition. They went through being burned at the stake, having been tortured in the most unmentionable ways. You can read about them in *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*. In the bookstore, we've got a book called *The Waldensians*. I would suggest everybody read it. There's a book called *Tortured for Their Faith*.

And then the last men and women from 1600 to 1900. By that time, it had developed, and they were the Anabaptists, or later on, just the Baptists. This time—I told you about the Holocaust from 1933 to 1945—this time period made the Holocaust look like a Sunday school picnic. Millions and millions and millions and millions of God's people paid a price because they wouldn't give up the Book that you won't bother to read and study.

There were wives and husbands who were thrown into a cell where they took their little kids and asked them to deny Christ, and they wouldn't do it. And the nuns, laughing, would have them killed. And then the last thing they saw was their kids being marched off—those little kids, three or four or five years old, just like yours—to be raised by the Roman Catholics. And you know what? They never renounced Him. There have been cases where they asked their mom and dad to deny Him, and they wouldn't do it. One by one, they threw those kids to the wild pigs and watched the little kids screaming for mommy and daddy to help them and do something, while the pigs ate their kids alive. They never denied Him.

Are you getting my message? Anybody want to get up and give a testimony like that? Of course not. We can't even fathom that. And I often wonder, based on where we're at with the Book and God, what would you do? You'd sell God out in ten seconds. But they knew what they had, and they were willing to pay for it with their lives because of the true Word of God. And we today, we've never paid for anything.

➤ A Remnant: A Small Segment Who Stay Faithful to God

And for me, one of the key words that fits Israel in her final years before 70 A.D., when the final kickoff happened and they got scattered into the world, is the word "remnant." Israel was a remnant at the first coming of Christ. That's why you find the whole nation was against Him and crucified Him. But there was a small remnant: the wise men in Matthew 2, those like Lazarus, Martha, and Mary. There was a remnant that believed in Him. And at the second coming of Christ, Israel will be wiped out to a remnant—a **small segment of men and women who stay faithful unto God but pay the price for it**.

And if the type holds true, if the parallel between Old Testament Israel and the New Testament church holds true, then for God's people today in the church of Laodicea, there's going to be a remnant that's called out of that group. **And in the midst of the church today, which is wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked, if history holds true, there will be a remnant of God's people who stay true to the Word of God**, with pastors who will build their churches as close to the New Testament model as they can. But if history holds true, most likely there will also be a price that has to be paid that whittles Christianity down to that remnant.

I say that based on Revelation 3:18. He says this to the church of Laodicea that is wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. And here's the advice that he gives them. Here's the advice that he gives us:

<i>Revelation 3:18. I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear (JSC); and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.</i>
--

Buying the gold tried in the fire. And in the history of Christianity, the New Testament church, the only ones who have never had to pay a price in America are us. It just may be that before the Lord comes back, we as God's people will have the privilege to face the wrath of all the things around us, and we too will finally have to pay a price for what we have, and it will separate Christianity so fast that all that will be left will be a remnant.

VIII. The Decline of America: A Nation without God or a Bible

Now, let me show you how we got here. **You can't fix something unless you know how it got broken.** In the bookstore, there's a book that I wrote several years ago, *18 Steps Down That Destroyed America*. And it shows you how we got to where we are at. And again, most people don't know what I'm about to say. And it's a tragedy. It's a shame. It's a shame.

In 1776 our country was founded, after the Revolutionary War we had with King George of England, on a King James 1611 Authorized Version. Back then, there were only two Bibles: there was a King James Bible and there was the Douay-Rheims Roman Catholic Bible. There were only two. That's all changed now, and because of that, everything's clouded.

➤ Republics are Always Based on the Truth of Something that Doesn't Change

Our founding fathers built this nation as a republic. You say it all the time: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands..." **A republic is not a democracy.** There's a difference between the two. And you couldn't give me five adults today who could tell me the difference between a democracy and a republic. It wasn't a democracy then; it was a republic. And republics are always based on the truth of something that doesn't change. Back then, guess what it was?

When Thomas Jefferson brought the first draft of the Declaration of Independence and showed it to the founding fathers, they said, "No, no, there are not enough references to what God has done in our country. Take it back and put God into it." Today, we're taking God out of it, see?

Our school system back then was built and structured by a guy named Noah Webster. You know him because he wrote the dictionary—Noah Webster's dictionary. Noah Webster built all his classroom teaching on the Word of God. He knew the importance of never separating the Bible out of the public school system.

When George Washington left the presidency, he gave what has been commonly called *Washington's Farewell Address*. That farewell address was read and studied at every public school in America up to 1958, 1960. You know what George Washington said in his farewell address? He said any country that takes the Word of God out of the public school, any country that denies God to the young men and women coming up, is going to go into apostasy. But they quit reading it. **You see, there was a cultured plan, not just to take the Bible from you, but to take your history from you.**

Here we are. I mean, here we are. And around the middle of the 1800s, it all began to change very slowly underneath the surface. But a watcher and investigator of history through the Bible

sees it. And in 1888, America officially dumps the King James Bible for the RSV of 1881. And now the demise begins to set in.

In 1952, President Truman instituted a National Day of Prayer in America. Then, during Barack Obama's time as president, he declared publicly that America was no longer a Christian nation. And in 2010, he did away with the National Day of Prayer, but at the same time, he held a prayer for the Muslims in the White House. You know as well as I do, by 1962, prayer had been banned in all the public schools as well as any mention of the Bible and God.

I remember as a kid growing up, this is in the fifties—'55, '56, '57—we'd have Easter services at school. They'd bring in a preacher, and he'd preach salvation from the public school. And now we see the decline of America, a nation without God or a Bible.

➤ America has been 130 Years Now without a Bible

And the effect on this country is simply this: We just celebrated our two hundred and fiftieth anniversary, but we have been one hundred and thirty years in this country without a Bible. I told you a couple of weeks ago how God used J. Frank Norris, Peter S. Ruckman, and Billy Sunday to keep the Book for you and me.

Ronald Reagan was the president from 1981 to 1989. He was one of the last of the great, what I call, World War II presidents. There seemed to be something about men who came out of World War II, were in World War II, and became president, that had a better understanding and insight than these idiots we have today. You know what he said? **He said freedom is a fragile thing, and it only takes one generation and you can lose it.**

And you're seeing America moving in a direction that's unparalleled in history. **We now have probably four or five generations of kids that we have raised who have no idea about God or what He's doing.** Somebody at camp witnessed to a little kid, and the kid in America, in Kansas City, had never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ. I look at camp as our trying to reclaim our kids from all of this.

IX. The Rise of Socialism and Communism

You see—you've got to know this—the devil could never take over a country until he first takes over the churches of that country. Because the Bible is like the salt over there in Matthew 5:13. Salt is a preservative, and **as long as the country has the Word of God, it's preserved to a certain degree.** But it also says in Matthew 5:13 that the salt has lost its savour.

Matthew 5:13. Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

And when you lose your Bible, you lose the preserving effect of the Word of God. And right now, we're seeing the rise of antisemitism toward the nation of Israel. America now is turning on the Jew, and it's the young people.

And you know, we got our Bible from England. The history of England is, for me, one of the most fascinating histories on the planet. I love it. I love going to England. I love everything there. I mean, the history is unparalleled, not only just in English history and how it affected European history and even America in time, but that's where we got our Bible from.

And today, for all practical purposes, England is a Muslim country. They've taken over everything. There are times where there are places where nobody touches anything that they do. They run it by their Sharia law the way they want to. And it has vastly taken over that country. It has gotten into the politics, and it's certainly turned toward antisemitism against the Jew. And it's a thing where we're going to see that in America.

➤ The Stage is Being Set for the Antichrist

Right now, the anti-Jewish sentiment toward the Jew, and it all starts with the young people who for four or five generations have had no truth, have had no history, know nothing about God, know nothing about the nation of Israel, know nothing about the hand of God, know nothing about World War II and God's preservation of the Jew, and establishing them as a nation in 1948. None of it. But unfortunately, most of God's people don't either. And all this is setting up for the antichrist when he takes over. And I'm telling you, we who hold strong for the nation of Israel are fast becoming a remnant. That's the key word.

Not only that, but America is moving forward to become a communist country through socialism. The Democratic Party is embracing all the men and women who have a communist mindset right in front of us. And God's people are oblivious to it. The mayor of New York City—New York, without a doubt, is the key city probably in all the country—he was elected as a socialist/communist, and there's no difference between the two. I always say socialism is where they're loading the gun, and communism is where they're shooting it at you. Right now, as I stand here, two hundred and sixteen communist socialists are on the docket to run for the Senate or the Congress.

How did this guy in New York get elected? He got elected because of all the young couples out there and the young kids who were absolutely stupid beyond belief. And you know what they tell them? They've always told them this: "If you elect me as mayor, because socialism is better than capitalism, socialism will give you everything free." He promised them free rent, free grocery stores, free transit, free babysitting, free this, but he never told anybody how they were going to pay for it. And they fell for it. They fell for it.

➤ We Have No Value System to Judge Truth Versus Lies

The end result of socialism and communism is disaster. The promise of everything free is a socialist con job. Not one time when they listened to that did somebody raise their hand and say, "Well, socialism, what about Venezuela? Socialism, communism, what about Cuba?"

Hey, I was in Romania when the wall came down in the nineties. Terry Job was with me, and some of you were with me. I went into the grocery store where they promised everything was free. It opened at six o'clock and it was closed by six-thirty, and there was a line halfway down

the block of people trying to get in, but there was nothing to buy. All that was on the shelves were three or four jars of some kind of awful canned whatever. And I remember the pastor that I was with said, "There are the fruits of communism." People in America are too stupid because they don't know any history. They believe everything they believe because they have no value system to judge truth versus lies.

X. *Give me Liberty, or Give me Death!*

In 1775, Patrick Henry... Anybody want to stand up and tell me the famous line of Patrick Henry that he said before they hung him? Anybody? Anybody? Anybody know what it is? My wife will give you a hundred dollars if you stand up and know it. Patrick Henry said, "Give me liberty, or give me death!" That was the call of men who understood what they had. By 1940, when we got into the wars, it was, "Give me liberty." Today, "Give me." Just give me.

And you know what? They just made this public. But who cares? Who listens? The Socialist Democrats three weeks ago publicly stated, "When we come to office, we're going to do away with the Constitution. We're going to do away with the duly elected president. We're going to do away with ICE, the police, and the FBI. We're going to get rid of the prisons." And if you know anything about socialism or communism, in time they will get rid of not only the Jew but they're going to get rid of you.

➤ In History Our Soldiers Paid with their Lives to Stop Communism from Ever Getting into America yet Here it is Today

At the end of World War II, the communists were our allies against Nazi Germany and Japan. They divided Berlin into four segments: the French got one, the British got one, we got one, and the Russians got one. And the Russians, right away, put up the wall called the Berlin Wall. Remember? The east side went communist. Communism based on Daniel chapter seven clearly lays this out. Communism now spreads throughout Europe and the world. We wanted to stop it. We understood that we didn't want communism in our country. What did we do? When they invaded North Korea and came down to South Korea, we fought the Korean war from 1950-1953. When they moved into Vietnam in 1952, we sent troops when the French got kicked out. We sent and lost twenty-five thousand of our boys from 1952 to 1972 in the Vietnam War. And from 1947 to 1991, we fought the Cold War. In each case we did that, and the boys paid with their lives to stop communism from ever getting into America. And here it is. **And today, three or four generations of young men and women now have grown up with no idea of world history or what communism really is.** I talked to a kid once, and I asked if he knew what the Cold War was; he thought that they only fought it in the wintertime.

So now we see our government being taken over by the idea of communism coming into our own country. In Psalm 42 and Psalm 43, just might be, where we as the remnant are headed before the Lord comes back, because we are the only ones who got a free pass on persecution for what we believe. That's why we don't believe it anymore. It means nothing to us because nobody tried to kill you for you to keep it.

And I stand here today with a complete breakdown of America, standing on the threshold of the rapture, the tribulation, and the second coming of Christ, seeing Islam and Communism begin to spread through this country. And this country is turning on the Jews, in spite of Genesis 12:3, where he said:

*Genesis 12:3. And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and **in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.***

And for America, the last breath of air that kept her head above the waters was our national policy toward the nation of Israel. And I know that to a certain degree we still do that, but it's eroding very fast, and it's going to go in time. It has to, if you know your Bible.

➤ It's Going to Go One of Two Ways

And for God's church today, saved men and women who have been stripped of the Bible, here they have entered into the complete and miserable state of New Testament Christianity in Laodicea. I see it could go one of two ways. And I'm not a prophet, nor the son of a prophet, but I'll tell you, it's going to go one of two ways.

One, we too will pay the price for what we have. We, the remnant, will be forced back to the reality of Psalms 42 and 43, begging for the Lord to come back because we had it so easy with no persecution. And now we are being persecuted, and it's separating Christianity down to a remnant. What do you think somebody who doesn't believe that they have a Bible that is the Word of God, when they're asked to give it up—you think that's going to be a problem for them when they didn't have it in the first place? What's it going to do for you?

Or here's the second equation: God just allows it all to go deeper into apostasy, suddenly pulls us out at the rapture, and now we stand before God, as Revelation 3:17 says, miserable, wretched, poor, blind, and naked. And on that day, every one of us will stand alongside the men and women down through church history—the Waldensians, the Albigenses, the Huguenots, the Paulicians, the Cathari—men and women who paid with their lives to keep the Word of God, which we don't even bother to read. And we just threw it all away. God's people are like Esau; we've sold our birthright for a mess of pottage.

I can't speak for you, but not me, brother. I'll pay whatever price has to come. This is why this church is not for everybody. And I totally get that; I totally understand that. No offense to anybody. I understand what I have, and I understand what it does for me, my family, and for this church. And this church is not for everybody because of the way that we're going to build it.

XI. Teaching Our Children to Stand Now

I have seriously considered for our children—and this idea came into camp, but hear me out—I have seriously considered, because of what they don't get in public schools. And yet, let me just say this: the public school is the greatest tool for your child to train them, if a parent knows what they're doing. If you don't, don't worry about it; they get nothing there. They get everything negative there. Taking the negative things out of your child's life and just giving them the

positive things without them understanding the negative and how to work through it is a disaster. Because as soon as they get out in the world, they're going to go work for IBM, or work for this, or work for that, and they're going to get hit full force with it. And they're not going to be able to stand. You teach them to stand now. I don't care what they don't get in school; you make up the difference.

I've pondered this ever since camp, and I'd have to have every parent on board. I don't want the time it's going to take and what I've got to put into it if it's not across the board, church-wide, and every kid is involved in it. If not, I'm not going to do it. But I would take the time. We would put it into a syllabus that you could take home and go against everything they're being taught. I would teach them history. I would take the time. I could do it in four or five segments. I'd teach them Hebrew history. I'd teach them American history. I'd teach them European history. I'd teach them world history from the Bible standpoint.

They would have something that they would... if they really, really did what needed to be done, we could throw this whole thing off. And your kids, if you get involved, could fight and stand up against anything that's coming their way.

But I'm not interested in just one or two of you being excited about it. If it isn't a church-wide thing where everybody says, "I want my kid to know this, my kid's going to be there, and we're going to be there, we're going to take it, and we're going to do something with it, and I'm going to take it home and teach them and keep them so that nothing in the public school or the world ever takes God and the Word of God from them," then I don't care. If you don't care, I don't care. Well I care, but you don't.

XII. Summary

➤ The Battle of Thermopylae: The Courage of a Remnant

I'll leave you with this. In 480 A.D., you had one of the most epic battles of all in history. It was the Battle of Thermopylae. Thermopylae is in Greece. The Persian army wanted to come down and take over Greece, but they had to go through the only mountain pass that would let them get into Greece, and that was the pass at Thermopylae. Three hundred Spartans, commanded by King Leonidas, took his men, and they fortified that pass—three hundred men against a Persian army of two hundred thousand soldiers. They held that mountain pass against the Persian army for three days, where the Persians attacked and attacked and attacked, and those three hundred Spartans held the line and held that pass so that they couldn't get through.

It was only after they were betrayed by a farmer who showed the king of Persia, for gold, another secret passage that got them through the mountain so that they could get behind the three hundred Spartans and attack them not only from the front, but from the rear, which was undefendable. **This epic battle, hundreds of years ago, still speaks of the courage of a remnant of just three hundred men against two hundred thousand.**

Before the final assault, the king of Persia sent an emissary to King Leonidas, and he said, "If you give up your swords and lay down your swords, you can go home to your wives, and we will

spare your lives." King Leonidas's answer to him was, "You want my sword? Come and take it." And they died holding that pass, but they died with their swords in their hands. "You want my sword? You come and take it."

➤ Our Defining Moment has Not Come Yet

I've tried in this church to build men and women with steel in their backbone and the courage to hold our pass at Thermopylae. The defining moment of churches down through church history is clearly seen in history. This church age that we live in has yet to meet its defining moment. You're all good, better than good. You're exceptional. You're the best of the best as far as I'm concerned. You're faithful, you love the Book, you support this work, you reach out and support around the world. But I must tell you, as good as we are, our defining moment has not come yet.

Let's see where we're at when it really costs you something to be here. Let's see where you're really at when it will cost your job if you keep the Book. Let's see where we're really at when we get squeezed down to a remnant, just like Israel will be in the tribulation. **I'm telling you, Psalms 42 and 43, yeah, it is tribulation, but there's a practical side to it that we had better see and consider.**

The defining moment for you and me in this church will be when we are offered a deal to give up our swords and conform and just go quietly into the night. I can't speak for you. You want my sword? You come and take it. This is the text of Psalms 42 and 43. We're the only church in church history, Laodicea, that has never had to pay a price, and that's why we are as miserable as we are, as good as you are. The Lord is coming. I don't know which way it's going to go, but I guarantee you, you need to be prepared for either.

Do not, under any circumstances—I don't care—do not, do not, do not wind up at the judgment seat of Christ alongside of a Waldensian or an Albigensian, and you stand there in your little pink lacy underwear while they go in with the war-scarred battle armor of the combat that they fought.