

When There Is Mist On The Pulpit!

Pastor S. James

www.gracetabernaclehyd.org

Tonight, as we hear, as we listen, as we receive, as we believe, as we obey, it will bring deliverance. We wait at Your feet, Lord. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

If you were there and if you're following the teaching, either in the Church or through the net, you will know – we've been looking at the importance of doctrine. Of course, last Sunday was Mother's Day. But actually, every day is Mother's Day. If mothers weren't there, we would have no day. So, but you know, when we use the term 'doctrine', the importance of doctrine, why; there are different ways you can look at it. Doctrine is the way of God, how God functions. It is how the righteousness of God is established in us. And we have to learn and know the ways of God. Otherwise, we will never grow in the Kingdom. When Jesus said, "*Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness*", it is through the doctrine. That's why when the Church started in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost, Scripture records, "*They gathered daily for the Apostles doctrine.*" See, we all have doctrines because as a man thinks, he is. What you think. Everybody has different patterns of thinking. So, it's not that anybody, if there is anybody here without a doctrine. Even the little kids have a doctrine. Everybody has doctrine. But we are talking about the doctrine that is of God. Primarily, your doctrine will shape your life. Remember that; your doctrine, what you believe, will ultimately shape your life. Primarily, there are three kinds of doctrine. In *Mark 7:7*,

Mark 7:7

7 And in vain they worship Me, (Jesus says,) Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'

So, there are these doctrines of men but which are basically the rules of man and they are taught as doctrines which have no power in eternity, which have no power in the spiritual realm. In *1 Timothy 4:1*, Paul is writing to Timothy, the Holy Spirit to us, says,

1 Timothy 4:1

1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons...

So, there are doctrines of men. There are doctrines of demons, and then, in *John 7:16:17*, Jesus says this,

John 7:16-17

16 Jesus answered them and said, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me..."

So, there is this doctrine of God. And Jesus when He brings this doctrine and teaches this doctrine, He declares, "The doctrine I bring to you." He doesn't say 'doctrines'. He says 'doctrine'. Doctrines of men. Doctrines of demons, multiple. But doctrine of God. He says, "*It is not Mine, but His who sent Me.*" And He uses, in law, legal terms. We use a term called 'Caveat'. Okay? He says, "*If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning that the...*" When it comes to God's doctrines, it is hidden, or it is locked from us. The only way I can grow in the doctrine of God is by surrendering my will to do His will. Otherwise, that doctrine will be blocked from me or anyone. So, it begins with that. That's why, if you look at anything that Jesus teaches, He will always bring us back to that. He says, "*This is how you need to pray; Thy will be done.*" So, He says, "*If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine whether it from God or whether I speak on My own authority.*" Other way He is saying that, "*When I will Myself to do God's will,*" doctrine in the Bible will start becoming very clear. And you will realize – what I am seeing is not the doctrine of man, it's not the doctrines of men, it is not the doctrines of the demons, this is the doctrine of Christ which alone has the power to set us free and to establish us in righteousness. Remember, it's number three that saves us but it is conditional.

So, I'm doing a quick recap because we now need to understand why is that we as a Church; remember, today is the 25th day of our 40-day fasting before we complete 10 years and, the evening devotions which I send to you. Save it in your folder. They are incredibly intense of genuine unbelievable men of God, who searched, who sought the ways of God. And

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you'll realize the depth of, like today's, if you read it; I mean, it's just not the doctrine, the understanding of God, the language, how they've all put it together. And the depth of God these men have experienced, and we look at and we should be hungry. "Lord, I need to know You. At least some part of this way these ancient fathers of the Church have known." So, remember – we are in that process, and we, as the Church, have put so much of our time, our energy, our resources in teaching the Word. Why? Because why did the Apostles focus on doctrine first in the Church when it began to be establishing in doctrine? So, to the Church leadership, this is what God says in *1 Timothy*,

1 Timothy 4:16

¹⁶ Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine, continue in them.

To the Church leadership, God says, "*Take heed to yourself.*" Watch out for the doctrine you believe, and you teach and *continue in them.*

...for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

He is saying, "The ultimate salvation. There is a beginning of salvation, there is an end of salvation, but that process ultimately dependent upon the doctrine you teach. So, he tells Timothy, "Be careful. Watch the doctrine you teach." And in a Church, you can have various offices in the Church, different responsibilities. And therefore, in *1 Timothy 5:17*, Scripture says,

1 Timothy 5:17

¹⁷ Let there the elders who rule well be counted worthy. Worthy of double honors specially those who'll labor in Word and doctrine.

He says, the eldership of the Church can be into various ministry, but especially those who teach in Word and in doctrine, He says, "Who labor." It's not a small thing. He says, "They need to labor." Every place I go to meet the Pastors including here the country where I came, the struggle is to get the Pastors to sit down and learn. And every time you go, you realize – they have wonderful hearts but no doctrine. And the Churches built in the last day on extremely shaky foundations, unbelievably shaky foundations, which cannot stand the storm that is brewing around the world, that is coming and is already here. So, Scripture talks about, "Those who labor in the Word." And the man of God, if he has the teach the word for 30 minutes, will have to labor in private for hours together before he can get because what God is committing into his hands is the very doctrine of Christ, of how God operates, how His Kingdom operates. And men of God servants of God cannot take it lightly. It's a very serious thing because salvation connected to that and we will realize when we are sloppy about doctrine, all the other things in our lives starts falling apart.

In *Titus 2:7*, to this, Scripture says,

Titus 2:7

⁷ in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility...

We looked at that on Sunday in depth. But I am recapping on what doctrine means in the Church. And to the Church as a whole in *Titus 2:1*, Scripture says,

Titus 2:1

¹ But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:

So, Scripture will say how doctrine affects your role as a man, as an older man, as a younger man, as an older woman, as a younger woman and as employees and as employers. Doctrine touches every facet of our life and our life has to match with the doctrine for the power of the Kingdom to come into our lives. We cannot blame God for not releasing His power because Scripture says, "The Kingdom of God is not a matter of talk; it's a matter of power." But for that power to be released, we need to match our lives to this doctrine and not to twist doctrine to match our lives. That's what they do, false prophets, that's what they do.

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And Apostle John (not Paul) who has the toughest words concerning doctrine to write in the New Covenant. He says,

2 John 1:9-11

⁹Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God...

It's an incredibly powerful statement. He says, "You can talk as much as you want about God but if you don't have the doctrine of Christ, you don't have God." You cannot separate from His doctrine.

He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him;

And he is the gentlest, the most gentle among the Apostles.

¹¹for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.

He says that evil deeds are actually a result of evil doctrines and evil thinking. Before a man does anything, he thinks. Nothing is random. So, our thinking is actually defined by what we believe and what doctrine we have received. That's why we gather constantly to understand what doctrine is. What is the doctrine of Christ? That is why the warning in *James 3:1-2*,

James 3: 1-2

¹ My brethren let not many of you become teachers (Because primarily, teaching in the Kingdom of God in the Church, is in teaching of doctrine. And he says,) ***let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.*** ***² For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.***

He says, "The man who speaks, if he speaks according to the doctrine of the Christ," that's what he actually means over there; he can change the course of his life. When the Scripture is talking about many of you becoming teachers, it is not talking about, if you opt for a profession to be a teacher in a school or college, go ahead. That's what this is not talking about. This is talking about teaching in the Kingdom of God. Many of you should not, okay?

Two things have to be noted about teaching. In *1 Corinthians 12:28*,

1 Corinthians 12:28

²⁸ And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers...

And you will realize one, two, and three – all of them teach. He hasn't used the word 'Pastors' here because every Pastor is meant to be a teacher. That is one of his primary callings. So, it is God; it's not the government, it is not writing an exam, it is God who appoints. The appointment is from God. It is an appointment from God itself. So, God says, "Don't take that profession lightly. You should be very sure God has called you to be a teacher or a Pastor or an Apostle or a Prophet so that you are bringing correctly or correcting doctrine or teaching doctrine." When it come *Ephesians 4*, Jesus talks and Paul talks about Jesus.

Ephesians 4:7-8, 11

⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men."

This is talking about when Jesus rose form the dead. He gave gifts to men. What were the gifts that Jesus gave to men? The next verses will say,

¹¹ And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

So, these fivefold ministry, the core of it is teaching the Word of God. They have to have the Word. Otherwise, you cannot function in the ministry. This is a gift appointed by God and a gift from Jesus to the Church. So, the problem today is – the

enemy and the world. The world has filled the airwaves with teachers. Filled with teachers. And let's be honest about it – God's people, we are not talking about the world; God's people, Christians are biblically illiterate. They're incredibly qualified in the world but they are biblically illiterate. They do not have the discernment to spot error. Opinions, not backed by Scriptures, is passed on as doctrine to emotionally charged people. I am not mentioning names. But you know names. They are incredibly powerful speakers. They are very powerful speakers. See, eloquence is not a curse. It's not wrong. But eloquence of a speaker should not be a substitute for sound doctrine. Substitute for sound doctrine. In *1 Corinthians*, Paul will say about himself in chapter 2. He will say,

1 Corinthians 2:2-5

²For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. ³I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling.

This was the man who wrote one third of the New Testament. He says, "When I came to preach, this is how I came because I knew what I was handling was the very Word of God, the doctrine of Christ and I should not err in this."

⁴And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom...

"I didn't try to use human wisdom to convince you to follow my way of thinking," he said.

...but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

This is what every preacher should be. He should handle this with fear and with trembling. See, if you teach an error, those who have been classroom teachers, you know that if you teach an error, to change it; kids become error much faster than what is right. The question is: was Paul passionate for Christ? Of course, yes. He was passionate for Christ. But his passion was not a substitute for truth. We should be passionate for Christ but whenever we speak anything in the Name of Jesus Christ, even if it is a forward on a Church site, your believer group, be very sure what you are passing across is something that is doctrinally right, not just emotionally surcharged but doctrinally wrong. It's safer to pass on jokes than doctrine you are not sure of. In *Acts 18:24-28* I'll show you certain passages from the Bible where you have a man called Apollos here, okay?

Acts 18:24-28

²⁴Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man (he was an eloquent man) and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. (He was very a good student teacher of Scripture. He had eloquence too) ***²⁵This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John.***

Now, he is in Ephesus, and Aquilla and Priscilla are there.

²⁶So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue...

And there were two new believers, not so new. Paul had them brought them to the Lord. He had taught them. So, actually, in many ways, they knew better than Apollos.

²⁶So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. (They explained to him, "Okay, what you taught is alright but it is not fully right.") ***²⁷And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; ²⁸for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.***

If you look at over there, something is mentioned – here is a man mighty in eloquence, very powerful speaker and is very good in Scripture and is teaching in a synagogue where there are couple of believers and the believers found he is good, but he is not fully right. And something is mentioned there – he only knew the baptism of John. Okay? Now let's look to what Paul, when he came to Ephesus, will ask in *Acts 19*

Acts 19:1-6

1 And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples (there are some disciples) 2 he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So, they said to him, (this is true for majority of Christians in the world. They said,) "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." (They said. "We are fearing something new here.")³ And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So, they said, "Into John's baptism."⁴ Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus."⁵ When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

Why I bring this over here is, here's a set of people who only knew John's baptism. There is Apollos who knew only John's baptism. And therefore, his doctrine is limited. In Christendom, there are different experiences of God which will open your eyes to further doctrine. So, whenever you, like I said, big names; let's take a big name. He's all over the news. Jerusalem embassy was, this thing, and he gave the concluding prayer. So, you have Pastor John Hagee or any of these big names coming and praying or teaching something. When you look at his label, you will see, he is a Baptist. That means he doesn't have this experience. So, his doctrine is limited. Your doctrine is limited also by your experience of God. You need to realize – doctrine is ongoing thing. Because if doctrine is limited, then God is limited. Because this is the doctrine of God. This is the doctrine of Christ.

So, you need to understand, one of the reasons when I teach, especially here Sunday Wednesday or anywhere, I don't mention names. I don't mention names of who all I read or listen. One of the reasons is 21st century Christians are all emotionally surcharged and very low on doctrine. And there are multitudes, like in Elijah, Elisha's times, multitudes of false teachers and they are very powerful. Because without eloquence, you cannot succeed as a false teacher. Yet, you need to realize they are not completely false. Nobody will sell a total lie. When they preach or sell something, there is a lot of truth in it because that's how they mix their product – the real with the false. But from experience in all these years, personally when I was growing in the Lord (still growing), I have noted that baby Christians will always reject the truth and accept the error. So many big names today. Big not because of sound doctrine; big because of eloquence delivered in an incredibly surcharged environment. It's like the Karnataka elections. Honestly, if you were to look to the PM's speeches, emotionally surcharged, a basket full of lies. Absolute. I mean, cutting through the heart of the nation through the lies. A politician can speak like that. Not the Prime Minister because he represents you and me. He represents you and me. He represents all of India. So, he cannot speak like that. What I am talking about is, in an emotionally surcharged atmosphere, nobody is looking for doctrine. They are looking for what their emotions wants to hear. That's why you have to be very careful. Don't get fooled. I listen to them. I listen to all these false teachers because some of these stuff, what they teach is incredible but I won't tell you their names because you will forget all the things you have heard here ten years. You will go to listen to their junk and receive that error because honestly, accept that fact. Except for Vijay and me, nobody has been gifted with the gift of teaching. It's a gift. I didn't earn it. I received it. That's why God has put certain people in the Kingdom of God to teach and didn't ask everybody to teach, and actually asked people not to teach that if you teach, you will be will judged more strictly because you can cause error by your teaching. Many of us should not be teachers; just be witnesses. And when you witness and you testify of what God has done in your life, be very sure matches doctrine. Sometimes, testimonies don't match doctrine because the doctrine of Christ is the doctrine of Christ is a doctrine of a person. It's not an ideology. Marxism, like I said, can exist without Marx; it's an ideology. Doctrine of Christ cannot exist without Christ; it's a doctrine about a Person. Like I said, everyone has doctrines because what you believe, will ultimately define who you are. Even behind idols, there is a doctrine. In *Jeremiah*, this is what Scripture says,

Jeremiah 10:8

⁸But they are altogether dull-hearted and foolish; A wooden idol is a worthless doctrine.

It's a doctrine. Otherwise, all the idols would look the same. There don't look the same because there are different doctrines behind them. So, be very watchful. Jesus says, "Be watchful. Pray. Watch and pray." Be watchful what you receive, what you believe. It's a man of God who said, "If there is a mist in the pulpit, there'll be a fog in the pew." Let me repeat it again – if there is a mist in the pulpit, there'll be a fog in the pew.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17, Scripture talks about the attitude of a new convert.

2 Corinthians 5:17

'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.'

Everything has become new. It's a conscious mental effort daily to accept and walk in that everything I learnt, and I heard, and I understood before I came to Christ, I am rejecting. I am not accepting. The fact of the matter is – this is what I believe about myself. Without Christ, I cannot even understand the news in a newspaper. I cannot even read the news because nothing is natural and normal; everything is contaminated by the spirits, either by demonic or gods. Everything is touched by that; that I cannot even understand news until understand Christ. We cannot read anything, understand anything because nothing is normal; nothing is neutral; everything is a shadow of something in the spiritual realm. So, irrespective of his age, he or she, has to be ready to receive teaching in the new way of life. Anybody who comes to God, must believe all the old things have passed way. I am not bringing anything from my old life. My degrees, everything, I put away. See, language is a skill. English is a skill. Greek is a skill. Language is a skill. I use language as a skill, as a tool to understand Scripture. I don't bring my literature background to understand Scripture. All that, I put it away as Paul says, "As Rubbish." It's worth nothing to understand this. This is the revelation of who God is. And if He doesn't reveal, we don't know Him. And for Him to reveal, He says, "*If a man wills to do His will...*" That's where it begins. And the first time I and you will to do His will, is when we understood, this is who we are – absolute reprobates, sinners. And He died for us. We looked at us and we looked at Him and we repented from our entire past. That's when we first submitted to His will. And that's when salvation became a reality for us. That's why in *Hebrews*, we don't have to go there, when he talks about the elementary, primary doctrine, the first doctrine is – repentance from dead works. All works which are dead. "Don't bring that in," God says. So, you have a whole set of Jewish Christians now putting aside the Judaism and all their teaching and sitting at the feet of Apostles who the Sanhedrin will call 'unlearned men' to understand the doctrine of Christ. It's an incredible change. Here are the set of people taught in Judaism, they leave them, and come to a set of fishermen who know the doctrine of Christ, and they are being taught. So, don't bring anything from your past. Don't try to use your past experiences outside of Christ and try to interpret that is happening because it will be false.

So, life for a new believer begins when he is born again. For a new believer, the difference between 'when I was born', 'when I was not born'; born again – these two differences. When I was born, I was born to life and I will move to death. When I was born again, I was born to death and I am moving into life – death of my old self and then new life in Christ. It's absolutely tangentially different. One – I was alive, and I will die. The other is – I have to die, "All things have passed away", I have to die so that I can be alive. That's why only those who were baptized, Scripture says, on the Day of Pentecost were taught doctrine because baptism symbol of your death, your burial, and your resurrection. Only they could be taught doctrine. Obviously, the caveat is – all children, all babies are excluded from doctrine because they have not died to self. So, either I am dead in my trespasses or I am dead to my trespasses. You can't have both. Either I am dead in my trespasses or I am dead to my trespasses, my sin. That's what Paul will say in *Ephesians 2*. He says,

Ephesians 2:1-5

¹ And you He made alive, who were dead (We were dead. In Christ we were, made alive) ***in trespasses and sins***, (Were dead in what? In, trespasses and sins.) **² in which you once walked...**

You were dead but you walked. This is dead men walking. It's not the movie, 'Dead men walking'. All the people you see on the earth, who do not have Christ in them, are dead men walking. Walking in, what?

...according to the course of this world (a dead world), ***according to the prince of the power of the air***, (who is already judged) ***the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience*** (His spirit is working in them) **³among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.** **⁴ But God**, (This is where the narrative changes) ***who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us***, (Scripture says) **⁵even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)**

That's how it begins. The beginning of salvation is in Christ and the end of our salvation also will be in Christ. It is a daily reality from death to life. I have to die to that old way of life and live in the new way of life. So, the question, the other

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caveat is, I am using legal terms today because I was listening to a lot news of too many lawyers speaking about – “What should the governor of Karnataka do?” So, caveats were being...”

Therefore, if I am not saved, it does not matter what teaching I receive or who teaches me. The Pharisees were not saved. So, it didn't matter that Jesus was teaching them. I am just decorating a dead body. The best clothes, the most expensive ornaments and the finest food make no difference to a dead body. It cannot receive them. So, the finest teacher, the finest doctrine of Christ is of no avail to a man or a woman who is not born again. He will receive it with his head and forget it in his mind. It cannot bring life to him. Remember that. All this has meaning only to a spiritually living person. Why? Because that's how we began. The living Word of God has effect only on a living person who has been birthed by the Word of God. In *James 1:18*,

James 1:18

¹⁸ Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of His creatures.

The start was with the Word of God and if that start wasn't given by the Word, it makes him no difference. Let me give you another caveat.

1 Corinthians 3:6-7

⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. ⁷ So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.

Let's leave Paul aside and God aside and increase aside. Let's look at the logic or the reasoning with the Scripture. Remember, if there is no seed in the ground, you can water as much as you want; nothing is going to come out. If there is not a seed that has germinated, the water is of no effect. Apollos can come and water as much as you want but God can give no increase because there is no seed. You have not been born by the Word. That is why we have to take these things very seriously. It is literally a life and death matter, eternal life and eternal death matter because the Word of God is real. Because every time I go to these places, the stunning factor is to see that, “Boy! Are they playing with their lives?” Pastors are playing with their lives because the Word of God is real. Therefore, it is very, very important that we have life from above inside.

It is not only enough that we have life, Scripture also says that life must grow.

1 Peter 2:2-3

² as newborn babies, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

He is using all illustrations from natural to the spiritual. The natural, fact of the matter is all of you including me, I don't know about you, I am hungry. I am waiting to go home. Why? Because you have a natural body which causes hunger. When your stomach is empty causes hunger. Scripture says, “If you are spiritually born again, even a baby (Tabitha's little baby is over there) he craves for milk.” The milk of God's Word. Scripture says,

...desire the pure milk of the word...

Not watered, not contaminated but the pure milk of the Word of God,

...that you may grow thereby,

It's a natural effect of being born again – you will crave, you will desire. You will crave for the Word of God and it doesn't matter when you are born again, it may be good news Bible, that's enough. You don't start with KJV. I didn't start with a KJV; I started with Good News. We need to understand, babies can't understand KJV, 'Thou', 'thee' and they will put it down. They need milk. You have to grow and we have to keep on growing.

2 Peter 3:18

¹⁸***but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.***

Proportionally. Scripture is very balance. He says, "Grow in the grace (that's the power of the Holy Spirit) and grow in knowledge." If you grow in knowledge without grace, one – you cannot handle this knowledge, pride comes in or you will fall. So, he says, "Grow in grace and grow in knowledge." If you grow in grace without knowledge you will go off track. Grow in knowledge, grow in grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. So, we have to grow. It is not enough to be alive. It's imperative that we grow in the doctrine of Christ. This knowledge of our Lord and Savior is the doctrine of Christ. We need to know our Father. We need to know who God is, how He functions.

This is a rule of creation, God's rule of nature – One of the rules of God's nature, God's creation, nature is –Nature will not accept a vacuum. You leave your house empty for three months, you come back, something has move in there – spiders, dust. You leave your garden just like that, you come back, weeds have over grown. Nature will not accept a vacuum. You have to grow. If you do not, your old man will grow. In *Ephesians 4:22*, it will tell you how the old man grows.

Ephesians 4:22

²²that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,

It grows more and more corrupt. See, if you don't put off, you cannot put in. If you are not accepting the teaching of Christ and not there for teaching of Christ, you don't know what to put off and what to put on. But the old man is growing, more and more angry; people are growing more and more angry. Lustful people are growing more and more lustful. Thieves are becoming bigger and bigger thieves. Only thing, they are covering it well. The old man is growing more and more corrupt while the new man is being transformed, if the doctrine of Christ and the grace of God is there, being transformed in the image of God. Meaning – once upon a time, the angry man is becoming more and more patient, law more and more kind, more and more longsuffering, more and more loving because something is happening inside. One is being put off and the other is being put on because nature will not accept a vacuum. That's why, if we are not taking the Word of God and changing within seriously, then you and I will definitely take the world and change within. It will not accept a vacuum. It will not. We were born by the Word of God and we also grow by the Word of God. That's why the call of God throughout the Bible, "My people shall live by faith, walk by faith." *Aur vishwaas kaha sey aatha hai? Sun ney sey. Aur sunayi kahasey aatha hai? Vachan sey* (Where do we get our faith from? Faith comes from hearing and hearing by the Word of God) and God says, "Walk by faith and when you walk by faith, you are walking by the Word of God and when you are walking by the Word of God, then you are actually walking." He says, in *Timothy*,

2 Timothy 4:7

⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

It was a fight to keep the faith. It's a daily fight and you fight every day of your life to align your thinking and your life to the doctrine of Christ. It's a daily fight which we cannot afford to ignore. It's a daily fight and he says, "*I have fought the good fight and I have kept the faith.*" It's a walk by faith and walking in the doctrine of Christ. Remember, it's all over here in the mind. It's a spiritual battle. It's a constant battle.

2 Corinthians 10:4

⁴For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

A stronghold is a false doctrine which has been established in your mind on which you function. What's a stronghold? A stronghold is a doctrine of man or a doctrine of demon. Remember the demons are spiritual beings. They are spirit beings. When Adam was created, God breathed into him and he became a living soul. So, the soul of man and the spirit of demons both are empowered by God and when they two come together, they have incredible power. That's why men in occult seek the help from demons because it's a soul and the spirit coming together. But Scripture says, "When you have a wrong doctrine in your mind, either of a man or a demon, it becomes a stronghold which has to be pulled down."

2 Corinthians 10:5

⁵ *casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ*

It's a battle. It's won or lost here in the mind. One thought. Every thought, over time, as we grow, the thoughts are being brought to the control of the Word of God. Otherwise, we will read circumstances, stuff that is happening in our lives using the doctrine of men which is established patterns or doctrine of demons and react wrongly and then, we say, "Lord, why are You not helping me? God says, "I don't. I can only do it My way. I can't do it your way." One thought, if you leave it alone and follow its course, it can cost destruction; it can cause loss unless God intervenes and grants repentance. Repentance is changing from a wrong pattern of thinking which leads to an action to a new pattern of thinking and a new way of living. Repentance involves both. You cannot just change your action and continue to think that same way, you will go back to it. Repentance involves much deeper than changing your action; it goes into changing the way you think. So, repentance is changing the pattern of the way you thought and God says, "Your action will start changing." Behind every action, there is a thought and we have seen this over and over again how one thought in a man of God or a woman of God can change or cause him to lose years of his life or his entire life. It is an often used as an example.

1 Samuel 27:1

¹ *And David said in his heart, (It is a thought, he didn't speak it out it was a thought). "Now I shall perish someday by the hand of Saul.*

"One day, Saul is going to kill me. I am tired running. I'm tired fighting this good fight. I'm tired. Let me take matter into my own hands." That's how people react. "I am tired of praying, I am tired of going to Church. Let me handle it my way." That's exactly what he is saying in our terms. "Let me handle it my way. I cannot keep running in the wilderness, in the desert and live in the caves. I'm going to do one thing – I'm going into the world. I'm going into the Philistine territory. Anyway, he is not going to come there and I'm going to have my peace." And Scripture says, "He went." It would literally cost him eight years and ten months of his life. On Sunday, we will come back to it again, that on earth, life has to be measured in terms of time – the most precious thing we have on earth. It is not gold or silver; it is time. It cost him. One thought because he followed that one thought which cause his eight years and ten months of his life. The first thing what happens in *1 Samuel 27:7*,

1 Samuel 27:7

⁷ *Now the time that David dwelt in the country of the Philistines was one full year and four months.*

How many months is that? Sixteen months.

2 Samuel 2:10-11

¹⁰ *Ishbosheth, Saul's son, was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and he reigned two years. Only the house of Judah followed David.* ¹¹ *And the time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.*

Put together eight years and ten months. Why? Why didn't the rest of Israel not follow David in Hebron? Because he spent sixteen months in the Philistine camp and they refused to trust him. You and I go into the world and spend a long time doing things in the world then, say, "I'm sorry. I come back. To earn your trust back will take time. So, your loss is not connected with the sixteen month you have lost." See, forgiveness is free; trust is not. Trust has to be earned. David had to wait seven years and six months before he could earn the trust all of Israel. So, technically speaking, because of one thought and when he followed to his logically conclusion, it cost him eight years and ten months of his life. So, we need to understand the power of a wrong thought. Power of a right thought is doctrine. Why I say this is because one of the primary weapons the enemy has used and always will use is especially what Jesus says in the last days, it is going to be fear and fear is going to be the primary weapon the enemy is going to use and has always used.

Luke 21:26

²⁶ *men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.*

That's how David was when he was afraid. Oh, if one day Saul will catch me and kill me and I am finished. Fear got in and he followed the pathway of fear. And this can be at so many levels. Fear almost always is connected with loss, fear of loss in this world or fear of loss of life. Ultimately, Jesus says, "Love not the world or the things of the world so that you are not worried of the loss. He says, "Love not your life." In *Revelation 12*, it talks about a set of people who have overcome the devil and about the three factors that are mentioned over there.

Revelation 12:11

¹¹And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

What does it mean? They didn't walk under condemnation; they knew their doctrine well. They knew if they had repented of their sin, none of the accusations of the devil matters. I am not under the condemnation, they knew their doctrine well. A lot of Christians who have been forgiven do not know doctrine, they believe the lies of the world, they walk in depression, discouragement, discontentment though they have repented. They keep repenting of the same sin, when the first time they have genuinely repented God has already forgiven and forgotten but the devil keeps them under condemnation because they don't know their doctrine. They want a physical experience, "Lord, give me an aesthetic experience, whisper in my ears that I am forgiven." God says, "Nothing like that. If I have spoken, that is enough. My word is enough. So, they walk under condemnation, how do you first overcome him?" By the Blood of the Lamb. Second – by the Word of their testimony. When the Word that they speak aligns with the doctrine of Christ and the Word of God, then he is defeated. Third – they did not love their life to the death. They were not afraid to die. If you are afraid to die, you can never be a soldier. You will be in Indian Army postal service, sealing letters all your life with the uniform. You cannot. So, you remember the three factors because the devil, what he will try to do in the last days is create fear and your fear should be real also. If your salvation is not real and you haven't heard from God, you have never repented and you don't see any signs of your life changing, don't be so gung-ho that, "If I die tomorrow, I'm going to Heaven." You will be like that rich man in the Parable – woke up in the wrong place. We have this term in English which is called 'Dutch-courage'. A lot of Christians have dutch-courage because their courage comes from false doctrines and if you ask them, "Where is it written?" They don't know. They will say, "My priest told me, my Pastor told me, the prophet prophesied over me." That is not your confirmation. Your confirmation should be, "It is written and I have believed and I have obeyed. That's my confirmation." I will not exalt anything in my life above the Word of God and if the Word God says it is true, then it is true and I am not going to rely on my feelings and subject the Word to my feelings. If the Word says, "I am free," I am free. My feelings don't have to tell me. I can be locked up in a prison in the midnight hour, my legs be locked up in the prison, but Christ says, "I am free," then I am free and I'm free, I will sing. That's what Paul and Silas do in the prison – they were free. Therefore, they sung. You have to understand how doctrine powerfully plays a role on how we reach to our situations? So, all the promises of God and 'yes and Amen' but fear the enemy uses against the promises of God. It was after he heard all that incredible promises of God, Abraham, when famine came, in fear, told Sarah, "Please say that you are not my wife." It is after that incredible experiences Isaac tells Rebekah, "Please say that you are not my wife." It is after the anointing and incredible protection and provision of God, that David goes into the Philistine camp. We will always see this over and over again, what man is capable of doing in fear, where the devil will come and cripple and all the promises of God stand still. It is 'yes and Amen' only in the life of somebody who believes because in effect, faith have been replaced by fear. It is replaced by fear.

If my people in that mountainous country, where all of them told that they never use to sitting for more than 40 minutes, could sit for 5 hours without moving, with a 10-minute break in between. 5 hours. You can do better and that too, hearing me speak their language – 5 hours. Okay, it's not even pure Nepali; it's Nepali from a Mallu mouth. Let's look at a promise. Here is a promise, incredible promise in *1 Kings 11*.

1 Kings 11:29-31

²⁹Now it happened at that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite met him on the way; and he had clothed himself with a new garment, and the two were alone in the field. ³⁰Then Ahijah took hold of the new garment that was on him and tore it into twelve pieces. ³¹And he said to Jeroboam, "Take for yourself ten pieces, for thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: 'Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and will give ten tribes to you

Think about it. It's not like, "I will tear the kingdom out of..." You have to read everything carefully. If God were to say, "I will tear the kingdom of Saul from you and I will give you," Saul's kingdom, he is fighting his enemies, losing and hiding out; but this is Solomon! Solomon is the zenith of Israel's power and wealth and royalty, splendor; He says, "Solomon's, I will divide into twelve and I will give you ten!" What a promise of a guy! He is not even a part of a royal family; he was just an official. Unbelievable promise. First thing we need to understand; why we bring these things also is to apply in normal terms. First, what we understand is the sovereignty of God - earth and its fullness belongs to God. God puts rulers; He changes rulers; rulers are not decided either by the ballot or bullet, it is decided by God. And God has given His people to pray and intercede until they see a finality. We need to learn that.

Another battle is going on over there. Never cease praying because even when the other side comes into power, don't speak because the demons and the devil work. He has no ethics, he has no righteousness, he will use every crooked way and the only set of people who can block the powers of darkness is the Church. Nobody else has the power to break them and the Church is asleep because they don't understand the spiritual realities of what is happening. David was given the kingdom. David was given a promise, Solomon is the height of it; God says, "So what? I look at him, he has gone away from Me. I will do one thing, I am going to take ten tribes, give it to an official; two tribes to him for the sake of David. That's how I govern. Earth is mine. I choose whom my want, and I will look for people who will obey Me and who will walk in Me." And He can give it to any one whom He chooses, but He is not whimsical. He is just not like any wind, "Why will He do that? Why does He do things?" In *verses 32-33*,

1 Kings 11:32-33

³²(but he shall have one tribe for the sake of My servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel) (David and Jerusalem), ³³because they have forsaken Me, and worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the people of Ammon, and have not walked in My ways to do what is right in My eyes and keep My statutes and My judgments, as did his father David.

So, it's a lesson to us. He says, "If you don't handle the idolatry in your life, I will hand you over to the enemy. I will take what I give to you, what is rightfully yours. All the promises will be of no effect in your life, I will take it away and give it to somebody, who will at least walk in My ways for a few years. It could be your house-maid, I will take it from you, the grace that was meant for you and give it her, because she chose to follow Me when you did not." God says, "Understand how My Kingdom works. Every promise is connected to My righteousness and if you don't seek My righteousness, seek My doctrine and walk in that, I will find somebody who will."

1 Kings 11:37-40

³⁷So I will take you, and you shall reign over all your heart desires, and you shall be king over Israel. ³⁸Then it shall be, if you heed all that I command you, walk in My ways, and do what is right in My sight, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as My servant David did, then I will be with you and build for you an enduring house, as I built for David, and will give Israel to you

Wow! He is telling an official in the Solomon's court, "I don't differentiate between people. I don't look at outward. I look at every man. I am fair and I am just. If you will do what David did, I will build a house for you as I built a house for David. No difference. I am fair; I am just; I am righteous." And He will say,

³⁹And I will afflict the descendants of David because of this, but not forever.'

"I always show mercy to one descendant because of David. He was faithful; In *verse 40*, Scripture says about Solomon – what happens is, Solomon knows about it. How? It's like the White House. Everything leaks out of the White House. Ahijah meets Jeroboam in the wilderness. Still, the news leaked!

⁴⁰Solomon therefore sought to kill Jeroboam.

Jeroboam must have whispered to somebody; that whisper reached the palace. What did Solomon do? Sought to kill Jeroboam. What did Solomon tried to do? Kill! So, what is the difference between a carnal Saul who is chasing David who is been chosen and a wise Solomon who is chasing Jeroboam who is chosen? Did you see, at the end, they became the same?

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Solomon is chasing Jeroboam! Understand, all these things of wisdom, power, glory and all makes no difference, if you don't get doctrine right, that God owns everything, let His will be done in our lives; let His will be done in our homes; let His will be done over all the earth. So, all the promises are 'yes and Amen'. But they are also dependent upon on man's obedience to the ways of God.

Let me tell you – one thought, one thought left to his natural conclusion, can take away all the promises of God from your life. One thought. If you don't bring it to alignment with Christ. One thought. In *1 Kings 12:26-27*, one thought.

1 Kings 12:26-27

²⁶ And Jeroboam said in his heart (what did he say?)

What you say in your heart is perfectly fine if it aligns with what God has spoken to you. Now, what he is saying in his heart is exactly opposite to God's Word. He says,

... "Now the kingdom may return to the house of David:

Did God say that? He didn't say that. He says, "You are faithful. If you walk in My ways as David walked, I will build an enduring house for you." Now, he is looking there and he says, "Okay. I have become king now. Solomon is dead. That fellow has got two tribes; I have ten. But the problem is – he has got Judah. I have got all the others." The problem is – Jerusalem is in Judah and God has ordained a lot of stuff about why everybody should go to Jerusalem. Now, he says, "There is a problem here." He is thinking in a carnal way – the kingdom will refer to the house of Judah.

²⁷ If these people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn back to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and go back to Rehoboam king of Judah."

One thought. Fear was instilled in his heart. Problem is – when we fear, we forget what was told to us by God and what was told to us by God can be only kept by God. It can be only kept by God when you and I walk in faith. What did he do? Verse 28 says that he did not seek God; he sought

1 Kings 12:28-29

²⁸ Therefore the king asked advice...

That's what we do – we don't go to God; we don't go to godly people; we ask for advice. And what do people give? Extremely wonderful, carnal, worldly advice. They said,

...made two calves of gold...

This is Israel; this is Judah. Hebron, Dan – extreme. He said, "Put a golden calf here; put a golden calf there. That's all and tell the people 'why do you want to go so far away?'" Do you see that? So far away.

²⁹ And he set up one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan.

What is the first thing the enemy does? Apply it. What is the first thing the enemy does? The first thing the enemy does is change the focus of our faith from God to money. That's what most of the preaching, today, is about. It's not about God; it's not about sacrifice; it's not about obedience unto death; it's about money and prosperity in this world. What did Jeroboam do? The first thing he said to the people was, "Okay, I will make a slight change over here. Let's turn our hearts and minds from focusing on God and focusing on money – the golden calves." Slight alteration. When a man gets a thought in his head and he starts applying wrong doctrine, you will see what happens – from God to money. Then, what did he do? In verse 29,

²⁹ And he set up one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan.

What did you do? What do we do? What we do is, we change the worship, the service of God according to our convenience. He said, "You don't have to go to Jerusalem. It's too far away. I will make it convenient. Pick up the time of

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your service; pick up the place of your service. You don't have to go to a place where there is authentic worship and also where you will be cut to the heart. No, pick something very close to your house." God at your disposal; not you at God's disposal. We change the place of service. All remember one thought and this will last through the history of Israel until Josiah comes but it is too late by then. A small revival and Israel goes into captivity. Where did it start? It started with one thought in one king's life when God had given him all the promises. The first thing he does is change the heart of people from God to money to prosperity; from sacrifice, from giving to getting. You can put it in different ways.

Second – make it into a worship of convenience. First, he corrupts worship. Then,

1 Kings 12:31

³¹He made shrines on the high places, and made priests from every class of people, who were not of the sons of Levi.

What did he do next? He changed order of God's priesthood. Old Testament and New Testament, it is said; in the New Testament, he talks about the Old Testament law. In *Hebrews 7:13-14*,

Hebrews 7:13-14

¹³For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar.

¹⁴For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.

Priesthood was for Levi. What did you do? You changed the order of priesthood? He said, "Anybody can be a priest." The problem is *Hosea 4:6*, God says,

Hosea 4:6

⁶My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

Why did Levi become priest? Because they were willing to die for their God when Moses came down from the mountain. The criteria for being a priest for God was to put God above everything else in your life. He compromised the standard for ministry. That's what you see – any Christian publication – "Class 10 fail, please apply." We brought the standard down so that anybody can come and teach and preach. "No problem. Come." Priesthood is a calling. The calling is based on a sacrifice. Go ask any priest, "What did you leave?" Ask Peter, "What did you leave?" Peter said. "I left everything." Ask John, "What did you leave?" He said, "I left everything." Paul said, "I left everything and I consider it as rubbish." Understand spiritual principles. There were laws. In the Old Testament, that was a letter but these are spiritual principles in the Bible of who can be priests. And when we change that, destruction slowly comes into the Church and then, into the nations. That's what we saw earlier. God said, "Many must not be teachers." So, he changed focus of worship; he makes worship into a matter of convenience and he changes the priesthood. And he went even further than any king in Israel or Judah. In verse 32, Scripture says,

1 Kings 12:32

³²Jeroboam ordained a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the feast that was in Judah, and offered sacrifices on the altar.

Did you see that? Can you go to *Leviticus 23:34*? If you don't study and look at it carefully, we will not see.

Leviticus 23:34

³⁴Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to the Lord.

Which was the date? Fifteenth day of the seventh month. He even changed the date of the Tabernacles. No king ever dared to change the date of God's festivals. He even changed the date. That's what the Antichrist will finally do – he will change the times and laws. You have in Israel's history a type of the Antichrist who is sitting and changing the focus of their worship from God to mammon. When you always worship mammon, you always worship the devil. From the place God has chosen to a place of convenience; from the priesthood God has chosen to anybody who wants, you can get in; and then, finally, he

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changed the times. One thought to a man who was given all the promises. One thought. Did you see that one thought which will lead to the downfall of Israel where God keeps on repeating over and over about the sin of Jeroboam? Through the Bible, the sin of Jeroboam, how it corrupted the entire nation. He changed the object of worship from God to self; place of service to a place of convenience. He said, "You can choose your priest. Anybody." *2 Timothy 4:3* – this is Jeroboam.

2 Timothy 4:3

³For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

Yes, now, they choose their teachers. That's what people do – flip God, flip Suvartha, flip. "I don't like him. He is too hard. He is also too hard." They choose their own teachers. Jeroboam is ruling and reigning. He changed the times and the seasons and *verse 33*,

1 Kings 12:33

³³So he made offerings on the altar which he had made at Bethel on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, in the month which he had devised in his own heart.

Everything, he planned it out in his own heart.

We know what happens, right? About how God warns him over the altar, the young prophet who comes, the hand that is withered; all that. We know the altar broke into two, the ashes. In spite of it all, you know what Scripture says? In *1 Kings 13*, in spite of seeing the hand of God, the hand of judgment, the hand of power, Scripture says,

1 Kings 13:33-34

³³After this event Jeroboam did not turn from his evil way...

God could do whatever He wanted – a miracle – first, his hand was withered and the hand was straightened. Nothing.

...but again he made priests from every class of people for the high places; whoever wished, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places.³⁴ And this thing was the sin of the house of Jeroboam, so as to exterminate and destroy it from the face of the earth.

See? He killed the house of Jeroboam. He did not leave Jeroboam anyone that breathed until He had destroyed him according to the Word of the Lord which he had spoken by His Servant, Ahijah. God said, "I will destroy his house. Nobody will be left." You see, you can destroy the family of Jeroboam. You cannot easily destroy the doctrine he has brought. Jeroboam and his family are all dead but Scripture says in *1 King 15:33*,

1 Kings 15:33-34

³³In the third year of Asa king of Judah, Baasha the son of Ahijah became king over all Israel in Tirzah, and reigned twenty-four years. ³⁴He did evil in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin by which he had made Israel sin.

You can destroy a man and his entire family but the doctrine he has taught can live after him. Marx is dead and gone; Marxism still kills people. It still kills people.

1 Kings 16:23, 25-26

²³In the thirty-first year of Asa king of Judah, Omri became king over Israel, and reigned twelve years. Six years he reigned in Tirzah.

And what is written about him in the next verses?

²⁵Omri did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and did worse than all who were before him. ²⁶For he walked in all the ways of

Jeroboam the son of Nebat,

He set a doctrine and he is walking in that doctrine. He is dead and gone; his family is gone.

The next one; now, we are coming to Ahab.

1 King 16:30-31

³⁰Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord, more than all who were before him.

Why is it happening that way? Because that's the nature of a destructive doctrine or a righteous doctrine. The righteous doctrine will grow stronger and stronger as it goes down with those who receive it wholeheartedly. The evil doctrine will also grow stronger and stronger with those who receive it. That's why God says, "In the last days, it will be terrible times." It is because of the doctrine people believe.

³¹And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat...

When it came to Ahab, he didn't even bother. It was a small thing. Others, at least, had some fear. This fellow had no fear also. On top of that, he went to another extreme and,

...that he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him.

It's getting more and more worse. Do you see that?

1 Kings 22:51-52

⁵¹Ahaziah the son of Ahab became king over Israel in Samaria in the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned two years over Israel. ⁵²He did evil in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the way of his father and in the way of his mother and in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin;

When it comes to doctrine, God will go back to the origin – "This is the fellow who gave that doctrine."

2 Kings 3:1-3

¹Now Jehoram the son of Ahab became king over Israel at Samaria in the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned twelve years. ²And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, but not like his father and mother; for he put away the sacred pillar of Baal that his father had made. (he is a little good but,) ³Nevertheless he persisted in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin; he did not depart from them.

That is one thing they could not escape. They all fell to that false doctrine. Jehu was specifically anointed for a purpose. You know Jehu? In 1 Kings, when Elijah comes down from the mountain,

1 Kings 19:15-17

¹⁵Then the Lord said to him: "Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, anoint Hazael as king over Syria. ¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi as king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place. (Why?) ¹⁷It shall be that whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill; and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill.

We know it was Jehu who kills Ahab and Jezebel and all of that. In 2 Kings 10:28-29,

2 Kings 10:28-29

²⁸Thus Jehu destroyed Baal from Israel. ²⁹However Jehu did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin, that is, from the golden calves that were at Bethel and Dan.

You see the power of a destructive doctrine. Even Jehu, who has been specifically anointed for a purpose, he is not able to

break that doctrine. That is from the golden calves that were there at Bethel at Dan. Even Jehu failed. Verse 30-31. You know what God tells Jehu?

2 Kings 10:30-31

³⁰*And the Lord said to Jehu, “Because you have done well in doing what is right in My sight, and have done to the house of Ahab all that was in My heart, your sons shall sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation.”* ³¹*But Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the Lord God of Israel with all his heart; for he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam, who had made Israel sin.*

You know what? Because he did this, God said something, “You will only have four generations on the throne. I will not build a house for you.” You know what that is? It is *Exodus 20:4*. God sticks to His Word. Why we look at this is because God will never change His Word for anybody.

Exodus 20:4-5

⁴*You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; ⁵you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,*

He said, “I will visit up to the fourth. Up to the fourth, if I see idolatry is continuing and they don’t change,” He is talking to believers; He says, “I will cut them off.” He looks at Jehu. God, who sees the end from the beginning, “You’ve been so wonderful. You did almost everything I told you but one thing you haven’t done; you haven’t gotten away from the idolatry of Jeroboam. Therefore, you will last four generations. Your children will last up to the fourth generation.”

2 Kings 13:1-2

¹*In the twenty-third year of Joash the son of Ahaziah, king of Judah, Jehoahaz the son of Jehu became king over Israel in Samaria, and reigned seventeen years.* ²*And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, and followed the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin. He did not depart from them.*

Who is this? Jehoahaz. The next one;

2 Kings 13:10-11

¹⁰*In the thirty-seventh year of Joash king of Judah, Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz (Who is this? Jehu’s grandson,) became king over Israel in Samaria, and reigned sixteen years.* ¹¹*And he did evil in the sight of the Lord. He did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin, but walked in them.*

This is the grandson. Two generations.

2 Kings 14:23-24

²³*In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, (this is the third generation,) became king in Samaria, and reigned (how many years?) forty-one years.* ²⁴*And he did evil in the sight of the Lord; he did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin.*

Now, the fourth generation. Who is the fourth one?

2 Kings 15:8-9

⁸*In the thirty-eighth year of Azariah king of Judah, Zechariah the son of Jeroboam (this is the fourth generation after Jehu,) reigned over Israel in Samaria six months.* ⁹*And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, as his fathers had done; he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin.*

Four generations are over.

2 Kings 15:10-11

¹⁰ *Then Shallum the son of Jabesh conspired against him, and struck and killed him in front of the people; and he reigned in his place.* ¹¹ *Now the rest of the acts of Zechariah, indeed they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.*

God said, "Out." He just picked a common guy, killed the fourth one in front of the people and said, "Your four generations are over. You did not change." Over. What God had spoken to Moses in Mount Sinai, will come to pass in every one of your lives. "I will not tolerate the sin of Jeroboam." It's a heresy. It's a doctrine that brings destruction. That's why we see the importance of doctrine. God is just. God has to be righteous and we have to fall in line with God and His ways and we will always uphold His righteousness and only the line of David will survive.

In the same way, please remember – in us, among us, only the line of Christ will survive. Christ in us. That's why we don't get all flustered by all that is happening. We stand steadfast on what we know is true and we keep building on it. So, watch your doctrine. Watch your life. If there is a mist in the pulpit, there will be a fog in the pew. Remember what I said in the beginning – if there is a mist in the pulpit, if there is a mist that covers here, you will be covered by a fog. So, God says, "Be careful. Everyone who teaches, get your doctrine right." And he tells Timothy, "Work hard that you correctly divide the Word of God." Because we see the power of a destructive doctrine. One doctrine that started as one thought and how it destroys a nation. Amen? Let's pray.

Closing Prayer:

Father, we just come to You, Lord. We just thank You. We just praise You. We just worship You, Lord. As a Church, we are here, Lord, on the 25th day of our fasting. We are asking You to cleanse, not only our physical bodies but also our minds of every doctrine we may have received which is not true, which does not align with Your Word. We want to test everything, Lord, with the Word of God. We want to be very sure that what we accept in our lives is approved by God because, O Father, we are not seeking to establish our own kingdom; we are seeking to establish Your Kingdom in our lives. So, once again, we pray, Father, Thy will be done on earth as it is Heaven. Your Kingdom come. For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory. It is not ours. Our bodies are at Your disposal. However weak it may be; it is Yours and for You and You alone. For Your Word says, "The body for the Lord and the Lord for the body." Our minds are Yours. Help us not to conform our mind to the pattern of this world but to renew it according to Your Word. Help us to humble ourselves always under Your hand for You said You will lift us up in due season. We come and surrender before Your Word and Your Spirit once again, Lord. Continue to minister to us through this day, through this week. Thank You, Father. You brought us safely. We commit ourselves into Thy hands that You will reach us home safely. Thank You, Father. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.