

Brothers and sisters, we are dealing with the very beginning, the first thing of the church. The first things of the church. Just the first things; that's all. And then, we've got to go on, but brethren, we cannot go on unless you go on. So this week is a real test for all of us. Now, brothers, I know where you've been up until right now. We've been this way before ourselves. We know what you've been through. We know what you're going to go through, too. We know a lot better than you do what you're going to go through, but the very fact that we're standing here saying, brethren, come on, let go. It must be something worth it, brethren. And, brothers, it's worth it. It's really worth it.

Alright, I believe it's Genesis 1:26. *And God said, Let us make man in our image after our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So, God created man in his own image. In the image of God created he him. Male and female created he them. And God blessed them and said unto them...let's just read this together...Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

Now then, in chapter 2, verse 7. Chapter 2 is sort of a rerun of Chapter 1. It's not like God was continuing the story. He goes back, and He leaves out the heavens, and He leaves out the lesser created life, and He comes back, and He just kind of amplifies on the created life of man, okay? *And God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul. And the Lord planted a garden, eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the Tree of Life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted and became into four heads. The name of the first is Pison; that which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; and the gold of that land is good; there is bdellium, and there is onyx stone. And the name of the second river is Gihon: the same is it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia. The name of the third river was Hiddekel, which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates. And the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest eat it freely, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil thou shalt not eat of it, for the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die.*

Brothers and sisters, we have been over these passages so much, but we have not even touched them. We have lived with them for weeks now, about 16 days altogether, but we have only touched them. Now, in the past, we have said, God's eternal purpose was that man...God's eternal purpose is that man might live by another life form, by the Life of God. God created man to have that Life, and by having that Life and living by it, man would have the image of God to express God, and he would also, by having that Life, also have the authority of God.

Now, when I was born to my father, I got his life. I got his eccentricity. I even have moles in my body in places where my father has moles. I got his life, and when I got his life, my father's life, I just naturally bore his image. There are certain things about my face and my hair; if you meet him and you don't see any hair, you'll understand. There are many things about him...I'm like that. I bear his image. Now then, if my father, and my father was very poor and he was an illiterate, semiliterate roughneck in these Texas oil fields, had he had dominion, the authority over that dominion would have been mine. Unfortunately, or praise the Lord, really fortunately, my father has absolutely nothing. Absolutely nothing, but if my father were wealthy, he would pass on to me the authority over what he had.

Alright, I have the Life of God, but I don't have it because I deserve it. I have it because it is God's purpose. He created man, that man, of all the creatures in the universe, might have the Life of God. And from having the Life and more of the Life, man would be able to express Him, the Father, and have His authority to rule over what rightly belongs to God. It is God's purpose that you rule over His dominion. It is for you to have what is God's, and for you to rule it, with authority. And not only that you might rule it, but that you might, in ruling it, bear the image of God.

Now, when God created the earth, here's the story. First, He created the heavens, and then He took the darkness and separated it from the light. And then he took the bottom part and separated it from the top part. You can almost see God cutting through the negative, the negative power, to create something for a purpose. He took the darkness and separated from the light. He took the above and separated from the beneath, and then He came to the earth. He took the water, separated it from the land, then made the little bitty animals, and then made the big animals. He made the vegetable life. He made the beast life, and then, praise the Lord, He made the third to the highest life in the universe. He made the life of man. And just to where did he put man? Alright, praise the Lord. He put man in the Garden of Eden. And where was the Garden of Eden? The garden is on the earth. Man is in the garden, and the garden is on the earth.

Now, then God put man here for a purpose. When he put him in the garden, he put him beside a tree. What is it called? The Tree of Life. Now, from this point on, I'm going to say to you what I have said to you so many times. Brothers and sisters, before we finish this week, there will be nothing that I say to you...Sometimes you have to go all the way to the New Testament to understand the Old. Sometimes you have to go to the Old to understand the New. There is nothing here, but what the word of God clearly rises up and declares, throughout the Word...it's just because of our sick, little backgrounds that we have not seen what this is. All the Word of God declares God's purpose in creation and God's purpose and activity on the earth.

Brethren, you know, it's getting more and more difficult for me tell where the New Testament starts, and the Old Testament ends, and where the Old Testament begins, where the New Testament begins; it's just all one book, and it just melts in together, and we shall see this more this week than we've ever seen it before. It's all one, and its purpose is one, and the direction of God is one. God put man beside a tree, and by the tree there was a river.

He's in a garden, and God is creating. Those are the first three chapters of the book. Now, you all know that I have written some books, and I've asked you not to read them, and it's getting easier all the time because one of them is out of print. When I wrote one of these books, I wrote the first two pages; I did it just like everybody else who ever wrote a book. I told what I was going to talk about. This is what I believe. This is the challenge, and here were some of the verses; you know, I was, where was my burden? There was a forward in the first couple of pages of the introduction. Then, when I got to the very end, I summed it all up and repeated it, but I showed it in its fullness and final purpose.

Now, brethren, this is the Alpha, and this is Omega. God did exactly the same thing when he wrote the Word of God. He's got two pages at the beginning and two pages at the end, and brethren, those two pages, those four pages, are for you, and they are purposed for you. You are part of them, and brothers and sisters, for you to be in the inner matter of what God has planned for and will do, is doing, and going to do on the earth, you've got to be in the work of those four pages. The work of God in those four pages. Now, what is it? When the book ends, at the end, you read it and there it is. It's just like you started with a blueprint.

Have any of you ever seen your mother and daddy build a home? Have you? Think you've been old enough to remember? Do some of you remember your folks building a home? They came in, and they pulled out the blueprint, and they talked, they could dream, and they planned. Living room here, the kids out there. A blueprint. Alright, chapter one and chapter two. You know what it is? It's a building list. You see, have you ever gone to the grocery store and bought all the ingredients? You had a list of the ingredients, and then you went back, and you worked and worked and worked, and what was the final outcome? A big, beautiful, tasty cake. And the blueprint is unrolled, and you see it, and the final finished product is a home for you to live in.

God started out with the Word of God, explaining to you so clearly what He had in mind, what He was going to do, and what He wants to do with you, and His activity on this earth. He explained it so clearly. Then, in the end, in disguise, it's there, and He shows it to you, once more, only this time there's no garden. The garden has been changed, and now, a garden that is something created...and the word of God begins with what? A Tree. It ends not with a garden and Adam under a tree with a Tree of Life and a River there, but it ends with a city that has been built up. And right in the middle of the city, where the garden used to be, is a Tree, and there is a river, and nothing has changed except one thing. God has built a building on this earth. He lives in that building...*and you, brothers and sisters, are the building.*

This is God's purpose, not only in time, but in eternity. Not only in eternity, but in time. Praise the Lord. Genesis 1 and 2 give us the blueprint. Revelation 21 and 22, and the two chapters are virtually identical; the four chapters are virtually identical. Once you have seen this, there's hardly any difference at all. I think you'll be very surprised. This is God's work, but I have to go back in there for more. Very fascinating.

God has a plan. He created the earth. He put a man on it, and He said, "Live by My Life, not by yours, but by mine. Live by the highest life in the universe." Then He said, "Express Me and have dominion over the land." Now, this is beautiful to God. He actually created you as a vessel that you might contain Him, to express him, represent him, have His power, and have His authority. The work of God upon this earth is to have man represent him, to express him on this earth, and to rule this earth. Brothers, in chapters 1 and 2, there is no sin, and there is no fall. And in Revelation 21 and in Revelation 22, there is no sin, and there is no fall. If you read chapter 3, Satan starts in chapter 3. He gets his introduction there...and then, he gets his dismissal. In Revelation 20, at the very end of chapter 19 and the beginning of chapter 20, that was the absolute end of all negative things.

But brothers and sisters, he (Satan) works here also. He had a purpose. It is his purpose to keep God from having His plan on this earth. Brothers, I cannot tell you...I cannot express to you...how important a piece of real estate is to God. This ball of dirt is so important to the Lord that you wouldn't believe it, and before this night is over, we're going to get a little bitty grasp of why this little planet, sailing out in the universe, is so important to God and so important to Satan. Satan wants to stop the building work of God. He will do anything he can to stop God's building. He will do everything he can to stop the building work of God.

Unfortunately, somebody in the old man, the line of the old man, got on the ark (Noah's). You don't know that. The old man, the line of the old man, got on the ark. God destroyed everything. Now, remember, Noah had...how many boys that got on the ark with him? What were their names? Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Which one was the line of the new man? Shem and Japheth are the line of the new man, and Noah didn't know it at first, but the old man got on. When he saw his son do something that the pagans had done before the deluge, and you can read this in Leviticus if you wish, it is something condemned as being something of the pre-Diluvian sinfulness. He realized that one of his sons still had the old in him.

There was the building of Enoch by Cain to have man dependent on man and independent of God. Satan came in Genesis 3 and took the earth from God. God took it back through Noah and the ark, and the ark is a building of God. And then, Satan got us back through the building of Nimrod. And what was it? Babylon. And God called out a man for another building. There was a building with a man, God's building. What was that man's name? Abraham.

Abraham, alright. Then there was the building of God upon the earth. There was. You didn't see it, but it was there. Then God's people were taken out of the Lord's land and were in Egypt. As soon as the descendants of Abraham, well, they got in there first...they got into, and what is Egypt? It's another building of the old man to distract from the building of God. God came down and delivered them. Do you remember? It was a treasure city. They were building with mud, brick, and slime. And what is slime? To hold it together. (Organization) The bricks are rough, and the only thing you can do with them is put some slime in between them to hold them together. If you don't have rule, if you do not have a chain of command with a man on top giving rules and keeping people in line, it will not stand. And this is one of the things that God's building doesn't have. Praise the Lord, God shall build again.

When God delivered them out of Egypt, what was the first thing he told them to do when they left? This is lesson number two. He told them that He brought them out of there to build. The first thing He gave them after they left Egypt was a pattern. It was a pattern let down out of heaven, and God said, " Build a tabernacle according to the pattern." It was not like God saying, "Oh, I thought up a pattern and let's build." No, here is a pattern you have never seen. It waits for you. There's a copy of it. Build a copy of it. God took a blueprint of something that already existed and handed it down to Moses, saying, "Build a copy of it. Build after the pattern," and God had a building for the children of Israel.

Then, they marched into the promised land, and they took it. In Joshua, right after the Battle of Jericho, it says that after they walked in and defeated the enemy, they subdued them. God had said to man in Genesis chapter 1, " Take the earth and subdue it." We cannot subdue something that's not in rebellion. How can I subdue a dead cat? I can't. It's not in rebellion. How can I subdue my little daughter when she's asleep? She's not in rebellion. The earth was in rebellion, and God put man upon it, for God has a very, very, very, very special purpose for the earth, and that purpose is to be fulfilled through a man who will live by the Life of God and express God.

The earth is taken. They got into the land and built the temple, and the enemy came in once more. The line of the old man of Babylon came back into existence. What is the line of the old man in Babylon? It is religion. It is even good religion. Nimrod was a religious man who built to reach God and make a name for himself. Do you sense that man builds for God with one hand to make a name for himself? This has got to go to the altar. This is the only reputation we can have. It is in the warfare of God.

Babylon came and burned the temple to the ground and took the people of God into captivity. When they got back, they built the temple. They started with the walls, and they built the temple. They were back in the building business, and when they got back to the land, the word says, "God was called the God of heaven and earth."

Now, then came the real building. Then came the Lord Jesus upon the earth, and He is the building. In John 1, He is the tabernacle; in John 2, He is the temple. They said, "Isn't that a beautiful temple? It took 39 years to build it. And the Lord said, "Tear down the temple, and it will be built up in three days." He was saying to them, "This is the picture; here is the real thing. When you have seen Me, you have seen the temple." The Lord also spoke in that same chapter of the enlargement of it. God starts off with a garden, then He has, and we'll get to this later, a tent, and from the tent He gets something a little bit bigger, a tabernacle, and after the tabernacle is what? The temple. And the measurements of the temple are given.

Did you know that there is one other temple where the measurements are given in the Old Testament? Are you aware? Now let me say this. We'll come to it later. Every time it gets bigger and bigger. Each time the new work is larger. Satan destroys, and God says, "Okay, I'll build a bigger one, and each time the temple is enlarged. And when Jesus Christ said, "I am the temple. In three days, you put it in the grave, and it's going to come up bigger than it has ever been." The Lord is in one business only. He is in the business of building and enlarging

that building. When God made Adam, He put him to sleep, and then He just enlarged him. He took a bone out of here, and he built of the same life. Now, Adam was twice as big.

God took Jesus Christ and opened His side, but broke no bone because what God builds of Christ could not be of the flesh or of his soul. But He took the water out of his side. He took the blood, and He took the water, and He enlarged it. And He built for Him a building. *He enlarged Jesus Christ. Brothers and sisters, you are the enlargement of Christ.* Do you realize there are only two men in all the universe? There are only two. There are only two: the old and the new. God made one man. He called him, "Them." Adam was not a "him." He was a "them." He looked at the man, and He referred to him as "them." The old man failed the test. God made a new man. God is concerned about a man on this earth, and that man having this earth and building something on it.

Now, how is it possible? How is it possible that this can be both a man and God's purpose, and at the same time, how can it be related to a building? This is a mystery, and it's going to take all weekend, maybe, to begin to understand some of it. But let me say to you: somewhere in 1 Corinthians 11, it says... it speaks of there being one loaf. One loaf. Now, what is the one loaf? Do you know what the one loaf is? No, sister, not Christ. You're getting close, though. There is one new man. Sir? You're getting closer. Jesus Christ fell into the earth as a seed, and He came up as many grains. Would you show me the grains, please? Where are the grains? Just show them to me. There are many grains in this room, but then, did God take the grain and leave it grain?

No, brothers and sisters, He did two things with it. He took the very life of His own, and he took His own life, and He let it die. Then out of it came His life multiplied, and then once again, He takes his own life, many seeds, and He crushes them, and then He mingles them, and then He cooks them, and then He has one loaf. One loaf. How is it that we can be part of the building of God, though there are so many of us? Because God's plan is for man to be built up into...*one new man*. That's not all. We are to be built up as stones into a tabernacle and a temple together.

Let me make this very clear. Here is Genesis 1 and 2 over here. That is the blueprint. And over here is Revelation 21 and 22. Over here, there is no sin. And over here, there's no sin. In here, there's Satan, but don't get too distracted by that. Over here (Genesis 1 and 2) is the lumberyard, and over here (Revelation 21 and 22) is the building. And brethren, what is in the tomb? The old man. Praise the Lord! In the middle, the building is put together. Are we in the beginning? Are we in the end? We're in where? We're in the middle, and we are supposed to be built up, but the enemy has deflected the work of God. We live in the very midst of the picture of individualism.

If you stay in the church, and I'm not sure all of you are going to stay after this weekend, but...let's laugh. That wasn't a threat, but I think it may have some truth. The individual has got to go. For God is going to put us, build us, and join us together. You are going to have to be built, and let me tell you, a lot of your American ways are going to have to go. And a lot of your...no...all of your religious ways are going to have to go. And your background is going

to have to go. I think you believe you can get rid of your religion better than you can your collegiate ways. You were much stronger with that. Brothers and sisters, I don't know which will be the hardest to get rid of, but you are in the middle, and God is simply saying, "You are to be built."

Did you ever walk through a lumberyard? I don't know how you feel walking through a lumberyard, but I just get a little distressed. Over there is a pile of bricks. Over there is a window. Over there's a bunch of lumber that's been discarded; maybe there is a porch just sitting there, the steps up to a porch, and it's not going anywhere. And it's just there. Brother, today, all over America, you see the material lying all over the ground. It's just lying everywhere. I had such a burden when I talked to these kids, and up until now, only one or two have received it. I said to them, " Brothers, you are so beautiful. You're beautiful, saint. But one piece of grain is over there, and another one is piled up there beside a house somewhere, and another one of them is out in the yard, and one of them is out in the desert, and another one is in an ark. You're not built up. You're just independent children."

I'm going to be quite honest with you, brothers and sisters here. May I, may I, in love, I've got to, by now we've got to be honest with one another. Amen. You are going to have to be honest with me. I'm going to have to be honest with you, and we're going to have to do just like Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin said, "If we don't hang together, we're going to hang separately." We really are. We have all stepped out a little too far. You know what? There's no way to go back from here.