

And it's a morning meeting, except we're doing it at night. And we have a, we've added someone to our very auspicious number. And we have added an Albanian, very dear sister, who is here from, she flew out of Tirana, Albania today, now she's here in Debrecen, Hungary. At least that's where she is on this particular night, in this particular year. I don't know where she is on the night or day you watch this thing. Alright, we're talking about a revelation of Jesus Christ. I'm going to do just a little review for our Albanian, Kalia.

Everybody who ministers asks this question one time or other, where should I start? So we usually start in John. And we tell them about John because it begins in the beginning. Or, if we're really going to do a Bible commentary, we start with Genesis, specifically Genesis 1:1, in the beginning. We're trying to talk to a new Christian. We probably will start with 1 John 1:11, something we're going to teach them or whatever it is. It's usually rather poor and it's usually centered on you, not the Lord. And it's very teachy and it's very much out of Aristotle. By the way, it's your part of the world that gave us Aristotle. You did not do a good job the day you did that. That was not the kind of you. And, I don't know. It's all just kind of empty. What we usually get as new Christians. I hope this is better. Shucks, I know it's better. It's centered on Christ. But we will not begin with Christ of Galilee because that's not where Christ begins. And if we're not careful, we'll be talking about Jesus and the carpenter shop and how he felt this. And he was good to people. And he'll tell everybody to love one another. And we'll read the Matthew and the Beatitudes. And we'll hear about all the things we ought to do. And we'll begin talking about that. Jesus did this because when he grew up, this was the custom he learned.

And we forget that we're looking at someone who has been alive a long, long, long time before he got to this earth in Bethlehem. And that he's grown and he's remembering. So we'll forget all of that and we'll go back before Genesis, and we go back before creation when God is all. And I know that every brother in this room knows exactly what we have covered, and they can tell you just like that. And they would get it perfect, and they would be able to tell you everything exactly. I am so confident of this, I'm not even going to bother to ask them. Every comma, every dot. Well, y'all, I'll go over it real quickly. This is what we've learned by looking. We looked at John 5 and 6 today. You didn't see this on video. And we learned a lot of things that we discover in John 5 and 6 that tells us what happened before creation and the relationship of the Father to the Son. What's going on in the Godhead? One of the things we learned was that God gave Jesus Christ You and me. He loved him and gave him you and me. Before the creation of the world.

Alright, here's something else we discovered. That our names were written in the book of life before creation. That's wonderful. But here was a puzzle. In Hebrews 4, we learn that the Lord finished all things before he created all things. And we know that's not possible, and we don't understand it. We haven't even pursued it. But the brothers and sisters in this room understand that. Don't we? How he finished all things before he created all things. Don't we, brothers? No, we don't understand that, but we've glimpsed it. We glimpsed it. Now, here is another amazing thing, and that is that we were chosen and marked *off* in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we were actually in Him before He created. Now, Kalia, you

were in Christ. You existed in Him. You were actually there in Him before the foundation of the world. You were a chip of Christ. You were marked off. And the Lord said, that's Kalia. We'll work out the details later. But Kalia is destined to be mine. Now, this drives the Arminians crazy. They don't want this to happen. They want you to be free to reject Christ, otherwise everybody that's damned is damned, and everybody that's predestined, they've got to get saved, and no matter what they do, no matter how evil they live, this drives them crazy. And then the Calvinists, they say it's going to happen this way, this way it is. And we resolved all that. And we showed clearly, first of all, that Calvin lived too soon. He had never met Einstein. And the Arminians both, have to stop this. Because they do not understand that creation is in God. And that God envelops creation. And he's not at the beginning of creation. He's at the end of creation. And at the beginning of creation. If I take... What shall I take? If I take a ball and cut it open and drop a pencil in and close the ball up, is that ball at the front of the pencil or at the back of the pencil? And the answer is it's in both places because the pencil is enveloped in the ball. And time was created all at once.

We are going through it this way, but it's already all there. By the way, I'll give you a new illustration of this just to show you that that's not all I knew when I told you this. Am I going to have another pen? Am I going to have another handkerchief? Anybody got a string this time? Can I change to anything other than this handkerchief? Everybody's looking desperately. Okay, have you got a blank sheet of paper you could give me and wind it up lengthwise? There is another way to illustrate this. Here we go. You've got to come with a string, or we're going to show you. Better hurry. Oh, we've got a real string. A real honest-to-goodness. Ooh, we've got a string. Folks, we've really come up in this world. And I'm going to illustrate it. See the string out there, those of you in Wonderland?

Okay, I want you to watch the string move, okay? It's moving forward. Now you can see that, can you not? But let's imagine there is a one-dimensional creature. Not two-dimensional or three-dimensional. He's a one-dimensional creature. You know what he's doing? And this is not exactly accurate, but he's moving up and down this string. Back and forth. That's all he can do. He's one-dimensional. He's one-dimensional. He's moving back and forth, he does not know he's moving forward, does he? Can you tell he's moving forward? You can see he's moving forward. Can you see where he's going? And you can also see where he came from. No, I tell you, he's going just about another foot that's where he's going you can see that but he can't see that. Now, if he should meet God along the way, what would be his impression? That God is also one-dimensional and meets him here somewhere in this. All right. Now, I'm going to tell you what a two-dimensional creature thinks. A two-dimensional creature can move up and down this way, and he is aware that he's moving forward. But he cannot see the future. And he can't see the past either. What he's doing, follow my head, is he's moving back and forth like this. And he also knows he's moving forward. Now that's kind of us. We can move back and forth like this, and we can move forward. But we expect that if we meet God, God can meet us going this way or that way. But we think that that's all God can do, that he's caught in the same situation we're in. He's either going to go this way, back and forth, or he'll meet us. He'll either meet me, you're the stringer, or he's going to meet me from in the air, or he's going to meet me as I'm moving forward. And that's about all he can

do. Now tell me something. Are you three-dimensional? Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes. Oh, I'm sorry, we won't be spiritual yet. You are more than that. But right now, can you see the string going forward? Can you see where it came from? Do you realize that you could meet this string absolutely anywhere? Do you see that you could meet it way, way out there in the future? In the front, you can go around to the back and meet this string, and you can meet the one-dimensional or two-dimensional creature on it. You can see so much. Look, you can see behind and in front. Now then, if I could just put this string in you, a very big you. So big that this string can move forward. Then we have to ask, where is the string? The string is in you. And can you see the string? You can see the front of it, the back of it. You can watch the little one-dimensional creature moving back and forth. You can watch the two-dimensional creature. And you can watch us watching the string.

And you can meet that string anywhere you wish. In fact, you can meet that string where it has not yet gone. Time and creation are in Christ. And when he chose you, he was standing at the end as well as the beginning. Therefore, he knew what he was doing. You may be free to do what you wish along that string, but he sees you when you get to the end of it. At the same time, he sees you when you started out on the string. Does that help any? A little bit, maybe? He saw you here. He sees you down here. He watches you go the whole length. When you got down here to the very end, he said, I'll choose you here. But I'm down here. How can he choose me here at the beginning? Aw, that's simple, because he can go back to the beginning again and choose you there. And there you are again at the beginning, even though he has seen you at the end. Well, you understand that perfectly, don't you? We will never understand this because we're not God. Now, the astronomers have helped us by telling us that time and creation are not in a straight line, they are, in fact, curved. And here's the beginning. That's the big bang when creation starts. And creation flows out, by the way, all at once. We're just following it through. And then creation comes back and collapses into nothingness at the same spot it began. So you see how close the beginning and the end are? And the Lord's standing right there, where the beginning and the end are. It's easy for him to choose you here, because he can see you here, and here, and here, and here. And thank you for this marvelous strain, which is so much better than that handkerchief. Now, if you'll just dye this thing white, that'll help even more. So we saw that, Kalia. And...

Then, Kalia, we dealt with the great mystery of all, and that is that Jesus Christ was crucified before the foundation of the world. He was crucified only once, and yet he was crucified before the foundation of the world and Jerusalem. And yet one could take place before creation and in Jerusalem and be the same. And that crucifixion not only is in Jerusalem, but that crucifixion is throughout all of creation and before creation. And if Jesus Christ was crucified before creation, then everything that was created was crucified before it was created. His foot is on the back of the neck of creation.

Listen very carefully. Creation was born crucified. Creation was born already crucified. When he died before the foundation of the ages, he not only created it, but he also crucified creation on the cross. And this creation that will one day disappear, this creation which will one day come to an end will come to an end because of the destructive power of the cross.

But this creation has already come to an end. I haven't seen it yet, but the Lord has. And when he crucified it, made sure everything was okay, all things that were fallen were destroyed, then he created that which had already been crucified. And he can do all of that because creation is in him. Did I leave out anything? Did I leave out anything? Well, of course I left out some things. What else did I? What did I leave out?

Shall I help you or are you going to help me? Oh, we talked about being foreknown, yes, but that's not what I had in mind. Spent one whole meeting on... I'll give you a hint. It was the last two tapes. You folks who can't remember, go back and watch the last two videos.

You're talking about flowing in and flowing out. I presented to you Jesus Christ's personal relationship to the Father before creation. Now, what was the point? The point was, when you find what Jesus Christ's personal relationship to the Father is before creation, you find the foundation of how to live the Christian life. And there is no Bible study. And there is no prayer. There is instead, and I'm not going to finish that. You go back and watch. This is tape six. You go back and watch four and five again. Have you already forgotten, brothers, what the assignment was yesterday morning? That was so that you might begin to understand a little bit of things outside of space and time. The way the Lord and his Father related. We're going to come back to this again and again. And this is something you must do, or be a hypocrite, if you ever preach these things. So we're going to come back to this a great deal. Kalia, we have. You will watch five and six. Four and five.

Now, I'm coming to the end of those things that we know about Christ before creation. And when we looked at the Lord Jesus' relationship to the Father before creation, I think we saw some of the most important things we will ever see as long as we live.

Now...in this talk, in this time together, and the next one, here's what I want you to do. I want you to think of this being just the instant before creation. Just the instant before "Let." "Let." What's "Let," Kalia? Let there be light. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, and he said, "Let there be." Now, this is right before that. Now, this is very important that you understand. This will only take a moment to explain, but I hope to goodness you get it. It's not easy to comprehend. Brother Jonathan, if you can lay hold of this, it will change the way you present Christ to others forever. I'm going to start with an illustration. I've used it before. It's the best illustration I have.

Back in about... Whoa. I was 25 years old. I had just left being a pastor. And I moved to a town called Houston, Texas. And I was becoming an evangelist. Nobody had ever heard of me. I was only 25 years old. But then nobody's ever heard of me, and now I'm 61 years old. I'm not making much progress. So, there was a little folder I wanted to make, so I went to a young boy and...He charged me only a few dollars, I think around \$35, and that was wonderful because I didn't even have \$35. And I showed him what I wanted him to do, some little art sketches for me with some people in it. And interestingly enough, I noticed that this young man, who is an artist, had very short arms, unusually short arms for his body. And it was just something I noticed. I came back a week later. He had done the artwork. And all the little figures of people he had made, their arms were shorter than normal. Like his. Now, I

want you to stop a minute. I don't know. Has anyone in this room ever done oil paintings? Have you ever done oil work at all? Any artists here among us? Okay, we've got one here nodding yes. Have any of you ever done any artwork of any kind? Pencil, acrylic? It doesn't matter what it is. You have? Is there any way in this world you could do that without putting a little bit of your personality into it? It's not possible. That's why people love art. They put a little of themselves into it. Which means Picasso was a very troubled man.

Well, we're made in the image of God. And if we do that, or if we do a painting, a little of ourselves are there. If you read a book by Gene Edwards, it is a little of Gene Edwards' nature in that. I'm going to tell you something that I don't believe.

A few days ago, I talked to someone who knew me when I was 12 years old and had not seen me in 50 years. Yeah, 49 years. This happened to me just a few days ago. And this person had just read a book I had written. And this person said to me, I read it. It sounded just like you. That's weird. I almost fell off my chair. Twelve years old? And it sounds like me? That's just not possible. And later while we were talking, we were talking on the phone, I said, oh my gosh. And this person said again, that's just exactly like you. I had no idea. Now, it is impossible for God to create without something of himself being left there. Are you following me? Now, then, we have to remember something else. Who does the Father love? Loves his son. And who does the Son love? He loves His Father. And who does the Son wish to glorify? The Father. And who does the Father wish to glorify? The Son. Can the Father or the Son create without putting a message there?

God created things, the Father created all things, but He created them through his Son. Isn't that wonderful how closely tied together they are? And then Colossians turns around and says, the Son did the creating. Whereas Hebrews says, the Father did the creating through the Son. Well, of course. If I do something through someone else, they do it. I don't understand that.

Now, here's what I want to tell you. I want you to listen to this really, really, really, really careful. Jonathan, you've got to get this. The things in creation are not real. They are a picture of reality. Oh, well, I'm going to quote from the Bible here. Oh, my. Take that child out of this room. It's okay. It might happen. It was spontaneous. It's all right. I don't mind. I don't care. What is reality?

God is reality. And one day we will go back into him because we will truly be in reality. He created shadows. They have mass and dimension, and yet to him they are shadows. And does a shadow have mass? No. Does it have reality? And I asked that question one time and a scientist said to me, Gene, we have been able to actually measure shadows. And they have almost, they have depth and breadth measurable, but it is so, so infinitesimal that it is almost impossible to believe, but it can be done. And I said, wonderful. That's just how real creation is. It's just barely there. It just barely shows up on the scale of God. It is a shadow.

When I first came to Europe when I was 19, things were very terrible over here. And I was

amazed at how thin meat could be cut. Thinner than I've ever seen it since then. And you could see through it. Put your hand on one side of it. It was so thin. Well, that's kind of what creation is. You can almost see through it. It's a shadow. But now listen. Let me just take a minute with you and let you try to understand something. Do you realize if that's true, you have never had a drink of water? Do you realize that means you have never had a bite of food? If these things are shadows and pictures and types, and they are not real, but the reality is Christ. By the way, that's Colossians 2.16. If some of you folks don't believe all this, then you can look in the first few verses of Hebrews 8 and find out that I'm on good solid ground here. Then all you have to do is listen to all the words of Jesus Christ about these matters, and you'll find it's true. You've never had a drink of water. You've never had a bite of food. If we drink, maybe we never have to eat. Yes, now see, Jonathan's ahead of me now. He's saying, yes, I have had a drink and I have had food because I have tasted Christ. But I want you to just leave that out for a moment. I want this to sink in.

When you pick up a glass and swallow what's in it, you have shadowed. That's not good English, but I'll use it anyway. I'll turn it into a verb. You have shadowed. You have actually only done a shadow. Now then, and on the seventh day, God rested. And so was born the Sabbath? Now, here's the hardest thing for us to understand. That is, the Sabbath existed before creation. And that the Sabbath in creation is a picture. I'll tell you something else you will never understand and neither will I. And that is the Sabbath has already been crucified. And in fact, it was crucified before it began. The Sabbath was crucified on the cross of Jesus Christ. If you don't believe that, read Galatians.

Now, here is the most amazing thing. The Sabbath existed before creation and what we know of the Sabbath is a...the Sabbath existed before creation. Therefore, the Sabbath we know is a picture. That's good enough. It's a shadow. It's a picture. It's a type.

Now, I had a, I had a, my wife and I have a Seventh-day Adventist young lady, very dear girl, from Bulgaria, who lived with us for about five, six months. And she was a Seventh-day Adventist, and I want you to know, on Friday evening, usually around six o'clock, she disappeared. We did not see her again. And boy, you could just about time it. About 6 p.m. Saturday night, she came bounding down those stairs like someone who had been set free from the law. And she was very happy and alive while she had been resting for 24 hours. And, of course, one day, as Seventh-day Adventists are so good at this, she started trying to convert me to, you know, obeying the Sabbath. And I asked her a question, and that question was, will there be a Sabbath observance in the new creation?

And you know, that little gal is smarter than I thought she was. She never heard that question before, but she thought a minute and she wouldn't answer. Well, you tell me, will there be the observance of the Sabbath day and the new creation? There will be some observance of, you think, in the new creation will take Saturday off and rest? Will we observe the Sabbath day in the new creation? I don't think so. I don't think so either. Huh? You see, and you've all missed the point. You've all missed the point. We are already in the new creation. We do not belong to the creation of Genesis 1 and 2. It has been crucified on

the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. Along with every other law and ordinance there is. Well, my point is really simple. I would like for you to give me, Daniel, a definition of the Sabbath, please. The Sabbath is a seven-day Sabbath. After six days of work of God. Okay. And he declared this is the day of rest. See? Did you see this? My dear brother gave me a definition. Now, no Americans are going to talk. Do you hear me? This is just between the Romanians and me. And one Albanian. He gave me a definition that was not correct.

For he gave me a definition of the shadow of the Sabbath. Now, Abel, give me a definition of the Sabbath. I said that we will observe the Sabbath because Jesus Christ is that Sabbath. Very good. We will in the new creation observe the Sabbath because his name is Jesus. We will look at him and behold him. All right. That's good.

The definition of the Sabbath is Jesus Christ. For he was before creation and the Sabbath of the creation is but a something of him. I'm going to push this a little further and tell you that in some way all things in creation are a picture of Christ. And there is a great deal. Now I don't know if a frog is. I can't tell you that a platypus is. You know what a platypus is? A platypus is something down in Australia. We jokingly say it was created by a committee. It has the tail of a duck. It has the bill of a duck. The tail of a beaver. It lays eggs, but it's also a mammal. And what else about it? It has web feed. And it's amphibian, but it's born in the land. Yeah, and it's everything messed up. I don't know if the platypus expresses my Lord. I don't want to get into it that extremely, and yet I have to say, somewhere in that platypus, there is the fingerprint of God before creation. But let me tell you some things that are really clear.

What is wheat? What is wheat? Wheat is a picture of Jesus Christ. When he created wheat, he did that knowing he was going to be crucified and die and rise. And he created it to show his death and resurrection. He did that in the moment he said "Let." And in the five days thereafter, the five and a half days thereafter. When he created the lamb, he was telling you what he is really like. When he created the barley, he was preparing you for Pentecost. And bread, barley bread. When he created the lily, he was making sure that you would understand how much he can care for you and how beautifully he can do it. And when he made the sparrow, He made something that was Himself. When He made the oil, He made something that was showing Himself. And when He made the moon, I always think of the moon and the Lamb as two of the most glorious pictures of Jesus Christ. And I am telling you that, that lamb is not real. That lamb was put on this earth to show you.

Now let's not have creation. For a moment. We haven't gotten to creation yet. There is no creation. There is only the Father. The Son and the Spirit. And there is only the Godhead and they are in counsel. Now I ask you, in that moment, is there water? Yes. Thank you, Jonathan. For you. Is there food? Yes, of course. Absolutely. Jonathan, is there a Lamb? Oh, there is a lamb. And is there wheat? Right in the very center of God is wheat. Dying and rising is there. And is there barley? Yes, barley is there. Is oil there? Yes, there is oil existing. His name is the Holy Spirit. Is there life there? The only life there is, and all other life is a picture of that life. Is there wine there? Is there bread there? Is there manna there. No creation yet. Yes. What is the water? I am telling you, dear sisters and dear brothers, there is real water. Now, you have never seen water that is alive. You never have. But there is water that lives.

And there is bread that lives. And it exists. And what you and I have seen are but pictures. Jonathan, find the centrality of Christ in all things. And go back and remember before you declare him, before you declare Christ, remember he's back there. He is the reality of all these things. Now, Kalia, brother Tim gave an illustration here, but I want to pass it on to you.

Kalia, I know you fairly well. I feel like I know you better than I should know you for the little time I've known you. But, Kalia, you look like you're such a patient, patient sister. So patient. Never upset. Never in a rush. Now, is that you, Kalia? The answer to that is no. I don't think so. Now... Peggy is patient. She's patient with me at least. Kalia, have you ever really felt like you needed patience? Yes. Okay. What do you pray for? When you need patience. This is a trick question, Kalia. That'll help a little bit. This is a trick question. Do I need to answer? Yeah, I want an answer. Aha. Okay. Faithful power to know how to wait. Ah, see? See? Co Kalia, I don't recall the verse, but there is a verse in the New Testament that says, Christ is our patience. No, don't pray for the power to be patient. It'll never come. You say, Lord, I need Jesus. I need Christ. You are my patience.

I'm not going to pursue this any further, but be careful. This will change everything as you come to realize, and I'm quoting from the New Testament, that the Father was determined that in all things, Jesus Christ would have supremacy. Say it. Anybody. Preeminence. Preeminence. First place. He comes before water. He comes before drink because he is drink. He comes before food because he is food. And he comes before patience because he is patience. You tried to spend a few minutes the other day in the presence of your Lord. Well, the next time you need patience, just do that again.

I will promise you, you'll find more patience in the presence of Christ, not bringing up the subject of presence. Thank you. Good English word. Patience. Oh, brothers and sisters, may your head get screwed on the other direction. . Just everything, turn around. Now, the obvious.

You have a spirit. Please try to remember this, that things that were spirit came before things that were physical. Things invisible came before things visible. Things that were unseen came before things seen. Spirit came before anything because God is spirit.

Do you have a spirit? Do you have a spirit? Yes, you have a spirit. Does your spirit need water? Does your spirit need food? Your spirit doesn't deal with shadows. Your soul does. Your body does. Every day, you eat a shadow. Every day you drink a shadow. Lord, we thank you for the shadow that you've laid here in front of us. Come on. But the spirit is more important than the body or the soul in that it comes first. Does your spirit need food? Yes, it does. Only eternal. It needs drink. Jesus is the... It needs real food. And real drink. And, Kalia, in your case, your spirit needs real patience, who is Christ? You've got to feed your spirit reality. You've got to feed your spirit the Lord Jesus Christ. And, Jonathan, you have to feed the church spiritual things.

Now what are spiritual things? Jonathan, name me one spiritual thing. I have a long way to

go here. Jonathan, one spiritual thing is Christ. If your people need food, give them Christ. If they need drink, give them Christ. If they need patience, give them Christ. If they need peace, give them Christ. If they need life, give them resurrection. I am the resurrection. And if one of them needs the moon...give them Christ. I drive this home because I realize even as I sit here how dark our minds get in our religious concepts of the Christian faith. We really get to thinking we need this and this and this and this. And it's very hard for me to remember that I have a spirit that needs Christ and that food isn't really food. But listen to Him. I am the bread of life. That's bread that's alive. Come to me and drink real and living water. I'm the wheat that falls into the ground, rises again. I am, not the resurrection, I'm resurrection. And sometimes we die, and we really need to come back to life. I am resurrection. I am, I am the manna that came out of heaven and fell to earth. And what Moses gave you was not manna. He said it. Moses didn't give you manna. I am manna. And he said, Moses didn't give you manna. I gave you manna. And I have come here again to give you the real manna. To eat and to drink. And if you do not drink me, and if you do not eat me, you do not have a life. I just want you to stop for a moment and know that there was a river before there was creation. A real river.

Now, I'm going to try one more time. Daniel, tell me something. Give me the definition of a tree? Jesus is... Praise the Lord. Right on, brother. Was there a tree before creation? Amen. What was the name of that tree before? The tree of life. Life emanates, comes forth from, is found growing from a tree. I am that tree. I am the tree of life. Good. Daniel passed. Wonderful. That's really good. Now, I'm going to ask another question.

Were there stones before creation? Were there stones? Oh, you can't answer. What stone was it? There was a cornerstone. Well, was it... Have you ever picked up a stone? Is that thing dead or alive? There's a stone. Any stone you've ever picked up. Is it dead or alive? Nothing deader than a stone. Have you ever seen a living stone? You have seen a living stone. You. Come on. Are. Say it. Do it. You. Say it. Are. Say it with me. Living. Stone. Built up into a living house. That's right. Was there a stone before the Lord Jesus created? All right. Good. Here I come again. Kalia, give me the definition of a stone. Christ is the stone we were before the creation. Praise the Lord. You got it, Kalia. Now, brothers and sisters, I just want to remind you of what we're talking about.

We're talking about a revelation of Jesus Christ. And I trust that you have something now you didn't have 20 minutes ago. I trust the Holy Spirit will drive this home to you. That reality existed before creation. And He is. And I want you to know He was clear about what he was. When he saw a stone he said I made that to remind my holy ones who I am. And I made water, let it be beautiful and crystal and clear and cool, and I made it so that my holy ones, my chosen ones, would know what I'm like. And I hung a piece of old dirt in the air out from the earth so that you could look up at it and know what I am to the Father and what the church is to me. I'm talking about the moon. And that when you eat bread, when we take the Lord's Supper and you eat that bread, you're looking at a crushed wheat, one seed, that made that whole bread loaf. And that I am the seed, the seed Abraham talked about, and I am a seed that existed before I ever created. And I just want you to know that when that



