

I. Review

We are going to begin to look at Psalm 45 today, and you are going to learn some Bible. When it comes to the Psalms, and when I am teaching it to you, obviously I always want to, first and foremost in my mind, give you the inspirational application because that is what helps you get through life on planet Earth and all of that. But I never want to forget the historical or the doctrinal. Sometimes you have to deal with it the way that I am going to deal with it today. There are major portions of the Bible that, when you have them, make the Bible understandable and puts it into a context for you that is found throughout the book of Psalms. Honestly, most guys do not see it. They never preach on it. They just give you the milk toast out of the book of Psalms. But Psalms is a goldmine of not only just practical truth, but the material that really pulls the whole Bible together for you.

I have showed you this many times where 2 Timothy 3:16 tells us that the number one application for the Word of God in your life and my life needs to be doctrine. Doctrine will be the real meat of the Word of God that pulls the Bible all together. In Bible study, and we talked about this last Thursday night on that next level of learning your Bible, you learn the doctrine first. Then through the doctrine, you can put the historical and the inspirational applications together in your own personal Bible study.

➤ A Picture is only a Snapshot of a Moment in Time

A couple of weeks ago, I told you that wisdom and understanding, which are the two ingredients in learning your Bible and absolutely important, but **learning wisdom and understanding is the ability to see the total picture of something**. Most people, most Christians, and we have talked about this for several weeks now, and I have tried to make this a very important thing for you to see. Most of God's people only get a snapshot of things. Remember, I used the idea of taking a picture. I gave you the iPhone example. I know my wife has at least 10,000 pictures on there. I do not know how many times somebody has said to me, "Oh, I want to show you this picture." And I am standing there while they are scrolling down through 9,445 pictures. If that is Sunday afternoon, usually by Tuesday, you have found the picture. They are everywhere.

Now, I do not do that. I have some pictures on my phone, but I do not have anywhere near the pictures that you have. But I remember telling you that is the way most people go through life. That picture on your phone of whoever, whatever, this, that, or the other, is only a snapshot. It does not show you what led up to that picture. It certainly does not show you what transpired after that picture. That person that you took a picture of may have died 20 minutes later, but it is not in the picture because that picture is just a snapshot of a moment of time. **That is the way most people approach the Bible. That is the way most people come to life itself. They just see it as a moment of time.** Most of God's people will go through their whole life with just a snapshot of the Bible and of life. But you need the whole picture. You need to be able to look at

the Bible and see everything in a total panoramic view, like a movie or a video of all God is doing, to be able to understand it.

You look at a snapshot of somebody on your phone; it tells you nothing about their life. It does not tell you where they were born. It does not tell you how old they are. It does not tell you about the events in their life at that time or afterwards. That is the way most people approach the Bible. Unfortunately, they just have a snapshot of it. Every pastor has a style of preaching for sure, but my preaching to you and teaching you the Bible will simply be a reflection of my own study habits with the Word of God. I have always went for the big picture. When it came to the Bible and life itself, I never just wanted a snapshot. You cannot be effective in touching people's lives if you do not understand the movie of life, the cause and the effect of people's problems. You cannot deal with it just by meeting somebody like a snapshot and then trying to figure out where they are at. You must have the whole picture, and it's that way with the Bible. **You have to be able to understand the Word of God as you see the whole realm of what God is doing.** And then out of the movie, out of the video, out of the big picture, you will be able to better see the inspirational on how it applies to your life in a totally different way because you will have a context of everything.

II. Psalms in Sections: Seeing a Pattern of the Big Picture Develop

I have told you many, many times, Psalms lays itself out in sections. This is part of the big picture. Psalms will have tribulation Psalms. There will be Psalms that deal with the second coming of Christ and Psalms that deal with the millennial reign of Christ. If you just come through Psalms and read it and get the little nuggets out of it, you are one-dimensional; you are seeing a snapshot. But when you see the tribulation, you see the second coming, you see the millennial Psalms, you see the whole picture of what God has hidden in the book of Psalms. That is so key. **And out of the movie then, you begin to see what God is doing.** You are going to find that as Psalms is built into sections, you start to see a pattern of the big picture develop. Let me show you something. As I said, you are going to learn a major part of your Bible today. This is something that you will not get down just trying to get your notes down. My suggestion to you, sit back and enjoy it, then go home and go through this lesson that I am giving you about six or seven times and then get it in your Bible. Trying to get it at one grasp, you are not going to be able to do that. But let me show you something. Let me show you a pattern.

In Psalms 41, when I taught you that several weeks ago, we saw that as a tribulation Psalm. In Psalms 42, we talked about that the next week after, we saw that as a tribulation Psalm. In Psalms 43, there again, we saw that as a tribulation Psalm. The Jew going through the tribulation period from a different angle and a different aspect. Then the last time we were together, we did Psalms 44. And where Psalms 41, 42 and 43 were all the Jew in the tribulation period, now in 44, what did we see? We see God revealing himself to the Jew. And now in Psalms 44, we saw the Jew coming back to God. We saw, as I told you the last time together, Moses and Elijah show up. God reveals himself and now he calls out the 144,000. And now in Psalms 44, the Jew recognizes where they messed up. They recognize what they have done wrong. And now they come back to God. And so in Psalms 46, once that happens, we see the end of the tribulation and

the second coming of Christ. Now we are not in Psalm 46 yet, but we will be there. And then finally in Psalms 47, what do we have there? We have the millennial reign of Christ. Do you see the order? You can see by the Psalms themselves, he brings you through the tribulation, the Jew recognizing and coming back, the end of the tribulation, and then into the millennium.

➤ Psalms 45: What Takes Place in Heaven During the Tribulation on Earth

You say, "Well, you skipped Psalms 45." You are very observant. I did because that is where we are today. **Psalms 45 fills the gap in this pattern of what takes place up in heaven while the tribulation period is going on Earth.** This will be a key part of your Bible. I am telling you right now, I do not know what your aspirations are about learning the Bible. Maybe you are just wanting entry level. Maybe you do not want any level, or maybe you are out there like I talked about Thursday night and you really want to develop yourself into a bonafide Bible student that keeps going up those levels. Well, let me just tell you this. It is things like I am going to give you today that are a major part of your Bible. It is just that simple. And yet, completely unknown today, other than maybe just a general reference to it in some shape or form, but there will be no understanding of it. I guarantee you. If you do not believe that, and you are listening to me this morning, and this is not a slam against your pastor, but just go ask him when I am done today, to lay out what I am laying out for you. And I guarantee you, he will have no idea. So much of the Bible we have concepts of all our life. We have heard somebody mention this or mention that, but that is all that ever comes of it. A snapshot. We never understand the complete picture of things like I am going to give you today, which will help give you the picture of the Word of God. Just that simple.

This is why you need to be in a church where you have a pastor, and there are plenty of them out there, that really understands what your needs are, what he wants to get into your world to make you better. There are some of you out there, probably most of you. You want to be everything that God wants you to be. Well, this is how you get there. Up those levels of being a Bible student, a student of the Word of God. The subject today that is found in Psalms 45, once you come through the tribulation period, the Jew starts coming down there, and before you get into the millennial reign of Christ, He switches the TV cameras from the Earth to Heaven. **And in Psalms 45, you have without a doubt one of the greatest passages in the Bible, on one of the greatest unknown subjects of the Bible, the marriage of the Lamb.**

III. Psalms 45

So let us read Psalm 45 in its entirety, and then I want to break it down for you and put it into a big picture concept.

Psalms 45:1-17

1. My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer.

2. Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee for ever.

3. *Gird thy sword upon thy thigh, O most mighty, with thy glory and thy majesty.*
4. *And in thy majesty ride prosperously because of truth and meekness and righteousness; and thy right hand shall teach thee terrible things.*
5. *Thine arrows are sharp in the heart of the king's enemies; whereby the people fall under thee.*
6. *Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre.*
7. *Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.*
8. *All thy garments smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia, out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made thee glad.*
9. *Kings' daughters were among thy honourable women: upon thy right hand did stand the queen in gold of Ophir.*
10. *Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house;*
11. *So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty: for he is thy Lord; and worship thou him.*
12. *And the daughter of Tyre shall be there with a gift; even the rich among the people shall intreat thy favour.*
13. *The king's daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold.*
14. *She shall be brought unto the king in raiment of needlework: the virgins her companions that follow her shall be brought unto thee.*
15. *With gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought: they shall enter into the king's palace.*
16. *Instead of thy fathers shall be thy children, whom thou mayest make princes in all the earth.*
17. *I will make thy name to be remembered in all generations: therefore shall the people praise thee for ever and ever.*

IV. The Marriage of the Lamb

Now he says in verse one, "*My heart is inditing a good matter.*" **There is something here that brings joy to the writer's heart.** Let me start by saying this. When we talk about the marriage of the Lamb, let us get some parameters on that thing. The marriage of the Lamb will take place at the end of the tribulation, right at the second coming of Christ. It takes place up in Heaven after the last of the guests of this wedding have been called out; this will be in Matthew 22, Matthew 25, Revelation 11, we will get there in a little bit. And after the wedding, at the second coming of Christ, you have the wedding supper. All of it takes place up in Heaven and then it unfolds in the millennium down here on Earth. You will find this in Luke 22:16 and Song of Solomon 6:4-9. And Revelation 19:9 says, "*Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb.*"

This wedding will be the final phase, and this is where we want to start to put it together. This is where we want to start the movie. **This wedding will be the final phase of God's original plan, which starts His eternal plan that we all know is laid out in Isaiah 9:6-7.** We need to understand two main people groups that God has accomplished His plan through in the Old Testament and the New Testament and see how they fit into this movie we are looking at.

➤ Two Main People Groups that God has Accomplished His Plan Through

Obviously the first one is the nation of Israel in the Old Testament. The Bible says in the Old Testament that Israel is God's wife. Then through her stepping out on her husband God and committing idolatry, over there in Isaiah 50:1 and Jeremiah 3:8, the Bible says God gives Israel, His wife, a written bill of divorcement, and He separates Himself from her. Right now, in the Church Age, God is separated from the nation of Israel. She is under that bill of divorcement yet; however, in the tribulation period when God brings her through those trials, then she recognizes the sin that she committed. I talked about this earlier, and she comes back to God and then God is reunited with His wife through the tribulation period.

Then we have the New Testament church in the Church Age. Here we see that where God has a wife, Israel, Christ has a bride, the Church, you and me. And when eternity starts, God now has His wife restored, Christ has His bride and everything is ready to go. God's plan now is going to pick up. It is almost like in all the eternity past and eternity future, God carved a little parentheses in called time, which only runs about 7,000 years. And in that time, God said, "I am going to have a wedding for My Son. I am going to call out a people in the Old Testament that is going to be in relationship to Me like a wife, but I need to have a bride for My Son." And you know what? It is not complicated. This marriage, this wedding will be the final spiritual consummation of Christ and His bride, the New Testament church.

V. The Order of the Chapters in the Book of Revelation

Let me show you how you can come through the book of Revelation and get the right order.

The movie:

- Revelation chapter one, two, and three: Picture of the Church Age.
- Revelation chapter four, verse one: Rapture of the Church.
- Revelation chapters four and five: Judgment seat of Christ.
- Revelation chapter six through 19: Tribulation Period.
- Revelation chapter 19: Second coming of Christ.

Look what it says in Revelation 19:7-8, right at the second coming:

*Revelation 19:7-8. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: **for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.***

*8. And to her was granted that **she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.***

Now, you made yourself ready. I made myself ready. Where? At the judgment seat of Christ, where all the spot and wrinkle is now taken out. And when we stand here at this marriage, we are spotless. Fine linen now has been handed out, which is the righteousness of the saints. And right at the time of the second coming, all this takes place.

VI. What is Holding This Whole Thing Up?

Right now, what are we waiting for? Right now, what is holding this whole thing up? I know everybody, well, not everybody, but many of God's people want the rapture to come. Obviously, it would solve a lot of problems we've all got if He did come today, but what is holding it up? Why has it not happened? Two reasons. When you see this, that Bible starts to take on a whole new identity.

1. The first reason why it has not happened: Israel is not restored as the wife of God to her husband.
2. The second reason: Christ is still calling out the bride for Himself.

➤ The Fullness of the Gentiles

*Romans 11:25. For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the **fulness of the Gentiles** be come in.*

You are going to find one of those strange places in the Bible in Romans 11:25, that before Israel can be restored in the tribulation period, there is something that has to take place, which is called *the fullness of the Gentiles*. What is that? **The fullness of the Gentiles means that God now has called, in His mind, the bride for His Son, the Church.** And that is some number in God's mind. I could play with that number for you and give you some tantalizing thing, but we do not have time this morning. But there is a number in God's mind. And when that number gets hit in God's mind, it is now the fullness of the Gentiles. Everybody has come in, the rapture takes place. And then God restores His wife. We are just waiting for two things to happen.

You say, "How do we make that happen?" Well, you all could make it happen. I could make it happen if we really wanted to. The more people you win to Christ, the closer we get to that number. Hello? Wouldn't it be a great thing if one of us, one of you would be the last one who won somebody to Christ and hit that magic number? And you are down on your knees, and you are winning somebody to Christ, and you are opening up the Bible, and they say, "Okay, Lord, come into my heart and save me. I am a sinner. I need You to save me, God. God be merciful to me, a sinner. Come in and save me,". 📞 Then off you go! That would be something special. We are right on the verge.

VII. Matthew 22 - The Wedding Parable

Now look at Matthew 22. Again, I want to show you how to break this down in your Bible.

Matthew 22:1-10

1. *And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, **Now watch this carefully.***
2. *The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, **there's all history right there! Everything in history is built on verse 2. Everything that God has done, Old Testament and New Testament, is about a King who made a marriage for His Son. Now watch!***
3. *And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.*
4. *Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage.*
5. *But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise:*
6. *And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them.*
7. *But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.*
8. *Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.*
9. *Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.*
10. *So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.*

The Bible is not complicated. The Bible is not hard. Men like to make it hard. My job is to make it easier. **The Bible and God and history is about a wedding.** That's all it is. And down through 6,000 years, soon to be 7,000 years, all history is nothing more than God inviting men and women to that wedding. And they either say, "Oh boy!" or "No thank you."

Now watch this. Let me show you how to break this down. Matthew 22 is all history.

- **Matthew 22:1-3**: God dealing with the nation of Israel from Genesis up to 606 BC. It will be the complete Old Testament where He is calling out, in the Old Testament, people to come to this wedding. They would not come.
- Look at Matthew 22:4, *Again*. So, **Matthew 22:4-6** will be the first coming of Christ. They rejected Him in the Old Testament, "Come to the wedding," but again He sends His Son down there and they say, "Everything is ready. Come on to the wedding." What do they do? "But they made light of it." And the remnant took His servants. There is John the Baptist, the 12 apostles, Jesus Himself, entreated them spitefully and slew them.
- Okay. Look at **Matthew 22:7**. "But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth and sent his armies to destroy those murderers and burned up the city." Where is that? That is 70 AD.

That is when God sent Titus down, destroyed Jerusalem, kicked the Jews out of the land because they would not come to the wedding. Oh, the Bible is not hard. The Bible is about a wedding. Come on. Everybody here in your lifetime is probably going to go to 50, 60, or 70 weddings. My case, 200, 300. You know as well as I do, there are people out there that when you sent them a wedding invitation, they said, "I do not want to go to that. Another wedding. I never liked those people anyhow." And now I have an invitation to the wedding. "Well, are we going to go?" "No, we are not going to go. We will just send a gift. Go up there in a room and see all those wedding gifts that we got duplicates of and just send them one of those." There are people like that. This is not hard to understand. And when God sent His servants down to say, "God has made a wedding for His Son, come." Some said, "No, thanks." And after the two rejections, God had it. So, what did He do? Sent Titus down in 70 A.D. and destroyed Jerusalem. The Jews are cast out and scattered and did not get back in the land until 1948.

- **Matthew 22:8-10**. I put my little parameters in here to break this chapter down. "Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. Go ye therefore into the highways and as many as you shall find, bid to the marriage. So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests." That is the tribulation period after the Church Age. And now in the tribulation, 144,000 go out proclaiming, "We need to have some guests for this wedding." Incredible. The whole concept of God's program laid out in one chapter. God sending out the 144,000 evangelists. This will be Revelation 7, Revelation 14, calling in the Gentiles. And Matthew 22:10 says, "And the wedding was furnished with guests." And now the wedding takes place. This is the end of the tribulation, right around the second coming, which is laid out in Revelation 19.

Just as the Bible is built around the day of the Lord, God's day, the Bible will build around this wedding, which is Christ's day. And when you understand that, not only does the Bible become easier to put into an understandable format or "movie", but so does history. Now you understand that everything down through history, I don't care about who is doing this or that or what country is doing whatever, it is simply about God making a wedding for His Son and for 6,000 years saying, "You all come". He is inviting people to the wedding. People say, "No, thank you. No, thank you."

VIII. Earthly Weddings as a Picture of the Heavenly One

Now, the weddings that we have on Earth will be a worldly picture of this. I do not know who put, I mean, in the Bible, there are no wedding ceremonies. There are no rings, no vows, no, none of that stuff. That is not how it worked. That is another lesson. But somewhere when the church started, somebody put all this stuff together. I mean, it is just that simple. I am an expert on weddings. I probably have done 300 of them in my 50 plus years. You are lucky. You only have to go to about 40 or 50 of them.

One time when I was doing a wedding, an elderly lady came up and said, "You have been in the ministry for quite a while, haven't you?" And I said, "Yes, ma'am, quite a while." And she said,

"You probably do a lot of weddings." And I said, "I do." She said, "You probably do a lot of funerals." And I said, "Yes, I do." She said, "Can I ask you a personal question?" I said, "Sure." She says, "Of a wedding and a funeral, you must have a preference. Which one do you prefer to do?" And I said, "Oh, that is easy." I said, "Funerals." She says, "Really? Why is that a preference?" And I said, "Because I have done many, many weddings where it did not last, but I have never done a funeral that did not stick."

I am telling you, I do not know who put it together, but in an earthly wedding, you have a bride, you have a bridegroom. You have a best man, maid of honor, and a wedding party. Most people don't even know this, but traditionally, (and you know, traditions are out the window in most cases, and that is okay), but traditionally on a wedding day, the bridegroom does not get to see the bride. I am not certain to say that is the way it is supposed to be, but that is the way it was for years and years and years. Why is that? Because that is a picture of the bride is the Church and the bridegroom is Christ. And that space of that day is a picture of the Church Age. So, you do not see the bride that day, just like in the Church Age, we are separated from Christ. And then, you know, she is dressed in a white dress, Revelation 19:7-8, fine linen, clean and white, righteousness of the saints. And on the wedding day, when he has not seen her, when the wedding takes place, he is standing down front, I am there, I will say, "Shall we all rise?" And then the music starts to play, and everybody looks back and then she comes down and meets the bridegroom. Picture of the rapture of the Church. I have not seen Him for 2,000 years, but there will be a day where I will go up through those clouds to my bridegroom.

I mean, come on, how easy is it? I mean, I have told you before how a rainstorm and thunder and all that stuff is a picture of the tribulation, the second coming and all that. And every time you have a rainstorm, you are hoping it is the rapture of the Church. Every time you go to a wedding from now on, just think of the day that you are going to walk up and meet your bridegroom. Incredible. It is all right there.

Then they have the wedding ceremony, and they have a honeymoon. Do you ever wonder where they get some of these stupid terms for these things? Why a honeymoon? Why not a getaway? Why not a get out of Dodge? Why a honeymoon? Because the Word of God is likened to honey and the moon in Job 25:5 is a picture of the Church. "*Behold even to the moon, and it shineth not.*" It is a picture of, through the Word of God, the Church as the moon with the bridegroom for all of eternity. That is what the honeymoon represents. It represents now that you are married, you go on a honeymoon for one week, two weeks, three weeks, four months, whatever the case may be. When my honeymoon starts, I ain't ever coming back. Eternity. Eternity. I mean, it is just that simple.

Now weddings are a picture of our marriage of the Lamb. And this was developed someplace. I do not know. But as I said in the Bible, there are no wedding ceremonies, no vows, no rings. No, "You take so and so," none of that. But this is a picture of the day that spiritually we are consummated for the final time. Now this brings up a hilarious thing with unsaved people, you know, going through a marriage ceremony being married in the church. You might as well get married in a swamp someplace because God does not recognize the marriage of two unsaved

people. It means nothing. Marriage was something that God designed back in Genesis that represents the great marriage that is coming. It is all just that simple.

You will have people who attend the wedding. And so it is with God's wedding for His Son. You are going to have a bride, you are going to have a bridegroom, you are going to have a wedding party, and you are going to have guests. And just like your wedding after it is over, there is a supper. I just pray it is not pizza.

IX. Seven People Groups at the Wedding

Now when it comes to God's wedding, the marriage of the Lamb, here it comes: there are going to be seven people groups throughout your Bible that come to that wedding. Now, in the Bible collectively, in John 14:1-2, it is called **my Father's House**. That Father's House has seven people groups in it. In Ephesians 2:19, it is called **the Household of God**. That household has seven people groups in it. And Ephesians 3:15, it is called the **Whole Family** of God. There are seven parts of that family, and they all come to the wedding. They will make up the seven people groups that span the 7,000 years of God's little parentheses in eternity called time from Genesis to Revelation, all down through history. And they represent the people that God has called to that wedding that the King has made for His Son.

When you lay out your Bible as a serious Bible student, you must, and we talked about it Thursday night, rightly divide the word of truth. You have to lay it out through the dispensations in the Bible. Now, I teach there are 11 dispensations, 11 or 12, depending on how you count them. But I teach 11 dispensations when I lay it out. But a dispensation is a period of time in history, where God is doing something one way in this dispensation. And then in the next dispensation, which is a portion of time, He does something differently. And you are going to find these seven people groups make up those 11 dispensations. Not complicated, not complicated at all. I mean, it is just that simple. Now you have guys out there today who are idiots who—one group teaches no dispensations. The other group is what we call a hyper dispensationists. And they cut up the Bible so much that there is nothing left. If you are a Bible believer, like we are, you are a moderate dispensationist. You understand it as it lays it out throughout the Bible.

Now, I am going to give you the seven members of the family of God that make up the Father's House from Genesis to Revelation, who are called to this wedding. So, we are going to go through each one of them quickly here.

➤ #1 - The Bridegroom (The Lord Jesus Christ)

Obviously, we have a Bridegroom. You want to look at a couple of verses here, turn over to Psalms 19:1-6, the first six verses.

Psalms 19:1-6. The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

2. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

3. *There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.*
4. *Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,*
5. ***Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.***
6. *His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.*

That is a picture of everybody down through history being called to this wedding, and the Bridegroom coming out of the chambers. Look at Matthew 22:2-3. We already talked about this.

*Matthew 22:2-3. The kingdom of heaven is like unto **a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,***

3. *And **sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding:** and they would not come.*

Matthew 25:1-10:

*Matthew 25:1-10. Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the **bridegroom.***

2. *And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.*
3. *They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:*
4. *But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.*
5. ***While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.***
6. *And at midnight there was a cry made, **Behold, the bridegroom cometh;** go ye out to meet him.*
7. *Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.*
8. *And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.*
9. *But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.*
10. *And while they went to buy (here it comes!), **the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.***

There it is. **Christ is going to be the Bridegroom.** Revelation 19:7 says, "*Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.*" So, the Bridegroom is going to be the Lord Jesus Christ. Just that simple. And this is God's marriage for His Son. This picture is found all through the Bible.

My favorite picture is over there in Genesis 24. I love the Old Path Boys, you know, and they always sing a good song, but as far as I am concerned, no song they will ever sing will ever take the place in my heart and in my life than "The Camel Train." I first heard that "Camel Train" back in the 70s, and I was blown away and it is something that, without a doubt, for me illustrates everything that is found in Genesis 24. And Genesis 24 from a historical standpoint is Abraham, type of God the Father, has a servant called Eliezer, type of the Holy Spirit of God, and he has a son who is Isaac, who is a type of Christ. And God the Father wants a bride for His Son Isaac, so He sends the Holy Spirit of God, Eliezer, out to find a Gentile bride, Rebecca.

Oh, I am telling you, man, I do not know what it does for you, but they could sing that every Sunday and I would be okay with it. I mean, I am driving down the road, you know, "*Twas a day in early springtime, by an ancient wayside well, Eliezer paused to rest his camel train. He had found a bride for Isaac, ere the evening shadows fell, for his weary journey had been not in vain. Oh, get ready, the evening shadows fall. Can't you hear Eliezer call? There is going to be a wedding, and our joy will soon begin, in the evening when the camel train comes in.*" My camel train is coming in. I mean, that is incredible, man. Are you kidding me? There is going to be a wedding, but we must have a bride, and that is illustrated, Genesis 24, with Isaac and Rebecca, and the Holy Spirit of God going and getting her.

➤ #2 - The Bride (The Church)

Look at 2 Corinthians 11:1-4. Let's identify the bride.

*2 Corinthians 11:1-4. Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. **Paul talking to the church.***

*2. For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you **(the church)** to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*

3. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

4. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

See, chaste virgin, that is the Church, that is you and me. Over in Song of Solomon 6:1-9, it says:

Song of Solomon 6:1-9. Whither is thy beloved gone, O thou fairest among women? whither is thy beloved turned aside? that we may seek him with thee.

2. My beloved is gone down into his garden, to the beds of spices, to feed in the gardens, and to gather lilies.

*3. **I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine:** he feedeth among the lilies.*

4. *Thou art beautiful, O my love, as Tirzah, comely as Jerusalem, terrible as an army with banners. **That's the church. That army with banners is Revelation 19:11.***
5. *Turn away thine eyes from me, for they have overcome me: thy hair is as a flock of goats that appear from Gilead.*
6. *Thy teeth are as a flock of sheep which go up from the washing, whereof every one beareth twins, and there is not one barren among them.*
7. *As a piece of a pomegranate are thy temples within thy locks.*
8. *There are **threescore queens, and fourscore concubines, and virgins without number.***
9. ***My dove, my undefiled is but one;** she is the only one of her mother (the nation of Israel), she is the choice of her that bare her. The daughters saw her, and blessed her; yea, **the queens and the concubines,** and they praised her.*

My dove. See, undefiled, the only one of her mother, the choice of everybody. **So, the Bride of Christ is going to be the Church, you and me.** Now, that will run from the book of Acts up to the rapture of the Church, that is that family group at the wedding. We get married. You will notice the reference in Song of Solomon 6. Look at Song of Solomon 6:8 again. There are three other people groups here that you are told are going to be at the wedding: queens, concubines, virgins plural. So, we need to identify them.

➤ #3 - The Virgins (Tribulation Jews)

Our third people group will be found again in Matthew 25. And this will go back to the story that I read about the ten virgins. Five were wise and five were foolish, and **they go out to, the Bible says, meet the Bridegroom, notice, not to marry Him, but to meet Him.** Now this story is one of the most misapplied and a base text of heresy for anybody who teaches the Bible wrong. And they use this text to try to prove that you can lose your salvation. Five of them had oil, five of them had oil and lost the oil, so you can lose your salvation. Stupid charismatics and everybody else who followed that line of heresy failed to know anything about their Bible. What I am about to tell you and show you is why you cannot change one word out of your King James Bible. You change one word and you can change dispensations and set the baseline for the heresy that you can lose your salvation.

We talk about the word "virgin" singularly, always a reference to the Church. **We talk about the word "virgins" plural, tribulation saints, the nation of Israel.** Just that simple. You get a new translation that translates that wrong, and it throws everything off. **"Virgin" will be the Church. "Virgins" will be the tribulation Jews, which you will find in Matthew 25, the tribulation context.** It is just that simple. You are going to find that in 3 John, the whole book is dealing with two men, a wise man and a foolish man. The book of Proverbs, the whole book is about a wise man and a foolish man. This is where it all comes down in Matthew 25.

➤ #4 - The Friend of the Bridegroom (Moses to John the Baptist - Under the Law)

Now our fourth group at this wedding will be found in John Chapter 3. And in John 3 now you have a group that is going to be at this wedding that is called the friend of the Bridegroom. You will find this in John 3:29. Let me read it to you.

*John 3:29. He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: **but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice:** this my joy therefore is fulfilled.*

Then the friend of the Bridegroom is the best man, and yet he is somebody standing here that hears the voice of what the Bridegroom is saying. Now this group will represent the people under the law from Moses to John the Baptist.

*Luke 16:16. **The law and the prophets were until John:** since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.*

In Luke 16:16, and you want to get all these down. Do not try to do it now, but when you sit back down, you need to lay your Bible out around this stuff. In Luke 16:16 here you are told that the law, Moses and the prophets, are until John the Baptist. So, John represents the friend of the Bridegroom in this part of the family from Moses until John. This is a dispensation in your Bible. So far, just to keep it in your head, we have identified four members of the family of God. Each one of them represents a dispensation of God dealing down through history with man. One: the Bridegroom, Christ. Two: the Bride, Church, you and me. Three: Virgins, tribulation saints. Four: Old Testament saints from Moses to John the Baptist, friend of the Bridegroom.

➤ #5 - The Guests (Tribulation Gentiles)

Now our fifth group will be the guests. And here again, they are found back in Matthew 22. And I kind of laid this out for you.

- Matthew 22:1-2: God had a wedding for His Son.
- Matthew 22:3: No thanks, Old Testament to 606 BC.
- Matthew 22:4-6: First coming of Christ, again no thanks, they crucified Him.
- Matthew 22:7: God had enough of that, destroyed Jerusalem in 70 A.D. under Titus.
- Then we skip over to Church Age because God has scattered them now and God has divorced His wife.
- Matthew 22:8-10 goes back into the tribulation and the 144,000 going in and preaching to the Gentiles, Revelation 7, Revelation 11, Revelation 14. And now at the end of the tribulation, the wedding is furnished with guests. The guests will be tribulation Gentiles that get saved through the preaching of the 144,000.

➤ #6 - The Concubines (Jews before the Law from Abraham to Moses)

Now number six: these people are found in Psalms 45 and Song of Solomon 6:8-9. They are called the concubines. This will be the Jews before the law from Abraham to Moses. Abraham is

called a Hebrew. The first time you find the word is with Abraham. He represents a people group that are going to be at the wedding. Abraham is the father of the Jews, but they are not under the law yet to fall under the friend of the Bridegroom.

Now let us talk about a concubine. A concubine by definition will be a woman who cohabitates with a man without being married. This was permitted in the Old Testament. Why was it permitted in the Old Testament? Because it showed us something. Technically speaking, Israel does not become the wife of God until she comes out of Egypt in Exodus 12 and gets separated from the world. That is when she becomes God's wife. She is called out of Egypt. When did you become a child of God? When you were called out of Egypt, the world. So based on that, I will put the concubines, the group of Jews at the wedding, from Abraham up to the law of Moses. Now Israel is called out of the world physically to be the wife of God, Exodus 12. You and I are called out spiritually to be the Bride of Christ at the rapture of the Church. And all is now ready. All is now ready for God's plan to kick in. God has got His wife; Christ has got His Bride. Everything is in order. Now He can proceed with Isaiah 9:6-7: *"Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever."*

➤ #7 - The Queens (Gentiles before the Law)

Now our seventh group will be a group called the queens. They are found in Song of Solomon 6:8 also. It says there that there are three score queens, that is 60, four score concubines, that is 80, and virgins without number. I have no idea what those numbers represent, obviously something, but above my pay grade. Now, this is the only spot in this big picture of the Bible that will fit the queens. **And this will be the Gentiles in the Old Testament before the law to Moses.** You find this example in 1 Kings 10:1-10 where you have a queen who comes to Jerusalem to see the King. It is a picture of the Gentiles in the Old Testament before the law coming to God; the Queen of Sheba coming to Solomon. And the number 10 is the number of the Gentiles in the Bible. So, everything fits right down the line.

X. Summary: The Big Picture

Now when you understand these seven people groups making up the family of God, again you get to see how easy that big picture is of the Bible. I know that a lot of people start with the *How to Study the Bible* book, and that is a great place to start. We talked about that Thursday night; it lays all the fundamentals out. But I would suggest if you wanted to go from that to the next thing that will lay out the big picture, there is the other book *The Story of the Bible* that is even on DVD, so you can watch it on television. But again, you can see how easy the big picture is of the Bible. Most of God's people and pastors, unfortunately, all they will ever have is a snapshot. They will never see the marriage of the Lamb in the complete total picture movie that it is. Most of God's people and unfortunately most pastors have a one-dimensional view of the Bible and on what the Bible is all about. **In the Bible, the big picture of God and His work down through the history of man, you will remember the Bible is built around a wedding.** Just that simple.

A wedding for God's Son, a bride for Isaac, Genesis 24. And this wedding will be the end of man's existence on planet Earth as far as him running it.

➤ The Fullness of Time

Did you ever notice in your Bible there are little things that most people never catch? In your Bible you will find the phrase "in the fullness of time" two times in your Bible. I don't know if you have ever seen that or not. I didn't see it until a couple of years ago.

- **Now the first one is in Galatians 4:4**, and it says, "*But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law.*" So that signifies in the whole movie of the Bible that in God's mind that fullness of time went from the Old Testament to when Christ showed up and that means something of what God was doing and He gave His Son to the world and He marked that, stamped that, *the fullness of time*.
- **Then in Ephesians 1:10 you find the second**. And in Ephesians 1:10 it says, "*That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him.*" That will be the end of all time on planet Earth, the rapture, judgment seat, millennium, marriage, marriage supper, and now fullness of time stops. We enter into eternity. God's time frame on this Earth is built around two fullnesses: the fullness of time with Israel, and then He sent them His Son and things changed, the whole world changed. And then the fullness of the dispensation of time, and it all changes again and we go into eternity.

All of God's history of man, 7,000 years of it, is built around two days:

1. The day God restores His wife to Himself, Revelation 11:25-29.
2. And the second one, God's Son now married to His Bride the Church, the day that we come down the aisle and come with our Bridegroom, Revelation 19:7-8, the day of Jesus Christ.

One of them is the day of the Lord, and one of them is the day of Jesus Christ. And for us, in our lifetime, maybe 50 or 60 times you will go to a wedding, and every time you go to a wedding stop and remember this wedding. You know, Chiefs play tomorrow night. The grandest love story of the century was Travis Kelce and Taylor Swift. What a wedding that was. Two multi-millionaires falling in love, getting married with two prenups. If that is not true love, "I love you but sign this. If you ever leave me, I want my money back." I didn't see the wedding, I wasn't invited, but Madison Square Garden is where they had it. And all this hype and everything, you know, Travis Kelce is an incredible football player, Taylor Swift is Taylor Swift, and everybody was saying, "the wedding of the century." And I heard people talking about it, chatting about it, all the news media. The real wedding was kind of a secret thing that made it even more, you know, enticing. The greatest wedding of the century...No! The greatest wedding of the century of all centuries is coming. The day we stand before Him after the judgment seat of Christ, and we have made ourselves ready. Finally, the tears of this life, the heartaches in this life, everything in this life is now passed and there is going to be a wedding when the camel train comes in. Then there is going to be a supper, and then for all of eternity we're going to be on our honeymoon. That is the wedding of all centuries.