

(October 1986) 05 - the Flesh Profits Nothing

by Ray Lowe

Ray Lowe's sermon emphasizes the temporary nature of the flesh and the eternal glory of God, calling for a return to spiritual values and reliance on the Holy Spirit.

Duration: 1:13:11

Scripture: Isaiah 40:1

Topics: "Flesh"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher begins by reading from Isaiah chapter 40, specifically focusing on the first eight verses. He emphasizes the need for comfort and speaks about God's forgiveness and redemption. The preacher then discusses the contrast between the weakness of human flesh and the greatness and power of God. He highlights the importance of recognizing that material things and the glory of the flesh will pass away, but the word of God and the things of God will endure forever. The sermon concludes with a call for young people to rise up and sell out to Jesus, bringing revival to the land.

Transcript

I want you to turn with me tonight to Isaiah chapter 40. We're going to read the first eight verses of Scripture. Isaiah chapter 40.

I mean, it's got your Bible. Anybody didn't bring it? Hold it up. Hold your hand up.

No, not the Bible, your hand that didn't bring it. Hold your hand up. Everybody turn around and look at him.

I'll remind him. Okay, if you got it, let's read together. Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, crying to her that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. For she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, and make straight unto the depths of the highway for our God.

Every valley shall be exalted, every mountain and hill shall be made low. The crooks are going to straighten up, and the rough place is plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

The voice said, Cry. And he just simply asked, What do you want me to cry? The answer came back from heaven. You cry, All flesh is Christ.

All the goodness thereof is as the flower of the grass. The grass is going to wither. The flower is going to fade.

And the reason it is, because the Spirit of God is going to blow upon it. Surely the people is grass. The grass withered.

The flower faded. But the Word of our God shall stand forever. My, what a Scripture.

Now, how many has ever heard that the book of Isaiah is a Bible within a Bible? Okay? It's got sixty-six chapters. The Bible's got sixty-six books. Thirty-nine chapters of books in the Old, twenty-seven in the New.

And right here in Isaiah, there is a, in fact, some folks, some scholars have even suggested that another writer took hold here. Of course, we know that's not true. But the reason there's such a change over here is the first thirty-nine chapters deals with pre-captivity.

The last few verses of chapter thirty-nine is the Lord speaking through the prophet Ahazekiah, telling him that all the things in his house will one day be carried to Babylon. And it closes down in verse thirty-nine. And then from forty forward deals with post-captivity.

It deals with a time that God is going to restore. He's going to begin to bless again and reveal Himself. Now, it starts out with words saying to this prophet, comfort my people.

Now, whether you believe this or not, I have been speaking words of comfort this week. Amen? Now, if you went to the doctor and he diagnosed your case as incurable cancer and sent you on your way, you could say that was not very comforting words. Is that true? But if you went to the doctor and he diagnosed your case and said you've got cancer, but it's curable.

Well, we've got cancer, but it's curable. Amen. And that's what he's saying.

Speak words of comfort to my people. And there's three things he told them and tell them to start with. He said, you tell them that the time of their forced service is over with.

Did you catch it? You tell them the time of their forced service is over with. Not their service, but the captive service. It's short right there.

Amen. How many would like to serve God not out of a push, but with joy and gladness in your heart? Amen. Tell them their iniquity has been pardoned, their punishment has been ample, sufficient, and I'm fixing to restore.

That's words of comfort. Amen. And then he says, describes something that's going to take place.

The voice crying in the wilderness. Now, here's what you're going to have to get used to. For a while, when God begins to restore, and he's already started, begins to restore the church, restores people, bring them out of captivity, bring us back down where we're supposed to be.

We're on our way back to Zion. You're going to have to realize that John the Baptist, the spirit, and the ministry of John the Baptist is in the Lamb. My wife is the only one that can witness and tell you this, but ever since I have been a preacher, been called to preach, since 1967, over and over and over, God keeps speaking in my ear.

He will not let me forget it. I will send the spirit of Elijah on the ministry. Not on you.

He's always said the same identical words. I will send the spirit of Elijah on the ministry. And it's here.

And when God begins to restore, the John the Baptist type of a voice crying in the wilderness is, I don't know no other word to say except it's crude. Amen. And before the Lord can restore the church, if you was going to restore this building, the first thing you'd send in it is the tear-downers and the tear-uppers.

Okay? And buddy, when they get through, it looks like they done made a mess out of things. Is that right? I used to be in that kind of business. And during that period of time is where a lot of folks get messed up.

Because that's the part they don't understand. Other words, God sends the wrecking crews in first. And He will not release them until all flesh is being pulled out of it.

So, you get straightened up quicker, and we'll change quicker. But until the church straightens up, gets back where it ought to be, the wrecking crew is going to stay here. I don't mean me.

I'm leaving tonight. Amen. Put this thing back together.

And out of it will roll the most beautiful vehicle of expression you've ever seen in all your life. And the glory of the Lord is going to be revealed. Amen.

Now, what is, when the voice rises, crying in the wilderness, He just simply asks a question. You know, God gives a charge and says, Go forth and cry. Become a voice.

Now, brother and sister, you better recognize this. I mean you better recognize it. God is raising up a voice in our land.

Amen. And He said, What do you want me to cry? He said, Here's what I want you to cry. I want you to cry that all flesh is grass.

Everything about the flesh, even the good flesh, it's like the flower of the grass. That's a pretty part of flesh. Give me a little volume on these monitors.

Cut y'all off if you want to, but I've got to hear myself. Okay? Y'all ready tonight? And He said, I want you to show the contrast between the glory of the flesh and the glory of God. I want you to just show the folks.

I want you to just show the contrast between the glory of the flesh and the glory of God. I like what the pastor read tonight. The flesh profited nothing.

Amen. The flesh is the stink in God's nostrils. The flesh is the product of the devil in the garden.

It's the devil's child. It's the thing that Jesus hung on Calvary to destroy. Okay? The Bible said that He was manifested to destroy the works of the devil.

The works of the devil is the flesh. It's the devil's child. It's the product of the devil.

And God hates it. And He's going to do something about it that's got Him to the church. Amen.

Amen. Now, we have no problem with the bad flesh. You know, I come up believing that all there was to the devil and evil and sin was, I don't smoke and I don't chew and I don't fool with them that do.

But little did they tell me there's more to it than that. Oh, my Lord. Well, I don't smoke and I don't chew.

I still fool with a few that do. But we've got bigger problems than that tonight in the church. Hallelujah.

1976, we were down in South Louisiana and I was there to attend a Thanksgiving convention. Brother B.H. Clinton was the night speaker and they were just getting different preachers to minister in the morning. God let me speak one morning to 300 ministers.

I said to them in 1976, there's an element rising in the church we're going to have to deal with. If we don't, it's going to destroy or it's going to kill the church. And I said that element is called flesh.

Now, my whole message, my whole ministry, my whole calling, my whole sending, everything that I'm doing today, everything that I'm preaching about and talking about and sharing with people is this message. There is a voice crying against the flesh, the flesh of man, the glory of the flesh, and everything about the flesh. God is going to get out of His house and return once again the Spirit and the power and the glory of God and we're going to do something once again.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Now, I heard somebody, somebody told me one time, boy, I didn't realize what they were saying.

They said to me, you can go through this land and preach against the devil and all the folks will get behind you. But the minute you start preaching against the flesh, you better have your feet on solid ground because the flesh of a man is like people's pets. You kill my dog, I'll kill your cat.

These folks will kill you over their pets. Fool with anything but my pets, I've walked in folks' houses and they have these dog straps so tight they have to wobble when they walk. Amen? They'll say, watch my dog.

Okay? And they said to me, the flesh is like a pet. People don't like for you to get on their pet. That's the one they rub and cuddle in.

They like it. You remember a man by the name of Abraham? Produced him one? Amen? One day the Lord said, through His wife, He's got to go. Him and the Spirit that you joined with to produce it.

The woman. Cast Him out. Get Him out.

Listen to that man. He falls to his knees and said, Oh, that Ishmael might live. Don't make me get rid of him.

But God said, that's not My child. That's not Me. You done that.

You produced that. I had nothing to do with it. I don't need your help.

You ain't going to produce what I promised. I'm the Almighty God. I'll bring it to pass.

I don't need your ability. I just need your availability. I'll do the job.

I'm God. Hallelujah. I don't need you, Abraham.

I just need you to walk before Me. Hallelujah. And I'll bring you past the promises of God.

Oh Lord, help me tonight. He began to cry out against the flesh. One of the most damnable doctrines in the land tonight.

It's having more of an effect and impact than you realize. This is the doctrine of the dignity of man. You have no dignity, sir, unless you've been born again by the Spirit of God.

I'll show you in the 8th chapter of the book of John where the Jews that we hold so high and so holy, Jesus looked at those Jews and said, you are of your father the devil. Jews He was talking to. The very seed of Abraham He was talking to.

And said, you are of your father the devil. A man outside of Jesus Christ washed in His blood. Hallelujah.

He has no dignity. He's a fallen creature. He's the man that walked out of that garden almost 6,000 years ago.

He walked out a selfish, self-exalted, self-esteeming, self-everything creature. Walked out proud. Walked away from God.

Amen. And He's that same creature tonight. Only that Spirit has been multiplied many times.

God hates that creature. And in this hour, we're going to find that as that thing has rose more and more, it's had 6,000 years of growth now, the Bible without man is clear. It's clear.

The Bible tells us that in the end of time, how this thing will come up, how the flesh will come up, that old self-man, how many knows what I'm talking about, will come up as never before, and He's come up. I'm going to show you something tonight. How far this thing has really got off course.

Most of the things that we're doing today, one preacher says, 90% of what we're doing today we could continue to do if God should die. Think about it. How much of the program could we continue with if God had a heart attack? Huh? A bunch of it.

In fact, we could nearly keep going and never even stop to go to God's funeral. Why? Because ego, man in his ability, man in all that he has achieved and grown to and come to and 6,000 years of knowledge of Eden, of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, all of that accumulation, see, in the end time, everything that's ever been will just come to its fullness in the end time. Sinners will come to their fullness.

The transgressors will come to their fullness. Flesh will come to their fullness. But thank God there's a people going to stand on this earth that's come to the fullness of the knowledge of God, a strong people that knows their God and they're going to do exploits one more time.

He said, you deal with the glory of that flesh, that good part of flesh. Bring a man down and show him. Now, brother and sister, I want to tell you something God's fixed to do.

He's fixed to fool with your folks' value system because we're all screwed up in that area and excuse that term, but I say it often now because you understand those terms. We've got folks that have sold out to this materialistic Christ and gospel, cloying, literally losing their kids to get ahead. Amen? Fighting to keep up

with the Joneses and the Smiths.

You can't do it. They'll refinance every time. Can't do it.

I used to try that, but I quit that foolishness. Amen? They'll refinance on you. Amen? You know why? Because we've lost the sense of our values.

We're like Esau. The heat of the day has caused us to lose our mind and today we value the house we live in, the car we drive and our bank account more than the things of God. I'll have you to know I can't put my head on it.

I want you to know one thing. Everything that's of the flesh, everything of this world, it's not going to be long until God's going to set it up in one big mass smoke and the only thing that's not going to burn is that which is the Word of the Lord and that which you have. The amount that's not going to burn is the amount of God that you've got.

The rest of it's going up in smoke. But if you want to get in trouble today, you run through this country and preach against the materialistic thing. Everybody's seeking a blessed planet.

They're running after the preachers that's often the most in this world. But God's fixed to let us see that's not what life is all about. You don't live because in the abundance of the things that you possess, life comes like the preachers already said by eating the flesh and drinking the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

It's where life is. Hallelujah. God's going to get some of you to the place.

Oh, young people, listen. 1970, I was in a revival. I mean, I had one of the greatest revivals I ever had, financially, spiritually, and in the number.

Stayed 30 nights right in the middle of that revival. I heard God say these words to me and it didn't mean one thing to me then. But as I was preaching one night, I heard God whisper in my ear and He said, I will not meet your needs according to the rise and the fall of the market.

I will meet your needs according to my riches in glory by Christ Jesus. And I saw God raise up an army of young people. I saw an army of young people rise in this land.

I saw them sell out to Jesus. Hallelujah. Like they did in the book of Acts.

I saw young people come stand up in this nation. You say, you're going to see it. Yes, I'm going to see it.

That material things meant nothing to them. They were sold out to Jesus and constant revival through them. Hallelujah.

God's going to get some of you to the place that all this old fleshly mess that you've clawed and fought after ain't going to mean the snap of your finger to you. Because it's all, and all that mess is infiltrated into the church. How many knows that tonight? It's become the gospel in most circles.

It's the gospel of the electronic church most especially. Oh, but let me tell you something. He said, you tell them the flesh is going to pass away.

The glory of the flesh is going to pass away. Everything about the flesh is going to pass away. But the Word of God and the things of God are going to live forever.

Hallelujah. Folks don't like to hear that. And when you try to turn them around, it's like trying to herd up a bunch of rebellious heifers.

You know what a backsliding heifer is? It's one that refuses to go to the pasture or to the watering trough. Every time you try to lean, they do like this. That's a backsliding heifer.

And I tell you what, there's a lot of backsliding in our land. God's turning some things around. How many believe that tonight? God's turning some things around.

Amen. Now listen to this. Here's how far, here's how far that man has come to the front and God has went to the back.

Here's how much of flesh is in the land. And all God's people don't know the difference, most of them. How many knows God tonight don't need our ability? He needs our availability.

Make yourself available. How many believe God's able to handle the situation? Listen to this. I might get on some of you folks' pets tonight, but you done give your offerings, praise God, and I got you.

Two years ago, three years ago, out in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the charismatic center of the world, lives a man. All of you know him. Oral Roberts.

Three years ago, the Lord left glory and came to Tulsa. Said to Oral, Oral, when are you going to find me a cure for cancer? You know, I always thought he already knew. And on international TV, before an international office, a congregation, here stands a moral man, made out of the dust of the earth, saying, God had to come to Tulsa to ask me when I would find him a cure for cancer.

Did you all get it? Now, I'm fixing to mention another one. This is one of my favorites. In fact, he's about one of the only big ones left I've got the confidence in.

That's Brother Swagger. I believe he's a man of God. But he's making some statements.

It's going to fix to get him in trouble. He said that the Lord said to him in Baton Rouge, the Lord came to Baton Rouge, and said to him, Jimmy, you can't fail. I've got nobody to take your place.

Okay? Jimmy, your mission program can't fail. If your mission program should fail, around the world, the mission programs would grind to a halt. Hogwash.

Now, I believe Brother Swagger is a man of God. Now, I'm not touching his life. But that's how far we've arrived in this thing called flesh.

I believe Oral Roberts at one time had the touch of God. I know he did. I saw him open blind eyes in the late 60s, early 60s.

But when man reaches a place that he thinks that the God that made this earth and everything in it has got to employ him to find him a cure for cancer, we done got in a mess, and we're in a big mess. And when any one man thinks that the kingdom of God hinges on what he does, we're in a mess. Brothers and sisters, let me remind you of something.

In 1949, there was a revolution behind the bamboo curtain cords in China. In China, they went through the Communists, took their Bibles and burned them, closed their churches and made warehouses out of them,

and passed a law. It's against the law to worship.

China closed her doors, and for years, nobody got to look in. It became the world of the unknown. But behind that bamboo curtain, God had some Chinese people that went underground, and by the power of the Holy Ghost, they got to the place where they couldn't meet public and worship.

But let me tell you what began to happen. They got so close to God until they couldn't say, We're going to meet in your house on Thursday. They got so close to God until the Holy Ghost began to tell them.

The Holy Ghost began to speak to them. And out of that Holy Ghost church, without a man to lead them, without anybody, without any Bibles, without any churches, with the law forbidding it to happen, God raised up in China one of the greatest churches on the earth tonight. He doesn't have to have Oral.

He doesn't have to have Jimmy. He doesn't have to have Ray. He's got the Holy Ghost, hallelujah.

And nothing can stop the power and the drive of the Holy Ghost. Can you say amen? Tricking out of China now is the information. One of the greatest and biggest churches, it's not in the United States, it's in Communist Red China, third world countries where there's poverty abounding.

We go to Mexico a lot. Mexico's in bad shape. You go to Mexico, folks will drive or walk for ten miles and stand for two hours or three hours to hear you preach and then sleep on the ground.

In third world countries everywhere, revival's breaking out. Are you listening to me? Brethren, sister, God doesn't have to have America. He doesn't have to have the Jimmy's and the Oral's and the Ray's and the Jim's.

He can raise him up, a little barefooted boy somewhere, and fill him with the Holy Ghost and send him to preach the gospel. I like to say this because it just rings a bell in me. Somewhere there's a little boy.

He may be having a pack of skull. You know, they've got it now where you sit. It's in a warm place in the hip pocket.

There's a little boy somewhere walking. Dip him in some skull that God can save. Cleanse him from skull.

Fill him full of the Holy Ghost and call him to preach and send him in Tulsa to take over his place. Give the Lord a hand if you believe that tonight. God's fixing to pour down every high place.

The pride of man is going to be brought low. The low is going to be brought up. Hallelujah! God's going to do work in this land and bring forth the people.

Hallelujah! Dependent on the Spirit of God, walking in the fear of God, in the power of God, in the ability of God. Amen! And once again, the glory of the Lord is going to be revealed. Now, here's where we are in the flesh.

The flesh! This is how far off we are to think that God has done got dependent on us. Preachers! Hey, some preachers think that if they don't get up and prop up God's kingdom every morning, it's going to collapse. Boy, I've got to get up, but don't this thing won't roll.

It was rolling before you got here and it will be rolling when you're gone. You've had people in church bust going, I'll take my money out and that thing will collapse. You are a fool, a bigot.

It will roll without you, honey child. Amen? Why, the church is controlled by the flesh. They'll get among each other and talk.

I'll tell you what let's do. We'll just take our money out. You know, if we leave, that preacher is in trouble.

No, he probably got relieved that you're gone. And now the church is ready to roll. Amen? I'm trying to drive home a point.

God loves you. God wants you. But He can do without you.

Boy, I'll tell you what, I absolutely used to think that God had called me to prop His Word up, to keep it from failing. My God! These kings and emperors in their graves that tried to stop this thing. Amen? Hey, I've got a hold of something you can't burn, you can't drown, you can't shoot, you can't stop.

Hallelujah! There's nothing you can do about it, but get in it. If you fight it, it's going to bite you and burn you. Hallelujah! Why? Because God is on the move.

It's not a man. It's the voice of God in the land. It's the glory of God fixed to be revealed.

It's God moving out of His place, coming back to Zion, tearing down the flesh, getting the church ready to be a witness one more time. And Jesus is coming again. But He's going to snatch out the flesh.

And like I say, we have no problem with the bad flesh. We're ready to jump on the perverts. We're ready to jump on the drug addicts.

We're ready to jump on everything, but the problem right now, that's not where the problem's at. That's the problem in the world out there. That ain't the problem in the church.

Perverts ain't giving me no trouble. Drug addicts ain't giving me no trouble. It's these old fleshly field churches full of fleshly field folks with a fleshly program and a carnal mind! Hallelujah! That God's going to snatch out! Amen! He said, You show a man what he is.

Cry out against his flesh. Cry out against it. Then He said, I want you to tell him what kind of God he's serving.

I'm going to spend the next few minutes talking to you about what kind of God you and I are serving. In verse number 9, O Zion that bringeth good tidings, get thee up into the high mountains or the high places. O Jerusalem that bringeth good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength.

Lift it up, be not afraid. Say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Now this was a people out of captivity. This is God beginning restoration.

This is God ending their captivity. This is God fixed to bring restoration and redemption and power and blessing. He said, O Zion, Now see, the voice changes from a singular voice.

See, God speaks to a singular voice. The voice in the wilderness. The voice in the wilderness prepares Zion, the church.

And then from a singular voice, He didn't say, O voice, cry. He said, O Zion, O church, get up on the mountaintops and cry with the voice of strength and say, Behold your God! You've got to see your God. I believe the Lord's going to come out and be God one more time.

You know why God's going to be God one more time? It's not because of me and you that God's going to do what He's going to do. He's going to do it for His name's sake. Read Ezekiel 36.

Read Ezekiel 36. You've heard Ezekiel 37. The vision of the boneyard and the restoration and the shaking and the revival.

But read 36. Read 36. 36 is where God's people had walked among the heathen and come a reproach among the heathen.

The heathen looked at God's people and said, Are these the people of God? That brought on Ezekiel 37. God said then, Ezekiel 36, He said, I'm not going to do what I'm going to do because of your name's sake. I'm not going to do it because Ray Lowe wants it done, or Jim Hite wants it done, or whoever wants it done.

I'm going to do it because they're asking me to do it. I'm going to do what I'm going to do for my name's sake. See, God's going to do it where I get in it.

God's going to do it where Jim gets in it. God's going to do it for His name's sake. Hallelujah! See, that's why it doesn't matter what you and I do.

We need to just get concerned on getting into things. See, He's going to bring His name out of the mud. Johnny Carson doesn't make fun of the Lord too much.

All these folks that doesn't make fun of God too much. He's going to show them He's still God. How many believe that tonight? He's going to show these folks at Emory University that He's not dead.

He's going to show this world one more time who the only potentate is. Can you say amen? He's going to show us He's got the cure for cancer. Hallelujah! I said He's going to show us He's got the cure for cancer.

I believe the church has got the cure for cancer. Can you say amen? I believe the church gets back where it ought to be. We'll lay hands on the cancer.

We'll lay hands on the disease. We'll lay hands on the cripple. And they'll begin to walk again.

Hallelujah! We've come through this time of old legs stretching and trying to produce a miracle. I was talking to a boy not long ago. He said, Boy, I just had a great revival.

I said, Tell me about it. He said, Man, one night they was... See, what did he... The number used. He said, There's 77 people there with short legs.

And God healed 75 of them. I said, How do you do it? He said, I just sat them in a chair and prayed and God done it. I said, You just rerouted their rin.

Oh, you just shifted the... Whatever. We produce all kind of garbage. You ever notice in these meetings, don't nobody get healed but the women with female trouble? Somebody asked me, You know who all's got female trouble? I said, Every man that's married's got female trouble.

Amen? This revival's produced a lot of quackery, a lot of foolishness, a lot of junk. And you know what it's done? It ain't hurt the preacher. He's got rich doing it.

But it's brought down the name of the Lord. I said, It's brought down the name of the Lord. I was in Columbus, Georgia City Auditorium.

5,000 people fill that auditorium. The preacher walks out. There's an angel just come to heal in this place tonight.

560 people get up with back trouble. God heals you right now. They all jump up everywhere.

He prays this little prayer of faith. And they all sit down. 640 women.

You've got female problems. You get up. God's going to heal you.

But across that city auditorium, I don't know how many hundreds it would be, two or three rows, lay little children all crippled up, all twisted up. Y'all listening to me? All kind of cases. I sat there trying to believe it was God, but when it come to this part, I said, It ain't God.

When He got down healing everybody inwardly, He took His offering up, preached a little ten-minute sermon, and closed that thing down, and left two or three hundred kids in the shape they was in. It's strange to me. If God's angel came, it didn't go to them children and set them free.

The one that really need the healing. Brethren, this revival I see coming, it ain't going to be inward female trouble. You're going to see the lame walk again.

You're going to see the blind eyes come open again. You're going to see legs go where there's not any legs. You're going to see the glory of God revealed.

One more time, hallelujah. Because it ain't going to be flesh. It's going to be the power of a resurrected Christ pouring through His church again.

How many wants to be a part of that thing? That's where we're headed. That's where we're headed. We're only in the beginning of it.

We're in preparation for it. You've got to prepare for this thing. How many knows when you read the life of Jesus, man, He got them folks that man couldn't help.

Is that right? See, this fleshly revival that we've had, it can't get them hard cases. I'm praying for God to let me get them hard cases. Now, what kind of God? See, what this thing has done, brother and sister, this is why God is so against what's happened.

Here's what it's done. Now, I talked to you a minute ago about remodeling. Now, what this revival that we've had, this fleshly thing that's rose in the church, it's remodeled God.

And what it's done, it's brought Him down. It has reduced Him. And if you'll read from Isaiah 40 until about 47 or 8, I believe it is, you'll find what was happening.

God had been reduced down to nothing. See, and you don't understand. Oral Roberts making a statement like that, you know what he done? You know what he done? He reduced God.

He made folks think that God Almighty is dependent on a man. He reduced Him. Brought Him down.

Amen. He insulted Him. And He's going to pay for it.

But all the flesh we're walking in is an insult to Him too. Because He's God. He doesn't need any help.

He's able to handle it, praise God. He can keep it afloat. You can't starve a preacher that's preaching God's Word.

The ravens will start bringing it to Him. How many of you believe that tonight? When Elijah comes into the land, the voice of God comes into the land, you can't do nothing but support it. Get behind it.

Hallelujah. Because God's behind it. It doesn't matter if everybody's against it.

God's with it. God's behind it. He'll go.

He'll survive. Hallelujah. Because God will survive.

Amen. I want you to notice the next few verses. He says, Zion, get up there and tell this world what kind of gods you got.

Show the contrast between man and God. Listen to this, folks. It's all in there.

He says this God, He holds the ocean in His hands. He holds the oceans in His hands. Can you believe it? It took me 17 days to cross the Pacific, but yet God holds that thing, brother, in His hands.

He measures the heavens with the span of His hand. He just walks out and said, that's how big it is. Huh? What kind of God are y'all following? He weighs the earth and the mountains and the balances.

All the nations are as a drop in a bucket. He picks up the islands as if they were nothing. Pretty good-sized fellow, isn't he? All of Lebanon's forests do not contain sufficient fuel to consume a sacrifice big enough to honor Him.

And if you slayed all of Lebanon's animals, the sacrifice wouldn't be big enough. Oh, I like this one. He needs no advice from angels, demons, or men.

He created, named, and numbered all the stars. You don't have to teach him arithmetic and algebra and math. He's a pretty good fellow at it already.

He has unending strength and unfathomable insight. He don't have to come down to Georgia or Mississippi to ask me what he's going to do. He pretty well knows what's going on.

In fact, he knows everybody's thoughts so far off, this book says. He said, you tell them folks a difference in this flesh, and all that flesh can do, and all the glory of the flesh, and all the ability of the flesh, and all the flesh that's sprung up in the land, and all the flesh that's coming in the church, and all that there is about the flesh. You tell them.

You show them the contrast. You show them the weakness of men. You show them the weakness of men.

And then you tell them about the greatness and the power of a God that holds the oceans in the palm of His hands. Brethren, sister, why don't we wake up and realize that God is coming back into the land one more time to shake this whole earth, hallelujah, and show us that He's still God Almighty. Can you say amen? Now, I'm fixed to tell you how.

And I'm going to tell you the only way you can be a part of it. It closes chapter 40 with these words. Even the youth grow weary.

Why did it use the term youth? The youth, the glory of the young man is what? His strength. Is that right? The glory of an old man is his gray hair. But the glory of a youth, young man, is his strength.

But He said even the youth, the young, grow weary. They get tired. They burn out.

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. That ain't all He said. He said they're going to mount up with wings like an eagle.

They're going to run, but this run they won't get weary. They're going to walk, but this walk won't make them faint because they got it waiting on the Lord. Their strength is derived from God.

They're not walking their own. They're not looking to their own ability. They're not in the flesh.

They've moved out of the flesh. Their strength has been renewed like an eagle. Hallelujah.

And they soar and praise God above the powers and the darkness and the demons of this world. Okay. The hardest thing for flesh to do is wait on the Lord.

God, I really need to go ahead and do that because I can do a pretty good job. No, you can't. You make a mess.

I made a lot of messes in my time, but I pray to God I don't make no more. Do y'all really like this? I'm on your pet tonight though. I'm kicking your dog.

Flesh. The most impatient thing about us is flesh. Man, I went through a time.

You better not choke down in front of me in a red light. I'd blow your tag off with my horn. When God started talking to me and dealing with me, dealing with my flesh and my hurry up, I got to do it and I got to prop this thing up.

Every time I went to town, everybody broke down in front of me. I went through the line where I was at Gibson's, Roses, K-March, Windex, the Piggly Wiggly. Either the machine broke down or the person in front of me.

The check had to be verified. And the man to do it was in the back side on the outside up in a truck. Couldn't come out for the next 15 minutes.

And I was in a hurry and they didn't understand that. I had to go. I was on the road.

And I'd grit and I'd pram. I didn't cuss, but if I'd have spit on the ground, there would have been no grass grewed. Y'all listening? Flesh.

Hurry. Get on with the show, Ray. This thing depends on you.

Boy, I used to God. And I look at this and I can't believe I was ever this stupid. But I was.

You know, somebody in the church that had to be rushed to the hospital had called me. Oh, God, I've got to get down there and get a hold of their hand. I'd run red lights, run folks off the road and almost kill

myself and a family or two on the way.

Oh, and I'd run in there and I didn't say it out loud, but I'd say in my heart, I'm here, you lucky people. I made it. Everything's okay now.

And I couldn't heal the wing of a hummingbird. Say amen. Amen.

Flesh. All flesh. But them folks were just stupid as I was thinking I could do it.

Amen. Oh, church of God, help us, praise God. Help us to get out all this garbage and get back in the flow of God's Spirit and let God pour something through us.

Hallelujah. We can walk through this land and the heathens are going to know there's a God that still lives. Hallelujah.

Flesh. Flesh don't like to wait. We've got to get on with it.

But the Bible says they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength and they shall mount up with wings like an eagle. I'm on close. When I get finished, I ain't finished yet.

The first chapter of Ephesians, this book says that we are created to sit where? Sit in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Where? Above all principalities, powers. Did it ever strike your fancy that Paul opened that book talking about principalities and said we're created to rise above them and closes the book talking about put on the whole arm of God that you might be able to stand against principalities? How do you stand against them? How do you deal with principalities? You go back to Isaiah chapter 40.

You get out of the flesh. Let God empty all that mess out of you. You let your strength be renewed like an eagle.

You mount up, praise God like an eagle in the Spirit of God. Walk in the Spirit. Operate in the Spirit.

Depend on the Spirit. Wait on the Spirit. If the Spirit don't move, don't go ahead.

That's what happened to Abraham. That's what happened to Abraham. He never did doubt God.

He never did doubt God according to God's Word. But one day he did decide that God might be a little slow in making this thing happen. And he said, I'm going to have to help God out.

Brother, God don't need our help tonight. He needs us to wait on Him. If we die, God's able to give life back to our dead body.

If it falls apart, God's able to put it back together. If they die, God's able to raise them back from the dead. Can you say amen? We'll mount up in this hour against the piles of darkness.

And see, that word, mount up against them, is talking about authority. Authority. How many like to have authority over the devil? The principalities.

Heavenly places is not heaven. It's a realm of authority. What you bind on earth, we help this generation of folks.

We're going to have to get back to the place where we've got power over the demonic, satanic powers of this hour. You can't throw a stick of bubble gum at them and kill them. You've got to have power.

And you get power by mounting up with wings like an eagle. Waiting on God. Hallelujah.

Not walking in the flesh. You run out there doing it. Amen.

One attribute of Jesus, and one thing you'll recognize about Jesus, He never allowed a man to hurry Him nowhere. It took Him four days to get to the tomb of Lazarus. When they tried to jerk Him by the coat and drag Him.

Come on. He just hung around and hung around and hung around and hung around. Then they come back over and said, forget it.

He's dead now. He just kept on strolling. Amen.

If it hadn't been us preaching, oh God, I've got to get over that Lazarus. Oh, what in the world are we going to do if the preacher ain't there and the church ain't there? We've got to get over there quick, you know. He just kept walking.

See, it doesn't matter where you get to before He dies or after He dies, if you've got power to raise Him from the dead. Is that right? What difference does it make? If you've got the power to say, come on out Lazarus. All right.

Let Him die. Let Him stink. See? Flesh.

Cry out against the flesh. The voice said, what do you want me to say? Cry. Cry out against the flesh.

Get on the flesh. Come against the flesh. I feel so good tonight.

I'm just at rest. Praise God. Isn't it so sweet to trust in Jesus? Just to take Him at His Word.

Not try to prop it up, make it work. Kick and slobber and scream and jump. Have ulcers, heart pains, die at 40.

It's just so sweet. If He don't do it, it ain't going to get done. Amen? Flesh.

How many believe tonight God is able to handle the situation? You believe God is able to handle the situation? I'm closing with this. Strange that the preacher read the Scripture he read. But I was going to tell you this tonight.

I was in Greenville, South Carolina. In revival. Used to go back to the church every night and pray.

I don't do that now. I get up in the mornings. Do my praying in the mornings.

But I used to go back at night. I went back to pray that night. Somewhere around 3 o'clock that morning, I saw this scream.

Now I know you've seen this on TV screens. Where what you were watching was still going. They'd come across the bottom of the screen rolling about a warning of severe weather.

How many of you have ever seen that? You know, just roll across. You don't never quit looking at what you're looking at. But across the bottom or the top or wherever, there comes words across.

Warning, a tornado has been sighted in Gwinnett County. You seen that? Okay, that's what I saw. I saw across the screen these words.

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world as a witness to every nation. And then shall the end come. I began to pray.

I began to seek God. I began to study what the gospel of the kingdom was. I began to seek the Lord.

I said, Lord, how can I become a part of preaching the gospel of the kingdom into all the world? That the end can come? You know what he said to me? He said, except you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you don't have any life in you. But if you will eat my flesh, what the preacher read tonight, if you will eat my flesh and you will drink my blood, I'll give you the power to carry the gospel of the kingdom into all the world. And the gospel of the kingdom is not some Sunday school program, brother and sister.

It's the power to do what Jesus done preaching the gospel of the kingdom. How many believe he's able to do that tonight? The flesh profits nothing. The flesh can do nothing.

The flesh is a failure. It's a stink in God's nostrils. And here's where we are.

Here's where we are. And I'm closing with this. What you gonna do with this message? You gonna go away? Huh? What you gonna do with all these hard sayings that ain't over? They're not over.

What you gonna do with these hard sayings? What are you gonna do with these hard sayings? What are you gonna do when the preacher every Sunday after Sunday after Sunday tears down the flesh and tears down the things that's not God? Begins to try to turn this church around and get this church back in the right direction. Go in the direction that God would have it to go. Not that you've been off in sin and all that kind of stuff.

And I'm talking about when God begins to make the change and take this church. How many wants to go in the right direction tonight towards the glory of God and the power of God and a real revival hit this place? How many of that's what you're looking for tonight? Then I ask you, what are you gonna do with these words? What are you gonna do with these words? Cause they're gonna be hard. They're gonna bust your flesh.

They're gonna empty you out of flesh. God's gonna snatch that carnal mind out of you. Your thinking's fixed to change in a lot of areas.

Hallelujah! Your direction's gonna change. A lot of things is gonna change. What are you gonna do with it? You're gonna turn away? Are you? What you gonna do with it? That's a probing question tonight.

What are you gonna do with this hard message? These hard sayings. These blunt sermons. These cutting words.

They're not over. God's gonna trim you. He's gonna whack you.

He's gonna bloody your nose. He's gonna black your eye. He's gonna break your leg.

He's gonna chop your toes off. He's gonna cut you every way but loose. Tear you down.

Y'all think I'm crazy. But then He's gonna put you back together. Hallelujah! Fill you back up.

Stand you back up. You're gonna soar over. Hallelujah! And the glory of God will fall.

Amen! How many wants to do that tonight? How many believes that God's able to do His bidding tonight? How many believes it's time to turn back to the Lord and wait on Him? Amen! And one of the signs that we are all self-sufficient is a lack of prayer. Men don't pray, think they can still do it. Men that won't get in this altar and ask God to do it, they believe they can do it.

Men that won't spend some time waiting on God are self-sufficient men. Because men, you see men of prayer, men that's ever done anything, God, were men of prayer because they reached the place that I've reached. Brother Jim's reaching and others across this land.

Wilkerson's reaching. And a few more's reaching to realize we can't do it. It's got to be the handiwork of God.

And He's trying to bring this church. He ain't trying. He's going to bring this church to that place.

You're going to realize we can't do it. It's not up to us. But God can come out of His place and do it, brother and sister.

Will you stand with me please? Bow your heads. Father, I thank You tonight. Lord, You provided a feast.

It's not an Old Testament feast. It's a New Testament feast. It's the Lamb.

It's Your provision. You've made provision. You've made provision for the church that she could have everything that You said she could have.

She could be everything that You said she could be. She could walk over and bind anything that You said she could bind. You said it.

It's true. But the only way we can do it, Lord, is partaking of that that You have provided. It's time to turn away from the fleshly tables.

It's time to turn away from the fleshly cups. And turn back to the table of the Lord. And begin to eat of that table.

And have life in us. Lord, I ask You to bring all these people tonight. I don't know all these people.

But I ask You to bring them to the place that they'll open their hearts door-wide. And receive the message against the flesh. We ask it.

Don't let them turn away. Don't let them turn away. There's nowhere to go.

This is it. Lord, we've entered the time. If you run from a bear, a lion will get you.

If you run from a lion, a poison serpent will get you. There's nowhere to go. This is it.

There's no way to hide. You're the hiding place. There's no place of safety.

You're our refuge. You're our need supplier. You're our burden bearer.

You're our baptizer. You're our redeemer. Our sanctifier.

You're our everything tonight, Lord. There's nowhere to go. We ask it in the name of Jesus.

Help us tonight. To receive Your Word. In Jesus' name.

Amen. I want everybody here tonight. And if you don't mean it.

God's playing no games. No phoniness. No pretense.

No hypocrisy. But if in your heart, you've reached the place. Jesus, I'm going with You.

I'm going with You. You have the words of eternal life. I am going with You.

I want you to get out of your seat and come up here and stand with me tonight. Come on. I want what God's got for me.

I want His Word. I open my heart. I want revival to come to our land.

I want revival in our churches, our homes. I want revival. Come on.

Come on. Hallelujah. Brother Jim.

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