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#1 Genesis My Journey Back to the Garden

Hello, welcome back.

So, I said in my last video—God willing—the first video will come out Thursday or Friday, and that was last week. I did not know Wednesday of the following week would be more like it. Let me say this: it's so much harder than anything I have ever done, but all the more rewarding.

So, I am still learning how to operate smoothly. You might hear my dog bark—uh, snore. He might snore. Yes, my dog snores. And sometimes I might lose my train of thought, but just hang in there with me. I just got to get more and more comfortable bringing it all together.

So, let's pray. Father, please bless the first leg of our journey. Help us to understand and apply Your truths. In Jesus' name, amen.

Okay. So Scripture is like an auto stereogram—a picture in a picture. For the longest time, in reading the Bible, I only saw the picture on the page, and that was enough for then. But wow, now it seems like the words leap off the page, and they're a picture in a picture. It's beautiful.

And I have to say, when those first came out, I was so frustrated. I could not see the picture in the picture for the life of me. Finally, when I would put it up really close to my face and then pull it back, I finally could. But it was very frustrating.

So, I've talked to a lot of people, and they admit that reading and understanding the Bible—it's like a lot. It's a lot like this picture in a picture, and they get frustrated that they can't understand it. And I totally understand that because that was me in the beginning some 36 years ago. And that's partly why I was so drawn to start sharing how the Father showed me the picture within His picture.

So, the Bible is like a puzzle as well, and it's so cool when the puzzle pieces start coming together. And even though we will never truly finish this puzzle, what a fantastic journey it is to discover more pieces.

Okay, so let's get started on the puzzle. Now, God has always wanted to dwell with us. He wanted a family. He wants to be the Lord of our home and to be welcome in our home. And that's why holiness is so important. Home is where you live and walk out your faith. And home is in your heart.

Now, the natural always teaches and reflects the spiritual. So, what's in your heart will always be evidenced in your home eventually.

So, we are going to read Exodus 30:34: "Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle." And that word for tabernacle is *a well*, and it means a home.

"Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are." And holy means *kesh*—a sacred place or thing, apartness, holiness, sacredness, and separateness.

So, we will see in Scripture how we're going to be wise in how we build a home the Lord can live in—and the relationships in the home.

So, in John 1:10: "He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God—to those who believe in His name, who were born not of blood, nor of the will of flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

So, this is how we all start—as babies, as children, born into a home. But God wants us to eventually grow up.

So, a pastor shared a funny thought. He said, "If God has to part your mustache to give you milk, it's time to get off the milk." And I thought that was really funny.

So, God wants us to grow into spiritual maturity. In Hebrews 5:12 it says, "For by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those

who are of full age—that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” And so God longs for us to grow up. Okay, we got to grow up.

So this is one way to look at our relationship with God—as His children who are growing into spiritual maturity. Now let’s look at the other.

“So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body. ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ Now, this mystery is great, but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.”

In 2 Corinthians 11:2: “For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin.” “Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.”

So the example of Christ and the church in a marriage corresponds to our earthly marriages between one man and one woman in purity. You have a garment of salvation that’s been given to you—His righteousness through Christ our Lord. But our responsibility is to keep our garments clean, and we do that by obedience to His commandments. In John 14:15: “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments,” Christ says.

So, marriage is taking His name and all that it implies: “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.” Now we are to model this in the world. We are to teach this to our children—that they are to remain pure until marriage—because Christ compares our relationship to Him in a marriage covenant. The bar is high. Should we expect no less from the living God? Is it impossible? Um, yes. But with Christ all things are possible.

Let’s live His way, not our way. Let’s fear and respect God and His commandments. Have you noticed we don’t fear God anymore? I mean, just look at the world. Fear has left the building—the eklesia, the body of Christ. Nothing has changed of what is expected of us in regards to holiness. Christ did not come to set us free from bondage in order to sin.

So, speaking of the fear of God: “And Moses said to the people, ‘Do not fear, for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you so that you may not sin.’ So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was.”

Fear means fear. It means awesome or terrifying thing. It means respect, fear of God, reverence, piety, revered. Notice that it’s “His fear may be before you so that you may not sin.” The goal is that His fear produces righteousness. “Because the fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe.” “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

So, God knows that if we will have the fear of Him, then we will not walk in sin.

So, as the Lord started showing me those two ways to process a relationship with Him—the first, a Father to His children. Now, for those of us who are parents, we can relate to this. We bore our children out of love, and the minute they can understand, we start instructing them at their level on how to grow in their relationship within the family and with God so that they can grow into God-loving, mature, responsible adults. Children are arrows that are meant to be shot out so they can start families of their own. God says, “Be fruitful and multiply.”

So, the other way is as a Groom to His bride. Now, a Groom to His bride is where the commandments become more like our wedding vows—kept out of a mature love. God longs to be known and reveal Himself to us, just as we do in our marriage relationships.

Now, to become a child of God or be a bride means you’re in covenant with God. You come into His family, and He will love you like no other, and He will instruct you in His house. When I started reading the Old Testament through this understanding, I started to understand God’s frustration at His children who refused to grow up and—as His bride—who was constantly unfaithful, especially because we were bought with the precious blood of Christ.

Okay. So, let’s keep these two perspectives in mind when we’re going to go through the Scriptures—that God is talking to us as a Father and also as a Groom to His bride.

Okay. The Bible says we are a temple—a house. God wants to dwell in a house that is holy. So, we will see in the next few slides how, in Matthew 7, Jesus is describing how the wise and foolish men are building their house. But we first must understand the following.

In the world today, there’s a lot of mixture of good and evil. So the houses of the wise and foolish sometimes look the same. But it’s the deeds that will separate or reveal whether it’s the house of the foolish man or the wise man. Sometimes a wise man will do foolish things, and sometimes the foolish man will do wise things.

So, God’s establishment of holiness and the truth of the Word of God reminds us of how we are supposed to walk. It sets us apart. Jesus walked holiness out perfectly. So, we follow the Leader. We need reminders of how we are to act, the deeds we’re supposed to do, the house we’re supposed to be a part of. And since we know we need so much support and prayer to stay in the wise man’s house, we will pray for the foolish man who needs to surrender his life to God and to come live in the wise man’s house.

So, Satan is always trying to lure us to come into the foolish man’s house and make ourselves comfortable. It’s these deceptions and tactics of the enemy that we’re going to be exploring. Now, there are varying degrees of foolishness, but the progression of the foolish will lead to worse offenses and eventually death if not repented of.

So, in varying degrees, some people are just wicked and evil, and you can plainly tell. But there’s others who are just ignorant, and still others who do what’s right in their own eyes—eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Satan’s going to try to pollute all

that is holy to God, and he's going to try to tell you that it's okay to walk on the broad road. Okay? So, we don't walk on the broad road. We don't want to.

So, let's learn how to—we're going to see how the wise man built his house: "By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established." "And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him."

"Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of Mine and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock." "For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ." "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber." "So Jesus said to them again, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.'" "But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy.'"

So we see: the wise man builds his house. The door—the only way to build this house—is through Jesus. And in this house you're practicing holiness, and you're making progress.

Okay. So now let's go to—well, notice the wise man should expect the rains, floods, and the winds to blow and beat on his house. We don't like tests. We're wary of it. Um, but have you ever met someone that has been trained by those things in their life? And their response is that they are, for the most part, so loving and kind. Now, we know this takes time, discipline, and prayer, but they are a true witness to what God can accomplish in our lives if we will be patient and cling to Him through it all.

So, it seems the best way for us to become like Christ is to be trained by hardship. Hardship reveals who we really are—inside and out. Will we love God and our neighbor through it all? Testing will tell.

Okay, let's move on to the next house: "Yet He also is wise and will bring disaster, and will not call back His words, but will arise against the house of evildoers, and against the help of those who work iniquity." "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it." "Now, everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall." "And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light." "Then God said to Cain, 'Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door, and its desire is for you, but you must master it.'" "In 1 John 3:4: Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness." "And we know Satan is called the lawless one. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worship—so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God."

So we see the house of the foolish man. It's a deceptive house. It's a house of pride. It's built on sand. It's going to fall. The light around the heart and the door is the deception of the enemy to get you to come in. But it's full of darkness.

So, the foolish man's house also experiences the rain, the floods, and the winds—and it slams against that house, and it falls, and great is its fall. So the foolish man has the same experiences and testings, but he is on his own because he, for whatever reason, is not in covenant with God. Much of the time, the reason is the foolish man wants to do life his way. "Harsh discipline is for him who forsakes the way, and he who hates correction will die."

So, this is the house the enemy loves. We will see just how unoriginal our enemy is. He's a counterfeiter and seeks to lure the world in—to pollute all that God calls holy. So even though it looks like this counterfeit house would be really easy to identify, we must remember the enemy is really good at what he does. Just think of Adam and Eve. That's why we rely solely on the Word of God to establish what is holy.

God is always extending His love. He doesn't wish that any would perish, but that all would come to repentance.

So now we have two perspectives of how we listen to the Father—either wise or foolish. Now let's look at these two from another perspective: "There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

So, in any assembly or congregation, you have the tares and the wheat. Now, wheat is good seed representing the righteous or true believers. And a tare is a kind of darnel resembling wheat, except the grains are black—darnel, or false grains—tares. In Matthew it says, "Let both grow together until the harvest. And at the time of harvest, I will say to the reapers, 'First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather thy wheat into My barn.'" And you can read about that parable in Matthew 13.

Now, this is why holiness is so important. We need to be able to identify a tare and not be led astray by their behavior. They walk amongst us in all our congregations. It's important to understand that even in the congregation you attend, there are tares amongst the wheat. And this does not exclude pastors, leaders, and teachers. The deeds of a person reveal who they are and what they believe. God's holiness—His Word—is our guide. And we see this all in how Jesus walked: "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me." (John 6:38)

So, let's set the scene. It's nighttime, and we are in the wilderness. This is what it feels like right now in the world. It's dark. It's scary. We are troubled, and many of us are ready to go home. But in the meantime, we are to win souls, make disciples, and we need to be prepared to receive a kingdom. We need training. Who better to train us than Christ?

So, what is our end goal? Well, it's the garden where the Tree of Life is—but, you know, it's also the holy city: New Jerusalem, the Bride. Now, Christ has already secured our passage, but we

are kind of in a job interview with Jesus. Exactly where can Jesus place us in His kingdom? Are we prepared? Are we fit to rule and reign with Christ in the millennium? What level of responsibility are we qualified for?

Are we wanting to stay a child and just bask in all the blessings, refusing to grow up? Do we misbehave too much, not getting along and loving our neighbor as ourselves? What are we doing with the talents God has given us? Have we made a holy home for Christ to dwell in? Or is the Holy Spirit quenched daily? Are we in bondage to sin and aren't even really in the game? Have we become citizens of this earth—so earthly minded we forgot that we are just pilgrims traveling through?

Now, prayerfully, we will discover together how to be citizens of the Kingdom while we wait for our Bridegroom to come get us.

So, buckle up your seat belts—or, I guess I should say, put on your sandals—and let's get started in Genesis.

"Genesis 1:1: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. And then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light." "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being."

So, the Word is Jesus. "God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from darkness. God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening, and there was morning—one day." "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it." "Then Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life.'"

So, Jesus is the light, and if we follow Him, we're not going to walk in darkness. So He's the light of our house—us being the temple—and of our physical home. Remember, the physical reflects the spiritual. We are separated from darkness by our obedience to God's commandments.

"This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the Light and does not come to the Light, for fear that his deeds will be exposed; but he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God." "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.'"

So, if you're practicing the truth, you walk as Christ walked. "Psalm 119: Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Your law is truth." So we see that Christ is the truth, and He walks in the law. The law is truth.

“2 Corinthians: Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?” Believers—righteousness equals light. “Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.’” “For the commandment is a lamp, and the law is light.”

So the commandment is a lamp, and the law is a light. Should make us think of Matthew 25, the parable of the wise and foolish virgins: “Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the Bridegroom. Now five of them were wise and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.” For the commandment is a lamp, and the law is a light to guide you on your way.

Now let’s go to the unbelievers—lawlessness equals darkness. “Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.” “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’”

So, on day one, God separated light from darkness. *Separated* means in how we walk in this world—how we live—not going to some mountain to be separate from society. You’re going to be separated in how you live in comparison to an unbeliever as you walk in this world.

Now, a wise man loves his brother. In 1 John 2:10: “The one who loves his brother abides in the Light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.” So, we see the wise man loves his brother, and in his house Jesus is the Light and Truth. The law is light and truth, and we are sons of the Light.

The foolish man hates his brother. 1 John 2:9: “The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now.” So we see the foolish man’s house—the darkness. There is darkness. The deeds are evil, and he hates the Light, and he is lawless.

Now, darkness is not equal to light—in the sense of God being Light and Satan being darkness. They are not equal in power. God is almighty, and Satan will be thrown in the lake of fire. “Now, even the darkness is not dark to You”—to God—“and the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to You.”

That’s day one: “There was evening, and there was morning—one day.” So, we notice that the day begins and ends in the evening.

Now, notice that there is light, but the sun, the moon, and the stars haven’t been created yet. God is so smart to tie our deeds and our professed love for Him with how we treat our brother—to reveal either light or darkness inside of us. In 1 John 4:20 it says, “If someone says, ‘I love God,’ but hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?”

So, criminals take cover in the darkness—and, you know what? Sometimes so do we. But darkness is as light to God, so He sees all our deeds. There is nothing that is hidden from Him.

We often don't even know the darkness in our own soul. "But all things are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give an account." And that's in Hebrews 4:13.

God's Word always distinguishes darkness from light—and that is probably one reason, if we are walking in the darkness, why we don't read our Bibles, why we stop going to church. We need to keep that in mind.

"Genesis 1:6: Then God said, 'Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' God made the expanse and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so. God called the expanse heaven. And there was evening and there was morning—a second day."

"And He said to me, 'The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues.' So, waters can represent people.

John 4:14: "Jesus answered and said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst. But the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.'"

"But the wicked are like the tossing sea, for it cannot be quiet, and its waters toss up refuse and mud. 'There is no peace,' says my God, 'for the wicked.' John 7:38: "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

"These are spots in your love feast, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit—twice dead, pulled up by the roots; raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever."

So we see that God made the expanse and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse, and it was so. God called the expanse heaven, and there was evening and there was morning—a second day.

So, we see waters can equal people. The wise man is going to have a well of water springing up to eternal life. And the foolish man—the wicked—are like the tossing sea. They have no peace.

So, I hope you see in the first two days that God is separating light from darkness—a believer from an unbeliever—both in how they walk. Each day of creation is going to reveal a different way of saying the same thing: that we are to be separated from darkness and walk in His light.

So, we're going to stop here on day two of creation. We will continue our journey of creation—day three—God willing, sooner rather than later.

"So, let not the wise man boast in his wisdom; let not the mighty man boast in his might; let not the rich man boast in his riches; but let him who boasts boast in this: that he understands and knows Me." (Jeremiah 9:23–24) May God bless your week and your study of His Word.

