

Special 24-08-28b

We're gonna pick up our study here and pick up our pace just a little bit. I wanted to provide some historical background so that we aren't thinking that this is a unique time in history where there are special signs and wonders in the heavens, so to speak, or in current events. Believers have ever been watchful, and this is not a bad instinct.

Its application and the way it works out may be questionable, but it's a good thought. We should be aware of who we are, why we're here, and that the return of the Lord is an important thing to watch for. But as we have seen so many times, it is far more likely that the return of the Lord Jesus for you and for me is going to be coincident with our last heartbeat, our last breath, the last ripple of electricity that courses through our brain matter.

And at the point that we exit this life, we are at the rapture. We are with the Lord Jesus Christ. Every believer who has lived in this age has gone to sleep and is now absent from the body, face-to-face with the Lord.

However you understand that phrase, and you know my thinking on it, but however you understand it, Paul says in the inspired word of God that to be absent from the body is to be face-to-face with the Lord. There's no suggestion of any interval of hanging about. You're not here, you are there.

So however you understand that, that is the moment to prepare for. It doesn't matter to me these great movements of armies and events and circumstances and upheavals and disasters and plagues. It is enough that we watch for the general signs that tell us that God is in his heaven.

Jesus said, when you see the fig tree blossoming, fig tree often a reference to Israel in some way, shape or form. We have seen over the last century that Israel has come back from the dead, as it were, as a nation, and where it was a scattered people, it is now a condensed group of largely secular Jews back in the region of their historic land. And that's significant, certainly.

It's exciting. It's something to watch. It does not necessarily mean that the secular government or the secular society is something that we should unconditionally and unquestioningly support, nor does it mean that because they are engaging in warfare and that some people are calling it genocide against the people in Gaza, that they should be universally condemned.

We apply the same standards to the nation of Israel that we would apply to any group based on what the word of God tells us is right and what is wrong for a nation and a people and opinions will vary. Analyses and conclusions drawn will vary. If someone is down on Israel and sympathetic with the Palestinians, that's really between them and

the Lord as far as I am concerned.

If someone is sympathetic to Israel and down on the Palestinians, that is also between them and the Lord as far as I am concerned. I don't spend a lot of time one way or the other on that particular issue or Russia, Ukraine, or Turkey and Syria and the other players in the Middle East. I am aware.

I am interested enough to watch the movement and the alignment, which is of note that as is foretold in prophetic scripture, there will be an almost universal international alignment against Israel in the times of the end. That has happened before. There were people who interpreted the Crusades as having something to do by way of portent and harbingers of the return of Christ, the rise of Islam, going back to the 600s and 700s and into the 1200s and the Inquisition.

I mean, all down through history, people can say it's never been like this before. The end is near. The end I'm concerned about and the end that you are concerned about is the end of this life.

And any one of us, our heart could cease to beat before the sun rises tomorrow. How ready are we? Have we been faithful? Have we been obedient? Have we cultivated the fruit of the spirit? Have we allowed the seed to be implanted deep into the soil to produce 30-fold, 60-fold, 100-fold crops? Are we investing what God has given us in line with the parable of the talents or the parable of the pounds, the minas? Are we exercising our personal opportunities, stewardship, responsibility in a way that is pleasing to God? Are we redeeming the time? Are we repentant? Are we humble? Are we endeavoring to apply the word of God on a daily basis? I don't need to know world events. I could be stranded on a desert island and hopefully there'll be two or three other people there so I can do the one another's or the neighbor's or the enemy's brand of love.

But I don't have to have any awareness of human events, cultural events, national events, international events to make the most of the time that God allots me in this life to prepare myself for service and function now and in the ages to come. Interesting, challenging, fascinating in some cases to see what's going on, signs in the heavens. I didn't know what a blood moon was until somebody started talking about it and I thought, well, that's something to see.

The Aurora Borealis creeping down over our horizon to where we can see it in Oklahoma, fair enough. Halley's Comet, we've seen other comets in the sky. When we lived in Texas, there was a comet in the sky for a few days, cool.

But it doesn't impinge on my spiritual priorities and it shouldn't impinge on yours. Be aware, be sensitive, welcome to have an opinion, hopefully grounded in scripture and in objectivity rather than subjectivity. What we can't do is allow these things to be

distractions.

That being said, I want to talk about Jonathan Cahn's comment at the beginning of the first video where he said, "'If you came here for a politically correct message, "'you're in the wrong place, but you know what? "'God is real. "'The Bible says the sons of Issachar knew the times "'so they knew what they should do "'and we are to be like the sons of Issachar. "'We need to know the signs of the times by implication "'so that we will know what to do.'" What do you think about that implication? We need to pay attention to the signs of the times so we will know what to do.

Are the signs of the times the information we need to know what to do? Remember in 1 Timothy when Paul says, I'm giving you this information so you will know how to behave in the household of God? Didn't give him sign one, didn't talk about the rise and fall of the Caesars. Didn't talk about the economy, didn't talk about oppression or liberation or slavery or any of the other issues of the day. He said, I'm giving you this inspired information so you'll know how to conduct yourself.

So this is a subtle but dangerous implication that I won't know how to live my life unless I watch the signs of the times. That is not the case. Strand me on an island with my Bible and a new treasury of scripture knowledge and I will while away the years in blissful contentment.

Anyway, I was intrigued and I got completely deflected as I told you Sunday, when he mentioned the sons of Issachar. As with the prayer of Jabez breaking through to the blessed life by Bruce Wilkinson published in 2000. There is this distraction that takes place and these guys are notable.

Bruce Wilkinson wrote the prayer of Jabez. He's written over 70 other books. The guy founded the ministry Walk Through the Bible that has educated thousands and thousands and tens of thousands of people all over the world on the Bible, that was Bruce Wilkinson.

He founded an organization called TEN, which is to teach every nation, T-E-N, teach every nation. It's been all around the world. And these are wonderful things.

I'm not disparaging Bruce Wilkinson or Jonathan Cahn. They've done a lot of wonderful things, but just because some of the things you do are wonderful doesn't mean everything you do is wonderful. And the prayer of Jabez, the description, if you look it up on Kindle or whatever, it's a timeless prayer, the prayer of Jabez, that produces timely results.

Bruce Wilkinson takes readers to 1 Chronicles 4, verse 10 to discover how they can release God's miraculous power and experience the blessings God longs to give each of us. The life of Jabez, one of the Bible's most overlooked heroes of the faith, bursts from

the unbroken pages of genealogies in an audacious four-part prayer that brings him an extraordinary measure of divine favor, anointing, and protection. Readers who commit to offering the same prayer on a regular basis will find themselves extravagantly blessed by God, and they will be agents of his miraculous power in everyday life.

That is a crock of organic fertilizer. You cannot repeat a prayer. The Lord Jesus himself invades against mindless repetition of prayers.

And that's what this becomes. Or invoking a particular prayer, expecting that God is going to be impressed by its content rather than with the content in your soul and the thoughts and intents of your heart, and, well, I wanna lose weight, so I'm gonna eat this magic powder. Instead of, I'm going to discipline myself in what I eat and how I exercise, I'm going to do the things that produce health and vitality.

No, I'm gonna rely on this one magical procedure or substance. And with all of the wonderful things that Bruce Wilkinson has done, and the Prayer of Jabez was one of the first Christian books to ever crack 10 million copies sold. It's rare for a Christian book to do that.

But without belaboring this point, I would encourage you to go to Tim Challey's website. It is challies.com. I have a lot of respect for Tim Challey's. I agree with him on a wide variety of things.

And he's got a series on his website where he has gone and taken a look at the Christian bestsellers that have been produced in recent years that have just sold many, many copies. So he's got a review of the Prayer of Jabez. He has a review of the Jesus Calling.

This is the best-selling book, best-selling Christian book of all time, outside of the Bible and things related directly to the scripture. It's Jesus Calling, which is written by a gal named Sarah Young. And it's published by Thomas Nelson.

And it has surpassed 15 million copies sold. This book is dangerous. Read Tim Challey's review of that book.

She speaks for God. She proclaims the insufficiency of the Bible. Her deepest experience of God comes through a practice that God does not endorse.

She is inspired by untrustworthy models. She provides lesser revelation. She mimics occult practices.

This is the best-selling Christian book of all time, Jesus Calling by Sarah Young. And so the fact that something is popular doesn't mean it's right. In fact, in many cases, it's a caution.

He reviews the five love languages. Not an entirely negative review of that book, by the

way, but pointing out some of the cautions. He reviews the shack.

Don't get me started on the shack. Anyway, Tim Challey's. And this is a series, and I encourage you to look at this series in his, it's on his blog or whatever.

It's called The Best Sellers. The Evangelical Christian Publishers Association tracks the sales of Christian books and awards platinum book awards for books whose sales exceed a million, diamond book award for sales exceeding 10 million. In this series, he looks at the history and impact of some of the Christian books that have sold more than a million copies.

No small feat when the average Christian book sells only a few thousand copies. I strongly encourage you, especially if you have exposure to some of these very popular books. I read to the extent that I was able to work through it, the shack.

I've read portions of the Love Five Languages and so on. So it's, I think he has a very fair, balanced and helpful approach to what may be good and what may be not so good about those books. So I will let him, I will refer you to him so that I can move on to our content this morning.

But the shooting attempt and successful nicking of Mr. Trump's ear was the second video I had you take a look at. And we're going to take a look at that. But before we do, I want to talk about this earth shattering prophecy introduction that references the Sons of Issachar.

That comes from the Book of Chronicles, chapter 12. This is a fascinating chapter. And if you turn to First Chronicles chapter 12, this is at the time when David is no longer a fugitive and is becoming the king of all Israel.

So this chapter details the growth of the followers of David across a significant period of time, beginning when he is in Ziklag. Skip down to actually verse 23. We'll go down to verse 23.

I hate to skip so much of what's in here. There are Benjamites, Gadites, Judahites, and men from Manasseh who come to David. What do you know about the men of Manasseh? What's the story on the tribe of Manasseh? Where do they come from? Little pop quiz.

There's actually, this is the double tribe of Joseph, right? Ephraim and Manasseh. Which one was the firstborn? Who was the firstborn eldest son of Joseph? Manasseh. What happens when Jacob gets ready to bless the sons of Joseph when he comes down to Egypt? What does he do? He crosses his hands and he says, "'The elder will serve the younger.'" So Manasseh is going to serve his younger brother, Ephraim.

This could make for some resentment, for some complaint, for some sense of injustice.

But who is it that comes to David? It is the tribe of Manasseh. But the Benjamites were first to join David, even though Saul is king from their tribe and is actively trying to kill David.

But the men from Benjamin and Manasseh are by far the most notable and by far the most unlikely adherents to David. In Hebron, after Saul's death, you start at verse 23. This is where we're going to pick up for Jonathan Cahn's comment about Issachar.

"These are the numbers of the divisions "that were equipped for war and came to David at Hebron "to do what? "To turn over the kingdom of Saul to him, "according to the word of the Lord." This is after the death of Saul and Jonathan at Mount Gilboa. And you would think, well, the Benjamites figure this is going to be a tribal succession and they're going to find a near kinsman from the house of Kish or some other grandson. There's going to be some grandsons that survive in the house of Saul.

"But no, these guys come "according to the word of the Lord." So, verse 24, "Of the sons of Judah bearing shield and spear, 6,800, "armed and equipped for war." Now, I wish I had time to read these in detail. You just look at each of these. There's a comment about each one of them.

And these are not idle comments. What's the comment about the sons of Judah? "They bear a shield and spear. "They are armed slash equipped for war." The sons of Simeon in verse 25, what's the comment about them? "They are mighty men of valor fit for war." In the next verse, the sons of Levi.

Sons of Levi, what's their primary function? The Levites. This is where you get your priests and the workers for tabernacle worship and temple worship. Sons of Levi, "Jehoiada is the leader of the Aaronites, "Zadok, a young man and a valiant warrior, "and bringing 22 captains with him." Verse 29, "Of the sons of Benjamin, relatives of Saul, "3,000 come.

"Until then, the greatest part of them "had remained loyal to the house of Saul. "Some of them had come early when David was in Ziklag, "but now the rest of them have come and joined David "and are supporting him to be the king." Think about the dissonance that this would cause from somebody from the tribe of Benjamin, but these guys have it figured out. Verse 30, "The sons of Ephraim, "mighty men of valor, famous men of reputation, "men of the name." Verse 31, "The half-tribe of Manasseh, "designated by name to come and make David king." That's their purpose, to make David king.

They're the least of all the tribes in Israel. They're a half-tribe and they're subjugated to Ephraim, but their purpose is to come and make David king. Verse 32, "Here's your sons of Issachar, "understanding of the times, "to know what Israel ought to do, "have all their brethren at their command." So just hold that thought.

"Of Zebulun, there are 50,000 who went out to battle, "expert in war, with all the weapons of war, "stout-hearted men who could keep ranks." Naphtali in verse 34 and so on. Let me cut straight to the chase here. What is the application of this? It is great to be like the sons of Issachar and know the signs of the times, but notice that's only 1 13th of the people who came to David in Hebron.

Each group has a specialty. You think about the spiritual gifts that are distributed in the church, and because somebody has one gift doesn't mean that I need to try to have that same gift or fulfill that same function or exploit that same kind of opportunity. Each of these groups has a specialty.

So you go back to Judah. It says they have shield and spear. What does this signify? What's the first thing you think of with a shield and a spear? Put on the full armor of God, right? Ephesians 6, 10 through 18, armed and equipped for battle.

You can go to 2 Corinthians 10, verses three through five about spiritual warfare. These men from Judah, this is David's own tribe, and they're listed first, but they're not just relying on their relationship with David to be favored or to get by. They've got shield and spear.

These are largely holding the line things. You think about the phalanx in Greek and later in Roman warfare, you got the shield for defense, you get the spear and you can move the enemy back with the shield and spear. It's a combination of defense and offense.

It's, but it provides a defensive outer wall or a perimeter that is not just static, but can also be dynamic. What can we learn from this? Can we be men of Judah as well as sons of Issachar? Can we ensure that we've got the full armor of God? Can we ensure that we remember that we are engaged in a spiritual conflict and we should be armed and equipped for that battle and know what that armament and that equipment is and how to use it? That's where you're back to Ephesians 6, 10 through 18. Simeon, these are mighty men of valor fit for war.

They are valiant, full of valor, and they are fit. They're competent. They are ready to do battle.

You think about the overcomers that John mentions. This is a victory that overcomes the world, even our faith. There are people who are just specialists in faith.

Sometimes we face a situation or a circumstance or a setback or a bereavement or a loss of some kind, and we're a little bit dazed. And another believer comes alongside and speaks truth and love quietly and carefully and tactfully and just says, well, you know, there are wonderful promises that get us through times like this and put a shoulder on the shoulder of the one that needs a little bit of support, fit for war. And we can encourage each other to love and good works.

Levi, it talks about leadership. It talks about youth. It talks about valor and wisdom.

We've seen all of these themes in our recent pastoral study. Let no one despise your youth in 1 Timothy 4.12. And it mentioned specifically that Zadok was young, but that didn't slow him down. He's listed amongst these guys that come to David because they recognize the movement of God at this time in history.

Notice, these guys are coming to David. This is a historical and national circumstance. How do they know to come to David and not try to support the house of Saul? Is it because they counted Sabbaths? Is it because David got nicked in the ear and got bloody somehow? Is it because there's some other portent in the Torah that tells them that, well, I've counted this many letters and this many verses and this many words and David's the guy? How do they know to come to David despite their tribal affiliation, despite recent history? Benjamites coming to David, even though their Benjamite king has been persecuting and hounding him for years.

How do they know this? They come to a historical circumstance and a national opportunity already equipped. They are already in the physical sense fit for battle. They've got their weapons and they know how to use them.

They have experience. They've earned a name wielding these weapons. And in the spiritual battle, that's what we do.

We're not trying to figure out what comes next by watching the headlines. We are grounded and founded on the word of God. And whatever comes along historically, we've got our center of gravity over our feet.

We've got our knees flexed. We're ready for anything. We've got our spiritual weapons and we know who to support because of that, not some alignment of alleged circumstances.

You can go down the list of all of these. Ephraim, Valor, a memorable record of past experience and success. And you think about Hebrews chapter six, verse 10.

God is not unrighteous to forget your work of faith, your labor of love. Manasseh, again, these guys, the least tribe in Israel, the minority of the minority, their early followers. In 1 Chronicles 12, 19 through 22, they helped David against the bands of raiders.

They were all mighty men of valor. They were captains of the army. At that time, they came to David day by day to help him until it was a great army, like the army of God.

What a cool thing to say about Manasseh, the disfavored tribe in the blessing. That doesn't hold them back. These guys continue to come to David and swell the ranks until it's called the army of God.

What a wonderful unit to be a part of. Despite their tribe being consigned to serve the younger in Genesis 48, 14. Remember Paul in 1 Corinthians 1, 26 through 28 says that God has chosen the foolish things of this world to confound the wise, the weak things of this world to confound the strong.

You think about the song of Mary in Luke 1, 46 through 55. You think about the song of Hannah in 1 Samuel 2, one through 11. Those ladies celebrate that God looks down on those things that are seemingly despised, that are lowly, that are not given consideration and uses them to overthrow the strong.

Both of those ladies, the mother of Samuel and the mother of the humanity of the Lord Jesus, both celebrate this principle that is reflected in the tribe of Manasseh. Think about being Gentiles as opposed to God's people Israel and look at the place we've been assigned in God's plan to be a unique possession of the Lord Jesus and to represent him as his body on this earth, to be the first to receive the full ministry of the Holy Spirit universally, to be knit together in love by that power and on that basis, to be given the fulsome revelation we have in the Old Testament and New Testament scriptures. We were leased, we were out, we were the exceptions and now we're at the heart and center of God's plan in this age.

Notice the men of Issachar who understand the times and the knowledge. What does it say? What kind of knowledge? They understand the times and what do they know? Does it say they know what they should do? They know what Israel should do. They've got a grasp of the big picture.

This is what the entire nation should do. And notice of all of these thousands that are mentioned in the other tribes, how many sons of Issachar are listed here? 200. The others are all in thousands.

It says they've got their brothers with them but the actual numeration is 200. But these guys, though small in number, have the wisdom to grasp the big picture and be advisors. Remember later on when the Absalom revolt takes place and Absalom has an advisor and David has an advisor and it is the advice that turns the tables, the wisdom that is heated or not heated.

The guy that sticks with Absalom, when Absalom ignores his advice, he goes and kills himself because he knows it's over and he doesn't want to be around when David returns. So he kills himself because he knows, he's wise enough to know how important that wisdom is. Not to dismiss the sons of Issachar, this is wonderful, but to just toss it off in passing is to miss a wonderful lesson from this entire chapter.

You can go on with the rest of these. The guys in Zebulun that are aggressive and stout-hearted, they are expert and they are disciplined. They know how to hold ranks.

They don't fall apart under pressure. This is an exceptional attribute. They don't break ranks.

They don't fall apart. They don't unravel. They don't come unglued.

You can put whatever kind of pressure you want. These guys will die in place before they will break ranks. They're steady.

They're dependable. They are disciplined and they are stubbornly dedicated to their mission. Zebulun.

Dan, they also have the discipline to not break ranks. Naphtali, shield and spear, just like the tribe of Judah. Judah is given the royal promises back in Genesis 48, but that doesn't keep Naphtali from having shield and spear.

You think of Ephesians 4.27, do not give a foothold to the devil. James 4.7, submit to God, resist the devil. 1 Peter 5, 8 and 9, be sober and alert.

Your adversary, the devil, roams like a roaring lion. Resist him, standing firm. Shield and spear is standing firm individually.

Not breaking ranks is confederation loyalty and unity with those on each side of you. Every one of these, you can spend hours looking at these, thinking about parallels and corollaries in New Testament scripture for how we should function. As goes Old Testament Israel, so goes the New Testament individual believer.

Every one of these tribes who comes to David. These are the good guys. These are the smart guys.

These are the guys who sense and follow God's will. And they see it in the anointed Moshiach of God, David. We can do the same.

I would rather spend my time pouring over this passage, plumbing its depths, looking up the meaning of each of these names in the first part of the chapter. It will blow your mind what these guys' names mean. And there's a reason God recorded them in scripture.

He could have just said 12,500 from this group and 19,000 from that group. These men's names are given because their names matter. They're significant.

They are signs. You want signs of the times? Look at the signs that are written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. The end of this age for you and me is the end of our natural life.

And we need to exploit every minute, every hour, every day, preparing ourselves to serve, to be useful in the spiritual conflict, to identify David's greater son as the one to

whom we owe loyalty, the one to whom we come and desire to serve, to worship, to please. These guys, this is one of the greatest lists. You can go to the list of David's mighty men, but it begins here.

Those guys are in this greater number. From every tribe in Israel. Let me just conclude real quickly.

Look at the latter part. Those who are near to them. In verse 38 and following, all these men of war who could keep ranks came to Hebron with a loyal heart to make David king over all Israel.

There's a lot of talk about making Jesus king, about observing the kingdom, being kingdom people. Look at the qualifications these guys had to support David as king. Now, is David king yet? Is he in Jerusalem? Is he on a throne? No, he's in Hebron.

It is still future. These guys are coming, looking forward to, making preparation for the kingdom that is not yet, but they are already ready. And there's so many parallels for us.

To make David king over all Israel, notice this, all the rest of Israel were of one mind to make David king. They unite over recognizing that David is God's man for the hour. He is the one to follow.

He is the one to serve. He is the one to pledge loyalty to and put one's life on the line for. How is that any different than our love for the Lord Jesus? And through him, our love for the father who sent him.

But look at verse 39 and following. They were there with David three days, circle it, three days, not an accident, three days eating and drinking for their brethren had prepared for them. Moreover, those who were near to them from as far away as Issachar, who are the sons of Issachar? Those who understand the times and know what Israel ought to do.

And Zebulun and Naphtali, look at what they were doing. They brought food on donkeys and camels, on mules and oxen's provisions of flour and cakes of figs, cakes of raisins, wine and oil, and oxen and sheep abundantly for there was joy in Israel. There was joy in Israel.

I wish I had more time to go forward from this because what happens in the next chapter? Do you have a heading in your Bible for chapter 13? What's the very next thing that's going to happen? They're all in Hebron. They're ready to make David king. What's the next step? The presence of God needs to go forward.

So what is David going to do? He's going to move the ark. You have three days of feasting. Now they're going to move the ark.

When they move it, after 20 years at the house of Aminadab, they're going to move the

ark and spend their 20 years ever since the Philistines sent it back, right? So David wants to move it, but Aminadab's son Uzzah fancies himself a priest and qualified to manage the ark and keep it from falling off the cart. It's not supposed to be on and Uzzah dies. Then what happens? If you read chapter 13, after the three days of feasting, then they try to move the ark and there's this tragedy.

David gets spooked. And so the ark sits at the house of Obed-Edom for three months, three days, three months. Whose house is it located at? Obed-Edom.

Where's he from? Gath. He's from a Philistine town. Obed-Edom means servant of Edom.

Is he an Edomite that went and lived with the Philistines? Is it Adam or is this servant of blood? We don't know the origins of Obed-Edom. He is the servant of something, but as soon as you see Edom, you think Esau, you think loss of opportunity, forfeiture of blessing, but it stays at his house, a Gittite, a Gathite for three months. And during the time that it's there, Obed-Edom is blessed.

David's not blessed. The person who is steward of the presence of God in the form of the ark of the covenant, he is blessed. This is 2 Samuel chapter six.

Then in chapter 14, David knows the Lord has established him and goes on to Jerusalem and Hiram, the king of Tyre, builds David a house. David receives a house in Jerusalem in chapter 14. This thing is so fraught.

Where would you rather spend your time? You want to see whether or not there's blood on Mr. Trump's thumb or did his sock get wet with blood when his shoes came off? Or would you rather study the word of God and have inspired wisdom and knowledge for application? Focus on this ancestor of the Lord Jesus who foreshadows him in so many ways. And those who come to spend time with him and are loyal to him and to serve him and to accompany him to Jerusalem, the new capital of the kingdom, this is what I prefer to spend my time on. So there is nothing to Mr. Trump.

It's a curiosity that he got hit in the ear. You can look at all the pictures. I never saw any blood on his right hand, never saw any blood on his right foot.

If it was significant, we would see it. It would be of note. It means absolutely nothing except he literally ducked a bullet, dodged a bullet, and everybody is grateful that he was not killed on that occasion.

Everybody ought to be glad that he wasn't killed. But it has no spiritual significance whatsoever. He's not being dedicated for a purpose.

If you want to see blood on the ear, study the consecration of the high priest and then study Leviticus 14. And by the way, Leviticus 12 is the dedication of a newborn child. And there's a reason 12 comes before 14 because when you look at the sacrifices that

are offered for a newborn child and the sanctification of the mother and the intervals involved, then you go to 13, which is seven different kinds of skin disease representing seven different kinds of sin.

Then you go to chapter 14, which is the cleansed leper, new birth, sacrifice, water and blood, shaving off all the hair and looking like a newborn baby. You want to know where John 3.16 comes from? Look at Leviticus 14. Are you a teacher in Israel? And you don't know that if you're going to be delivered from living death, you must be born again.

The cleansed leper is born again. He looks just like a baby. He's dedicated using the same kinds of sacrifices.

He's birthed with water and blood, just like the newborn son of Leviticus 12. You want to spend time looking at the plan and purpose of God, go to the scriptures. It's, there's more than we can cover in a lifetime.

And it's inspired. It is used by God to enable us and empower us. Headlines will never do that.

Books that are flapping hands and pointing fingers at stuff flying overhead isn't going to do it. The living and powerful word of God does it. And there is no substitute.

We'll close here in a word of prayer. We'll resume our study of the miracles of the Lord Jesus Christ this coming Sunday with the second miracle, the healing of the nobleman's son. Father, thank you for the truth of your word.

Thank you for the gift of access to it, of the opportunity to explore it, to plumb its depths, to be enabled and empowered by its inspiration in the hands of the Holy Spirit, to shine a light on our paths, to thoroughly equip us for every good work. We pray that we will be inspired by what we've seen tonight to continue to do so and to be ready at any given moment for our entrance into the presence of the Lord Jesus, hopefully to be qualified to be presented before your throne. We ask it in Jesus' name, amen.