

“My Word Shall Not Pass Away”

By Brother Parrish Lee

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You may be seated, saints. The devil can't stand that. He tries to bust in, and he can't stand when the Saints of God come before Him and praise Him in his face. But God looks for that. He says He seeks the *true worshippers* to worship Him in spirit and in truth. He waits for it, He looks for it, He searches for it. Amen. What a blessed time; what a blessed time. Most of the message, thanks to Arman, Brother Bob, and Malcolm, and Andy, and all the musicians and singers; y'all said so much, there ain't hardly nothing left! Amen, amen, amen.

Giving honor to God, who is the head of our lives, of my life. Our Savior, our Maker, our Redeemer... The words would fail to say what our God has done for us, how faithful He's been, how long-suffering, how patient, how kind, how over and over He proves Himself to be that God, *that* God that we come before. We say, “Thank You. Thank You, God.” Giving honor to Him. Giving honor to all those who have gone on before us, for those in the scriptures, for those down through history, and for those in this ministry: From our founding pastor, he and his family, our pastor, who was here this past month, he and his family, and all those who have come to stand in the gap and make up the hedge, giving honor to them. And, then, of course, giving honor to all of the Saints, who present themselves, whatever you've got to go through to get yourself into the House of God, to get your heart and mind tuned to say, “God, I come before You. You bless me.” Giving honor to the saints this morning. Amen.

A beautiful, beautiful month, last month, as we talked about, “Receive Ye the Holy Ghost.” And I did apologize to Greg, because we did change the theme of the month and didn't tell him, so he printed out, faithfully the wrong theme, or, the theme that he knew of. Giving honor to Greg, and thank you so much for that service. But, this month, we talked, again, where we talked, the subject was, “Ye Must Be Born Again.” And, last month, it was, after you're born again, you want to receive that Holy Ghost. This month, we are taking time to talk about the Word. Our Scripture thought for this month:

Matthew 24:35 **Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.**

The theme for the month, but our subject for today is going to be: “My Word Shall Not Pass Away.”

Exodus 31:18 *And He gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.*

If we could just bow our heads, just for a moment. Lord, we come before You, and it would pale, the thanks that we give unto You, compared to the blessings You pour out to your people. Yet, we come before You anyway, and say only You do these things. And, God, we thank You for all You have done in our lives, to bring us even to this very point. We thank You for the opportunity to worship You in the beauty of holiness, and the blessing that You pour out when we do so. And, God, we ask, right now, as You have said in Your Word, that It might not return unto You void, but surely accomplish that to which You sent It. We ask for a blessing as we go through, that I, Your servant, would get out of the way, and let Your Spirit have It's complete, unfiltered, unhindered way amongst the lives of me and Your people, for we all are in attendance to Your Word this morning. And this we set before You as we pray and claim, in Jesus' name, and everyone said amen. Amen.

What a beautiful new pulpit this is, huh? A very humble brother said, "We've got to get one going," and I won't mention his name, because he's that kind of humble brother, but it is marvelous! We thank God for his service. Thank you, my brother.

So, here we are, the title of the message is, "My Word Shall not pass Away," and this is part one:

Part 1: God Writes His Word

And, as it says in Exodus 31:18, "And He gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai..." The setting here is that Moses had gone up to the mountain, because God told him, "Come up here, to the mountain," and Moses went up. And he *communed* with God, Moses did, and, the Bible said, "...when he had made an end of communing with him, upon Mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God." "...written with the finger of God." But, this is nowhere near the end of the story, here.

Exodus 32:15-19 *And Moses turned, and went down from the mount, and the two tables of the testimony were in his hand: the tables were written on both their sides; on the one side and on the other were they written. And the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables. And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said unto Moses, There is a noise of war in the camp. And he said, It is not the voice of them that shout for mastery, neither is it the voice of them that cry for being overcome: but the noise of them that sing do I hear. And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount.*

So, this is the account of Moses on the mountain, and he communed with God. How beautiful that must have been. How beautiful it must have been to be in the presence—all alone, you and God, on top of a mountain. And, you know, at Easter time, which is coming up, here, very year, they put on the movie, the Ten Commandments, and there's a scene in there where Moses (a.k.a. Charlton Heston) goes up to the mountain, and, as he's on top of the mountain, God, in a real deep voice speaks to him, and then there's these whole plumes of fire, and these plumes of fire come down on these tablets and cuts it out. I don't know if that's how it was in real life, but I do know the Bible says that those tablets were written with the finger of God. Written with the finger of God, and that had to be no less beautiful to be there in the company of God and see that transpire, and to take the tablets and come down to be give to the people. But the people got impatient. We skipped over some. The people got impatient, and, so they told Aaron to go ahead and give them a god that delivered them, and they broke off the gold and put the whole golden calf in there. And Joshua, he was the minister to Moses as he was on the mountain, and he says, "I hear the noise of war," and Moses said, "No, that's not the noise of war; that's the noise of those that sing. It just sounds like war and confusion going on." So, Moses came down the mountain and there he has the tablets there, and he gets mad at them, because, there he is, trying to get something for the people, and the people, that fast, turned away. So, Moses gets mad and he takes those tablets and he breaks them. He breaks them, he gets so mad. He just throws them down and they shatter. Those tablets which were written with the finger of God. And *that* is not the end of the story. That's not the end of the story. In chapter thirty-four, let's see what happens here.

Exodus 34:1 *And the LORD said unto Moses, Hew thee [or, this time, you cut out] two tables of stone like unto the first: and I will write upon these tables the words that were in the first tables, which thou brakest.*

“The first ones, that you broke, this time, you cut them out; I’ll write on those.”

Exodus 34:28 *And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.*

So, this time, Moses had to cut out the tablets. Moses had to listen to God, and he would write on them, but, this time, God said, “I will write on them, but it’s by the hand of Moses. Moses, this time you’re doing the work, because you broke the tablets that I did the first time. This time you’re doing the work.” And ever since then God would speak to His people, His prophets and servants and He would tell them to write His Word. Now, it’s the Word of God, but man writes the Word. So, if ever hear somebody say, “Well, I can’t believe all of that in that there Bible, because, you know, the Bible was written by man,” well, you kind of got a point, it kind of was, but... And I’m sure many of us here, if you make your stand at being a Christian, you had to, somewhere along the line, hear this sometime. “Yeah, the Bible, I can’t get into that, because it was written by man.” That sounds almost, in theory, like a sound argument, a sound point, except for the fact of the Holy Ghost.

2 Peter 1:20-21 *Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*

Any time anybody is filled with the Holy Ghost—and we all have had an encounter with the Holy Ghost—that same Holy Ghost is what was on the hearts and lives of His servants to write His Word, and God says, “That’s My Word. I laid it on the hearts of my servants that they might—” If anybody says the Bible was written by man, yeah, okay, man might have physically wrote it, but he wrote the words that God gave them. Amen, amen.

Part 2: The Attack on the Word of God

Attack number 1: The Word of God suffering attack is nothing new. In fact, when the serpent brought the attack against Eve, it wasn't to attack the strength of God, it wasn't to attack His vastness, it wasn't to attack His power, he didn't even attack the love of God. When the serpent first came to Eve, the attack was on His Word.

Genesis 3:1 *Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?*

"Yea, hath God said..." "I know, Eve, I know, Eve, that you’ve got a walk with God, and I know that you talk with God, I know y’all have got this relationship going, but, Eve, I can tell you something a little better. You can actually take the Word of God, and you can actually see it in a way that you haven’t seen it before. You can take liberty with God’s—in fact, I can show you something else worth having, even though it goes a little bit against what God told you." And, this, Saints, is what he is still doing today—trying to explain away God’s Word.

So, in attack number one, we see—well, anyway...

Attack number 2: Anyone doing research on the Bible is going to find, depending on what sources you encounter, the Bible can have more than one history. Depending on what sources—this is the year 2016—depending on what sources, you might find that there’s a splintered road, trying to get to the path

that the Bible has come from. And, for this Scripture, we need to go to the Book of Daniel. This Scripture right here is leading us to the rest of what it's talking to camber here.

Daniel 7:24-25 *And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.*

Don't worry; we won't be getting into a prolonged history lesson, here; we're not going to embellish this and bring it all out. It's in there, but we're not going to be doing that this morning, so you don't have to worry about that. In the vision that God showed Daniel, He showed him about the ten horns, and, right there, it says, the ten horns were ten kings and it talked about one of the horns rose up and it subdued three of the other kings, so this lets you know that this is actually talking about people, division-wise, that was the interpretation.

But what we really want to get to is verse twenty-five, and it says here that he would speak words against the Most High, and wear out the saints of the Most High, and think to change times and laws. Think to change times and laws, and this is what we want to talk about. Now, we made the point that depending on which history you follow, you can get all kinds of information. Depending on who wrote the book, where they were, what they were thinking, what caused him to write it, it could go in so many different ways.

When I was in the Navy, I was in the U.S. Navy, I had the chance to visit 24 countries. It was amazing; twenty-four countries. It was an experience that was invaluable; it was amazing. It was awesome. It changed my life, and it's still changing my life because, one of the things I found out is that Americans are only in the United States. We're the only country that's got Americans. We, actually, we've got Americans—South Americans, mostly, but, the United States, really, they're the only ones that think they're Americans. Canada has Canadians, and Mexico has Mexicans, and South America, you know, they've got their respective countries, but, the United States has *Americans*! Well, they aren't all over the world. What I found out, as I was able to visit Greece, and Israel, France, as I was able to visit Korea, and Japan, and even Hong Kong, is that their history is not the same as our history. They do not have our point of view. When we were in Japan, they weren't happy to see us. They told World War II so different. They didn't have John Wayne out there, "Rah, rah, rah, rah!" They didn't have that. Gregory Peck flying over—they didn't have that. It wasn't a great day for Japan over there. When I was in Korea, they don't sponsor so much of hamburgers. You know, I was destitute. In Greece, I ate pizza in Greece; they didn't have any tomato sauce! I was going, "What's the deal?" Every place that I had pizza, nobody makes it like the United States, and I was thinking they were wrong, and they were like, "Go back! Go back! We have our culture, our history; you're bringing in—" In fact, when I was in Australia, I told them they talk funny. "It talk English." And they said, "You talk American. English came here." So, every place has their own version of the story, version of the story. Which brings us to the point, depending on where you look, in history, that devil, that one who's making war with the Saints, he thinks to change times, and he's been very effective. He's been so effective, as we go on--

I'd like to mention two people, one is Irenaeus, and Irenaeus was a religious person who lived in the first one hundred years after the death of the Apostles. This was a—you would think things were kind of settled, and smooth, but that's not the case. In the first one hundred years after the death of the Apostles, there were many sects that rose up, and Irenaeus, in his books, he writes about the Gnostics, and the Gnostics were a people, a whole sect of people that said they had new revelations from the Lord Jesus Christ, which superseded any of the words of the Apostles. So, therefore, what they would say goes in and comes out of the words and the letters of the testaments, were different from the words of the Apostles, but it was "better." That is what Irenaeus said, in the first one hundred years.

Another person I want to bring up is a person named Epiphanius. Epiphanius—I think I'm saying it right. Now, he was another person that existed in that same time, and he said, in the first one hundred years after the death of the Apostles, there was no less than eighty sects of people. Eighty sects of people that rose up and said that they alone had the way, and their version of the Scriptures was the true version. Eighty sets rose up within the first one hundred years after the death of the apostles.

So, no wonder we would get to here, to 2016, where we have over 211 English versions of the Bible, and 2200 denominations of Christianity. It's no wonder that we could get to this place, because it started right out of the gate. Right out of the gate, they went after the Word of the Lord.

But, down through history, attack number three, we want to talk about just now. So, our first attack was to confound the Word, our second attack, that we talked about, was on its validity. The third attack is by those laws and governing parties, laws and governing parties. I'm going to do a little history reading here:

In the year 1215, there was issued a law commanding "that they shall be seized for trial and penalties, WHO ENGAGE IN THE TRANSLATION OF THE SACRED VOLUMES." In 1215, if you translated it, you were to be put on trial, and you could get a penalty, if you translated any part of the sacred volumes, or the Scriptures, into a language so that the common people could hear it.

In the year 1229, there was another Council that FORBADE THE LAITY TO POSSESS OR READ THE VERNACULAR TRANSLATIONS OF THE BIBLE, forbade the laity to *possess* it, or read it in the language where common people could understand it.

In the year 1234, there was a Council that "ORDERED ALL VERNACULAR VERSIONS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE BISHOP TO BE BURNED." All versions outside of this one that we say is okay; everything that everybody has is to be gathered up and burned.

In the year 1483, the infamous Inquisitor General, Tomas Torquemada began his reign of terror as head of the Spanish Inquisition; which "PROHIBITED ALL, UNDER THE SEVEREST PAINS, FROM TRANSLATING THE SACRED SCRIPTURE INTO THE VULGAR TONGUES, OR FROM USING IT WHEN TRANSLATED BY OTHERS." Anybody translates it, you are against the law. Anybody reads one of those translations, you are against the law, too. You could be locked up and burned, locked up and burned, during the Spanish Inquisitions.

In England, also, there were laws that said, "WE THEREFORE DECREE AND ORDAIN THAT NO MAN SHALL, HEREAFTER, BY HIS OWN AUTHORITY, TRANSLATE ANY TEXT OF THE SCRIPTURE INTO ENGLISH, OR ANY OTHER TONGUE."

There was a council in 1546, which placed translations of the Bible, such as the German, Spanish, and English, on its list of prohibited books, in 1546, and forbade any person to read the Bible unless they were licensed by due authorities, by the people that were said to be in authority.

And it didn't stop here. There's many instances of this.

THE ENGLISH BIBLE WAS PERSECUTED.

THE GERMAN BIBLE WAS PERSECUTED. I'm sure we've all heard of martin Luther.

THE SPANISH BIBLE WAS PERSECUTED.

THE FRENCH BIBLE WAS PERSECUTED.

THE DUTCH BIBLE WAS PERSECUTED.

THE ITALIAN BIBLE WAS PERSECUTED.

And that's just some of the references that we have, but, due to length of time—everybody has to go home sometime today, so we won't be going over all those, but, yes, there has been persecution to the Bible from the outset.

Attack number 4: There has also been an attack on the Word by worldly wisdom, worldly wisdom. This brings us to the present day.

Now, we had mentioned that there was over 211 English versions of the Bible, *over* 211 English versions of the Bible. Even Reader's Digest, a few years ago, got into the fray; they said, "Oh, we need a condensed Bible for people who just want to read it. They didn't say it, but they lobbed off—it's supposed to be really, really small—and they lobbed off quite a bit. One of the Scriptures that they made sure they left out was, "He that changes..." or "He that adds to or takes from will be receiving..." They conveniently left that Scripture verse out, too. But, with the 211 English versions, there's also the denominations of the Christian faith. This goes along with Revelation 12:15, where the dragon would pour out a flood after the Son of God, the Word of truth; pour out a flood of things after Him. And, so, with so many denominations, and so many versions of the Bible, what is a person who is person seeking God supposed to look to? Where are we supposed to find this? Where are we supposed to make a choice? How are we supposed to know?

Part 3: The Answer

So many versions, so many denominations, how can we get to the truth of Almighty God?

Jeremiah 29:11-13 *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.*

So it doesn't matter, it doesn't matter. According to this Scripture, "Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." It doesn't matter about the clutter and the distractions, it doesn't matter about the flood or any other weapon that comes after you when you're seeking the face of God. It doesn't matter! When we seek him with a whole heart, there's no weapon that stands up to what God wants to do! There's nothing that can stop God from getting to you! There's nothing that can prevent, when we turn to Him with a whole heart; God gives a promise, "I will be found of you." We've got plenty of witnesses in here, but I'm a witness to that. When I cried out—I wasn't raised Christian; I was raised Muslim—and, when I cried out, I couldn't—I wanted to pray; I couldn't remember all the Arabic words, so I had to pray from my heart. And I prayed over and over for a few weeks there. I was in the United States Service, and God spoke to me, yes, God spoke to me, and told me I was praying to a god that couldn't save. That was the Word of God. There's many gods, and there's One that can save, and I praying to one that can't, so I need to find the One who can. Yes, that was God. Nothing—ignorance couldn't stop it. Tradition and culture couldn't stop it. My friends around me couldn't stop it. Being lost in a little room couldn't stop God from reaching me. And that is the testament of everybody who seeks God with a whole heart. That's the testament, that's a guarantee, that's a promise that God has given us, that we will be found of Him in that day when we seek Him with a whole heart.

Matthew 7:7-8 *Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.*

To him that knocketh, it shall be opened, to him that asketh... Aren't you glad? Aren't you glad to know that when God says that though your sins be as scarlet they shall be white as snow? Aren't you glad to know that every promise that God gives when God gives it, it is done. Aren't you glad to know that you, no matter what state you're in, no matter what state *we're* in, God can reach us wherever we are.

See, He said in his Word that neither death, nor height, nor principalities, nor powers, nothing will be able to separate you from Him. Aren't you glad to know that nothing can stop His love from getting to us when we cry out? It's good to know that Heaven and earth shall pass away before what He told us will pass away. Yeah.

When God spoke to Abraham, and he told Abraham, "I will make your seed as the sand of the seas. I will make your children, the seed that comes from you, as the sand that are in the sea." When God told Abraham that, Abraham had to know—he was an old guy—he had to know, "I'll never live to see all that, that You're saying," but he knew that if God said it, it was as good as done. "My flesh might not live to see it. It might be coming yet, but if God said it, it's done." And here we are in 2016, Israel's a nation, Jewish people all over the world, and his seed. Arab people, all over the world, from Abraham, as the sand of the sea. Still happening—God promised it, it is still happening; it could not be stopped. Yes.

And, there is coming a day, although Abraham couldn't see it in the flesh, he will see it in, in the spirit, on that day when the redeemed are gathering in. When God makes a promise to any of His people, it's as good as done. If He says, "I'm going to heal you," if He says, "I'm going to bless you," if He says, "You will eat the good of the land," if He says, "Follow Me, and I will take care of you," if God says it, it's as good as done. Moses had to learn this lesson:

Numbers 11:19-23 *Ye shall not eat one day, nor two days, nor five days, neither ten days, nor twenty days; But even a whole month, until it come out at your nostrils, and it be loathsome unto you: because that ye have despised the LORD which is among you, and have wept before him, saying, Why came we forth out of Egypt? And Moses said, The people, among whom I am, are six hundred thousand footmen; and thou hast said, I will give them flesh, that they may eat a whole month. Shall the flocks and the herds be slain for them, to suffice them? or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, to suffice them? And the LORD said unto Moses, Is the LORD'S hand waxed short? thou shalt see now whether my word shall come to pass unto thee or not.*

So, the setting here is that the Children of Israel had just been delivered, just been delivered through the Red Sea. They had left Egypt, and God drowned all the camp, the people who had them captive in Egypt, the Egyptians that had them, drowned them in the Red Sea, here they are, wandering through the land, and they actually got kind of hungry. They might have had some of their animals that they brought over, but they started complaining to God, "I'm hungry; I want some meat to eat!" I can kind of go along with that. Every now and then, salad ain't going to do it for you. Every now and then, you've got to have something that died, you know, between two slices of bread, maybe. But God told them, "All right, all right, since you're complaining to Me, I'll make it happen for you, and, no, you just won't eat one day, you just won't eat five days, you just won't eat ten days, you just won't eat twenty days, you're going to eat a whole month, until it comes out of your nostrils. Until you get sick of it. And Moses was like, "What? What? God, maybe I'm trying to bring this whole thing up to speed, there's more than six-hundred thousand *men, just men!* Let alone everybody else! So, what are we going to do, God, what are we going to do? We're going to slay all the herds? That's what you want us to do? Kill all the cattle, all the sheep, all the goats, everything to get some meat for these people? Is that what You're saying, God? Or is the sea going to give up the fish—all the fish in the sea for all of these people? Is that what's going to happen, God? Is that what's going to happen?" In verse number twenty-three:

Numbers 11:23 *And the LORD said unto Moses, Is the LORD'S hand waxed short?...*

"Oh, Moses, you don't believe that I can do this for you. You don't believe it! Now, I know, Moses, I know, unless you see it, you don't believe it. Unless you hear it, you can't believe it. Unless you feel it, taste it, or touch it, you can't perceive it," because we perceive things by our senses, "But I said it, and

when I said it, it's as good as done. But, for you, Moses, for you, thou shall see whether My word shall come to pass unto thee or not. Now, Moses, I will prove it to you. You didn't believe My word, now you're going to believe." And then, God proves His word, by sending them—the sky was filled with quail. They said that they had so much quail, that it was like coming out of their nostrils, the Bible said. So, when God says it, it's as good as done. The answer is seeking, that we can get that answer, seeking, knocking, turning to God, that we can get that answer. So, it starts—the answer to how do we find our way through all the confusion and distractions and noise and all the discouragements, and all the craziness and the foolishness, all the degradation, all the kooky TV shows and goofy movies, all the crazy songs, all the lack of love, sometimes, how do you find your way? It starts on our knees. It starts on our knees, and it winds up at the throne, it winds up at the throne.

Last part here:

Part 4: God's Word Puts All Things in Their Place

2 Peter 3:5-7 *For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: [talking about the days of Noah, there] But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

So, God said that He was going to flood the world with water, and Noah began to build the ark; according to the Bible, it took him a hundred years to build that ark. But, God said it, so, as good as God said it, it was as good as done. "I'm going to flood the world. It's coming. Ain't nothing you can do to stop it." And, so, He told Noah to build the ark; he built the ark. There was deliverance, so, when the flood came, he was the only one that was able to escape. Because God's Word held the world in reservation until then, just like it's holding the world in reservation right now. So, as the Word of God held judgment on the world in the time of Noah, it's also holding in store now.

This is our last Scripture:

2 Peter 3:13-14 *Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.*

So, all of those that believe, all those that follow Him, He's already said, "That you also are held in store by My Word. For you, there will be a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness." Amen. Give the Lord a praise.