

Ladies, that was awesome. I won't take too much training and those two could take that show on the road. Hi, my name's Bob. I'm one of the elders.

I stand in for Phil when he's gone. And he purposely didn't announce that he was leaving last week because he knew all the regulars would be playing hucky. Apparently the word got out because there's something you're missing anyway. The other thing we're having is another symptom of the crash that you all feel is that so many of our families that we love dearly are leaving us.

And both of these young ladies, their other husbands are two more victims being moved out to parts unknown. And we sure wish them well, we will miss them. By the way, before we get started, Jake forgot one little announcement, which is next week. It's church in a park.

And for if anybody hasn't been to church in a park before, we have it down right down the road at the Colton Pavilion. You'll see all the equipment and the speakers and all that. You can't miss it. And we provide hamburgers and hot dogs and drinks and most of the people will bring a side dish of some kind.

It's up to you. If you don't have a side dish, don't let that deteriorate. Just come on down. We usually have plenty of food and it's a really good time.

We do a perpraise of worship and a lesson. And then we have a barbecue afterwards. So it's usually very enjoyable. What we're going to do is, well, we have been in the book of [Revelation](#) for the last two years.

And what happens is we go through a little bit, pick her way through a little bit, and then we get sidetracked and go off into something else. And I had to sat down and had a talk with Phil and decided what we're going to do is get back into the book of [Revelation](#). And we're going to pick up the pace and we're going to get through it. Now, I see that we have a lot of new people that haven't been able to keep up with what's been going on.

All the information from the past is available on CD if you want to see Lance or Phil. And they can set you up with that. What I'm going to do today is I'm going to reintroduce chapter 12, since we're at. We're going to talk a little bit about that.

I'm going to introduce a couple of the characters that are in that chapter. And I'm going to talk about miracles, which is what's coming up. And a little bit about current topics and what's coming up. Last week, Phil gave many of the reasons we know the Bible is true.

One of the strongest arguments is the fact of fulfilled prophecy. The reality that there are hundreds of prophecies given in the Bible. And never once in Scripture as a prophecy been given and not failed to come true exactly as it was given. Now, given this track record, we can look at what's coming up in the book of [Revelation](#).

And we can know that we can trust what the Lord is telling us is going to happen. Last couple of times I've taught and I don't teach very often, I forgot to give my place and get scrambled and confused. So I brought this pen and I'm going to [Mark](#) off each little thing as we go down. So I don't get lost and confuse you.

All right. [Revelation](#) is a book of prophecy. Prophecy is simply history written in advance. The book starts from 96 AD when it was literally dictated to the Lord by the Lord Jesus Christ to [John](#).

Look it up. It's right there. He tells [John](#), pick up a pen and tells him what's the right. The first four chapters outline the spiritual condition of the church at that time.

Plus it gives a glimpse into the future condition of the spiritual condition of the churches through what we call the church age. We are still currently in the church age. It's been a last 2,000 years. And in fact, we're at the very eighth tail end of the church age.

The next event we're expecting is the rapture of the church. And I think that will affect that probably in about five minutes. Chapter four. Yeah.

There we go. Chapter four pictures the rapture. [John](#) is raptured to heaven. He gets a tour of heaven.

He gets to see God's throne room and all the fantastic things that we will get to see when we go there. And then the rest of the book of [Revelation](#) deals with the Tribulation and then the Millennium and the second coming of Christ, the final judgment of Satan and all unbelievers at the Great White Throne Judgment. And then you get the final destruction of heaven and earth and then you get a new heaven and a new earth. Think about that.

Get a whole new heaven. I just can't fathom that, but that's what it says. And as with all good books, there's a happy ending and we win. Well, that's all you need to know.

So thanks for coming. Part of what makes the book of [Revelation](#) so hard to believe are all of these fantastic events. I see miracles. You see oceans turning to blood.

You see huge hailstones raining down. Earthquakes. It's just too hard to believe. Well, since people can't put their minds around these events, what happens is they tend to reject them.

One of the popular things for Bible expositors that do over the years is since they can't understand how these things could happen. They tend to spiritualize and say, well, this is just symbolic or they just reject them all together. When I start by asking you to look at all the phenomenally fence that occurred in the Old Testament, you've got creation. How big of a miracle is that?

You've got the flood. You've got the tower of Babel. You've got Moses and the Ten Plagues. You've got the Red Sea.

And it goes on and on and on all the way up until the New Testament. Speaking of creation, science today has gotten to the point where they have with through their microscopes, they now know that one single cell is more complicated than the space shuttle. What they know about the human cell, any cell, is phenomenal. All of these systems and the computers that are involved in DNA.

I mean, talk about miraculous. And then you get into the New Testament. You've got the Virgin birth of Jesus. You've got the miracles of Jesus performed daily.

And while I'm on the miracles of Jesus, I want to point out a little interesting. In fact, people sometimes overlook Jesus for three years performed miracles over and over

and over again, raising the dead, doing all these phenomenal things. People were able to stand there and watch it physically. And yet what happened?

Most of them didn't believe them. They just didn't believe who he was. So miracles are not the end all in getting people to believe who he was. We then have his death, his resurrection.

And even after his ascension, you still had the disciples with the ability to perform miracles. Paul and Peter raised people from the dead. So all this seems to come to a screeching halt at the end of the Bible, when the Bible was completed, 96. The point I'm getting to is that all these events, far from being fantastic, now relatively commonplace, all these miracles and fantastic events are simply the actions of a God who is not restrained by natural law.

God invented natural law, so he is not restrained by natural law. God invented time, so he is not subject to time. He could stand above and look and see the beginning from the end of time, just as simple as you and I can see each other. That is because he is God and he's the only one who can do it.

But, our dependency, oh, see, almost missed the point. Right now, we are in the church age. What God has done is he has toned down the use of these miracles to the point that they can actually be hard to recognize. Our dependency for knowing God is not focused on the miracles and prophecies at this point.

Our dependence for knowing God is focused on one specific miracle. And that miracle I left on the back table is the Bible, which I'm going to go get because I want to eat it. Thanks, Jake. That's a miracle.

You know, the more you study this book, the more miraculous it becomes. You realize what it's all about. Miracles, now miracles still do occur today. We see on occasion, I'm going to emphasize that work at occasion.

We still see cases of miracle healing. You still see occasionally the use of the gift of tongues. You know, I came out of Baptist practice, I was like, oh no, no, no, no, no, no, tongues. But I have to admit that over the last few years I've heard credible witnesses and credible accounts of people who have still, to this day I've been able to go into villages and evangelized people in a language that they didn't know.

I am just, but it happens on a very limited basis. There are a, let's see, we got that. I want to throw on a warning. A warning.

These jahos that you see on TV, jabbering and flopping around on the floor and all this stuff, you can see these people are frauds. It is that type of activity has never authorized in scripture and it never will. You can even find non-Christian cults across the world that have gotten into aesthetics and do that type of garbage. So it is not from God.

Let's see, miracles, how about answer prayer? I have definitely experienced answer prayer in my life. And I'll bet many of you have too. What else?

If you want evidence that God's hand is still at work today, I'll ask you to look at Israel. Israel was regathered May 14th, 1948. That regathering was a fulfilled prophecy, given in the Bible and took almost 2000 years, but it came true. And her continued existence is only by divine intervention and divine protection.

Give you an example. One week after Israel became a nation, they were attacked by five Arab surrounding nations, surrounding them. These guys had tanks, they had artillery, trained troops, they were organized, and they were greater [Numbers](#). Not only what happened, Israel beat them back and sent them back home.

And that type of thing has happened. They've been attacked over and over again over the years. And every time they route the Arabs and sent them back, even though the Arabs have far superior [Numbers](#) and equipment. Does anybody want to tell me that that's just the matter of luck?

Israel's divine protection remains today. You know, every, about every week on the nose, you hear a mock booted Abaddentish ad getting up on the TV and saying, or, you know, this is the get the bomb, we're gonna wipe Israel out. Well, I have it on good, good notice from the Lord of Self that they will never wipe Israel out. Israel is other gods divine protection and they haven't got a chance.

It's interesting that the bottle of Armageddon was just coming up in [Revelation](#). If you look at the countries they're involved in that, it is led by coalition of Russia and Iran. And it's kind of interesting that those two are buddy enough today and Russia is trying to help Iran develop their nuclear weapons. Well, God uses miracles.

I'm gonna get back to the miracles. God uses miracles for very specific reasons. He never uses miracles just to show off or to play Gacha or you fill in that blank. I'm gonna start with [Isaiah](#) chapter 46, verses nine through 11.

Now I'm using, and you're gonna bring it up on the screen. I'm using the NAS, a little different version and we normally use, it's my study Bible. Study Bible, so it's not gonna agree with what's in the Bible and then it pews. So you can either do that or just follow along on the screen.

[Isaiah](#) 46 verse nine through 11, and we're talking about use of miracles. Remember the former things long passed. For I am God, there is no other. I am God, there is no one like me, declaring the end from the beginning.

And from ancient times, things which have not been done, saying, my purpose will be established and I will accomplish all my good pleasure, calling a bird, a prey from the east, the man of my purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken, truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it. God is saying here, is he, the reason he uses miracles is to display his power.

It is to demonstrate that he is the Lord. What this really is, is this is a show of love. You know, for most of human history, we did not have this completed canon of scripture. So it is God's love that he did not leave us to just leave us guessing, leave us to figure it out.

Here he comes and says, I am the Lord, and here's the proof. How about [Deuteronomy](#) 2022? [Deuteronomy](#) 18, 22, 22. All right.

Here he works through a prophet to prove that they are speaking on his behalf. But the prophet who shall speak a word presumptuously in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he shall speak in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die. You may say in your heart, how shall we know the word which the Lord has not spoken? When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken, the prophet has spoken it presumptuously, and you shall not be afraid of him.

Couple things about prophets in the Old Testament. If you came to Israel and said, thus says the Lord, usually they had two types of prophecies that they would give. They would give short-term prophecies, which were there to prove that he is speaking of the Lord. If that prophecy didn't come to, not only would they listen to not listen to anything else, they'd take them out back and they'd bury them under a pile of rocks, stone on the death.

So that is not something that someone did lightly. The other thing is that they would give long-term prophecies. So once they've established themselves as a prophet of God, then they should believe they're long-term prophecies. Interesting thing about Israel is that even after they did this, when they were misbehaving, they would take the prophets out in Kalein anyway.

So I'll figure that one out. Let's see where we're going. Okay, the third point. To control Satan.

He uses miracles in prophecy to control Satan. I'll give you an example at everybody, everybody hears the man with. Pharaoh, that's Israel, they go to the red sea, they're against the red sea, everybody's seeing the book, the Ten Commandments, the scene, and the Israel's standing there, and Satan inspires Pharaoh to go and wipe them out. Something Satan's always wanted to do is wipe out Israel.

So Pharaoh's army's attack, they have surrounded, and Pharaoh has every intention of wiping out every man, woman, and child from alive. What happens? God intervenes with a miracle. He parts the red sea, the Israelis go through dry shot, Pharaoh tries to follow, and he gets a bath.

So he uses miracles to control the things, the types of miracles that Satan would do or that Satan's plan. Today, Satan is still at work, but currently, he is being restrained by the Holy Spirit. You know, just as God has toned down his use of miracles in the church age, so Satan's powers have been restricted. During the tribulation, this restraint is removed, the Holy Spirit is removed after the rapture, and quite literally, all hell breaks loose.

Chapter 12, verse 9, I think demonstrates this is pretty well, and chapter 12, this is what we're gonna go right now. Verse 9 says that Satan deceives the entire world. Let's turn to [Revelation](#) chapter 12. We're gonna read verses 1 through 6.

This is our text for today, I finally got to it. All right. If you've not got it, it's a miracle. A great sign appeared at heaven.

A woman clothed with the sun and the moon around under her feet, and on her head a crown of 12 stars, and she was with child, and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth, that another sign appeared at heaven and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and 10 horns, and on his heads were seven diadams or crowns, so they are. And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven, and threw them to the earth, and the red dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth, he might devour her child. And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, and her child was caught up to God and to his throne. Then a woman fled the wilderness, where she had a place prepared for her by God, so that there she would be nourished for 1,260 days.

What you see here is a panorama of the spiritual warfare that has been going on all through history. We see the devil's long battle with God. You see, and you see his

tireless, unsealing efforts to destroy, say, and cease to destroy whatever God loves. And that includes you.

We are all in this battle, like it or not, and there are no conscientious objectors. All you can do is choose sides. I got an all the way of putting it, is we all serve a master. So the reason we study Satan is as you go into battle, you have to know who your enemy is.

In a movie, Patton, the favorite I see in the movie, Patton. The German army, led by Rommel, is a tax, Patton's army. But what we find out, and this is accurately true, is that Rommel wrote a book on tactical warfare and Patton read it. So Patton anticipates all of Rommel's moves, Rommel's army attacks, Patton sets a trap, and Rommel walks right into it, and he's sitting in his Jeep overlooking the battlefield, and as Rommel's troops are being wiped out, he stands up in his Jeep, and he yells across the battlefield, I read your book, you, fill in the blanks.

Patton had a pretty foul mouth. Well, Satan didn't write a book, but God did. In this book, God has given us all the information. It spends a lot of time talking about Satan, who he is, worries from, his tactics, and what he looks like, and finally his destination.

He tells us all the different ways that Satan will come after you. He's given us all the information we need to defend ourselves. The Bible also comes with a warning on this, says, if we don't learn these things, we are sitting ducks. The son of a Bible, sitting ducks, you didn't know that.

Let's go to [Ephesians](#) chapter six. He's in chapter six, verses 10 through 13. There's a little warning about Satan. Finally, be strong in the Lord, and then the strength of his might put on the full armor of God so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil, lest you be sitting ducks.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. If your Bible doesn't have the part about the ducks, it must have a different version. That's all. All right, back to chapter 12.

Chapter 12 through 13 introduced seven familiar personalities, but they give them new names. First you got the woman, and then you've got the dragon, you've got the male child, you've got the beast from the sea, you've got the beast from the land, and the remnant. Okay? Today we're gonna look at the first two.

In verse one, [John](#) sees a symbolic representation of Israel. We know this is symbolic because the verse tells us so. The woman is called a great sign. The rule of thumb and biblical interpretation is that you're always supposed to take the verse literally unless the Bible tells you not to.

It will tell you if it's symbolic. That's one of the problems that we run into, the [Revelation](#). They always try to make things symbolic that aren't. A lot of these events you're gonna see are not symbolic.

They're for real. These things are gonna happen. There are three more women in [Revelation](#). The book of [Revelation](#) mentioned, and they all four, are symbolic.

The other three are Jezebel in chapter four, is symbolic of paganism. The scholar woman in chapter 17 is apostate religion, and the bride of the lamb is the church. In

the past, this pregnant woman has been given a variety of interpretations, of the Catholics. I tried to say this is Mary.

That doesn't work. Some Protestant denominations try to say that this is the church. But that doesn't work. The church didn't bring forth Jesus.

Jesus brought forth church. Israel is often called an unfaithful wife or a wife of God, so she's often referred to as a woman in scripture. And something that occurred to me, and I know that a lot of people have asked it over the history, why the Jews? Why are the Jews, God's chosen people?

Why did he pick them? There's an old Jewish prayer, and a guy goes like this. Lord, next time, please choose something else. They are an amazing group.

You know, the Jewish people are only 0.1%, 1.10% of the entire population of the world, yet they receive 25% of all the Nobel Prizes, and they get a full 30% of all the awards handing out in science and music. And everybody knows how they dominate in business. But what, so they are an amazing group of people. Is that why God chose them?

Let's see what he says. [Deuteronomy](#) 7, chapter 7, verses 6 and 7. For you are a holy people to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his own possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

Here's the answer. The Lord did not set his love on you, nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples. For you are the fewest of all peoples. And you are the most beautiful, the most beautiful, the most beautiful, the most beautiful, the most beautiful, for you are the fewest of all peoples.

If you look at the history of the Jews, when the God first chose them, he had to teach them how to, I even had to wash their hands. He did not choose Israel because they were great on the contrary. It's kind of like he said, hey, watch what I can do with the smallest and weakest kid on the block. When Israel, and then we took these people, when Israel at the time that they were following the Lord as they were supposed to, and worshipping them as they were supposed to, every time they would just roll right through their enemies.

As I often said, how do you know the Bible is true? And it says, all you have to do is look at the Jews. Israel, because Satan hates Israel, Israel has run the continent of satanic attacks for over 5,000 years, and by the grace of God, they were still here. Chapter 12 is here.

Israel is pregnant, and gives birth to a male child, author history. Jewish women have given great credence. Oh, man, give birth to a male, to a son. Why?

You see, it's one who was hoping that they're going to be the one to give birth to the Messiah. All right, verse three. We've got a new character, entering the dragon. We don't need to guess who the dragon is, because verse nine tells us he's the devil.

The devil hates the woman, excuse me, because of the serpent. He knows that if he could wipe the Jew out, he could defeat God's plan. At times, Satan is described as a serpent, and let's see, Peter, he's described as a warring lion, but this is not his appearance, because the Bible tells us that Satan is the most beautiful creature that God ever created. But what this is displaying is his personality, the red dragon.

See, at this point, his time is running out. He's desperate, he's ferocious, and he's angry, and he's panicking. So we see him here as the red dragon. The color red is because red is the color of bloodshed.

In chapter six, you see the red horse. We've got the four horsemen, the red horse, took peace from the earth that meant to kill one another. So it is always associated with death. The seven heads of the red dragon speak of his superior intelligent.

The intelligence, the 10 horns, the dead diadems, or those are the ours crowns, speak of control of kingdoms. Phil will pick up on this next week and fill up some of the gaps. What I want to do is contrast this view we're getting of Satan with the way we normally see him. Let's see, where are we going to go?

[2 Corinthians](#) chapter 11. [2 Corinthians](#) chapter 11 verses 14 and 15. No wonder, for even Satan, the skies is himself as an angel of light. Therefore, it is not surprising if his servants also those skies themselves as servants of righteousness, those who, those and will be according to their deeds.

So this is the way where normally Satan comes to us. He comes as an angel of light. And this is the interesting contrast. He comes to us as an angel of light, but he's really inside a horrible red dragon.

It's like my ex-wife. How does Satan come to us? He tempts us. What I tell you does is he tempts us.

And he knows just what our weaknesses are. Any good fisherman will tell you the best way to catch a fish is to tempt the fish with what he likes best. And then you take that hook and you bury it deep inside. So after he's got it, then he gets the hook.

Everybody here knows what tempts you. You know what tempts you. Everybody has a weakness. What is it?

Don't tell me. So I see here is the angel of light is the sweet bait and the dragon is the hook inside. My message here today is to set the stage for the rest of this book. And to introduce chapter 12.

Phil is going to take, should take off from there next week and carry that out. So my message is to introduce set the stage for what Phil is going to do. Introduce chapter 12. Also prepare for what is coming by looking at these miracles.

I want to look at these miracles and get you to look at them. Not as weird and fantastic events. But as the part of the plan of a God who is not restrained by natural law. And lastly, to encourage you to know your adversary but not in fear.

To recognize your weaknesses and your sin nature, then to turn to the one who can save and defend you. I want to leave you last with something Paul said. He wrote in [Romans](#) chapter 8. [Romans](#) 8, 38.

1. 1. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor death, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you so much for this time. Lord, we do thank you that you have given us information on our enemies, that you care enough about us,

Lord, to want us to know what we face in this world and what our future brings, Lord, that we are not surprised as the rest of the world, that we can prepare, be able, and turn to you for our defense, Lord. We know that in all these things, you are ready and able to defend us from any attacks that Satan may have in mind for us. Lord, we ask that you open our eyes to the things of this world that are coming our way, that we will have wisdom, that we will have four knowledge, as much as you're revealing, to understand and prepare for these things.

Lord, we thank you so much for your salvation, for your gift of salvation, by Christ on the cross. Lord, we thank you so much that you love us so many ways and that we have a future, an eternity, and store for us in your presence serving you.