

Verse by Verse: Isaiah 32:2

By Louis T. Talbot

Dr. Louis T. Talbot:

And thank you Mr. Announcer, and good morning my radio friends and friends of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. This is Louis T. Talbot greeting you and I greet you in the wonderful name of our soon coming Lord. Please remember that on Monday morning that we begin the study on God's great plan of the ages. And I trust that all of you folks have written to the Bible Institute for copy of the small chart that I have referred to upon time to time, this chart of the plan of the ages. I will help you a great deal as we make our study of God's great plan from the past eternity to the future eternity. Quite a number of requests reached my desk this morning, and doubtless from folks who heard this announcement yesterday. But if any of you folks haven't written for one hour you just get your letter in the mail today, if you please, and it will reach us tomorrow and then we'll put it in the mail so that you will be ready by Monday morning. Just address us at The Bible Institute of Los Angeles, Los Angeles 17, California.

Then my friends, remember that we are handed upon a new month that is the month of October. And I ask you to write us at least once a month and the best time to write is at the beginning of the month. Now during the last few days, years, that I've been speaking to you on some of the great passages of the Bible which are a little known such as that one that we have been considering the last two mornings in Matthew Chapter 16 verses 1-3, where the Lord Jesus speaks of the red sunset and the red sunrise, and then between. But what a solemn statement that is and also how wonderfully the Lord, Jesus Christ, speaks about His death. Then also He's

coming out again, and then His reference to the four watches of the night when He says "I may come in the evening, I may come in the midnight, and I may come at the cock crowing, and I may come in the morning." And it would seem, my dear friends that we are now in the fourth watch of the night. I was very, very glad to receive the comments and the expressions of appreciation and blessing that you received from that study.

Now I've got another verse for you, but my dear friends, that is also little known. And yet it is one of the greatest statements in all the Word of God. Isaiah Chapter 32 and verse 2. And here is how it reads, you follow me as I read, "a man shall be as a hiding place from the wind, as a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as a shadow of a great rock in a weary land." You know my friends, that this is one of the greatest prophecies that the Spirit of God has ever recorded concerning that coming into this world of the Lord, Jesus Christ, and when the prophet says a man shall be these things, of course, He was referring to none other than the man, Christ Jesus, and He was going to be a hiding place from the wind, and our covert from the tempest, and rivers of water in a dry place, and the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. A man is going to be these things, not a creed, not a church, not a confession of faith, and not a code of ethics; but a man, a personality, a living being, an individual man, shall be these things. And of course that man that the prophet was referring to was the Lord, Jesus Christ.

I believe my dear friends that the curse of present day Christianity is found in the fact that so many have removed from their teaching the personality of Christ, and the individuality of Christ. We have thought of Christianity as a way of life, or a system of theology, or a code of ethics, and set of dogma, but that isn't Christianity, my friends, our system of theology is just the consequences of our Christian experience. That is all, and to say that we are Christians in practice and in life, without knowing the Lord, Jesus Christ, is just plain hypocrisy. And so it is

in the church that becomes these things. It isn't the church, my dear friends, that is our refuge. It isn't the code of laws that bent these things to you. It isn't the teachings that we adhere to. You know that these are just the consequences of our knowing Christ. And so it is then not what, but it is who today that counts.

Jesus is the man that Isaiah is writing about, and I wanted to note the first statement there in that verse 2 of Isaiah chapter 32, "a man shall be as a hiding place from the wind." Now, who among us have not felt the wind of adversity blow? Who of us have not felt the wind of chilling death blow our way, and it may be, my dear friends, that some of you have been feeling the chilly bluffs of a lot of adverse that have come your way. Who of us have not felt the winds of disappointment sweep over us? But a man shall be as a hiding place from the wind. No matter what kind of a wind it is--whether it is the wind of adversity or the or the wind of death, or the wind of sickness--whatever it may be, a man shall be as a hiding place from the wind. You know that I cannot understand how that any man can live in a day like this, and yet not know the Lord, Jesus Christ. I was thinking a while ago, that is about an hour ago when I was turning over in my mind this message that I was planning to bring to you, just what would be the state of men today if the Lord, Jesus Christ, hadn't come into this world. I mean, if you should wake up one day and be convinced that all this story about the Lord, Jesus Christ, is not true at all?

You know that I recently read a little article about a preacher who was next to the church in his study waiting for the church time, or service to begin. It was Christmas time and the children of the church were going to put on a program that night. It was a Christmas program that they were going to render. And as he was waiting for the service to begin, in his study he put his head upon a pillow that was on his desk and he fell asleep. And he dreamed that he was still in the world and that he was still a preacher, but that it was all a mistake about Christmas, and

about Christ, and that there was no such person as the Lord Jesus; and that man in his dream looked at his library and all the books would spoke about the Lord, Jesus Christ, and all being taken out and just barren shelves were left there. And while he was pondering this strange thing that he saw himself in his dream walk out on the street, and the churches were all gone and instead they were just vacant lots. And then about at that time, a little girl came running down the street and said to him, she says "my mother is dying and I want to come at once." And the man in his dream hurried to the place where a woman lay dying upon a bed and reaching in his pocket to take out a Bible he said to her, he says, "I've got something to enable you to die victoriously." But when he opened his Bible he found that the New Testament was not there, that is, he was looking for John 3:16, but there was no gospel according to John. There was no part of the New Testament at all. And the only part of the Bible that he had just stopped at Malachi, and there was no Bethlehem star. There was no virgin birth, born child and then trying to find some word, he turned to the Old Testament, but he found that the verses of scripture that were prophetic of the Lord, Jesus Christ, were all blanked out. It was all a mistake. And in his dream he said that I note there, beside poor dying woman, and I realized that I had no answer for a need. And in my desperation, I tried to find some ray of hope, but there is no hope without the Lord, Jesus Christ. How can there be a hope? How can there be a resurrection? How can there be that the plucking of the sting of death at such a time as that? No hope for a grand reunion in heaven. He realized at last that he was in a world in which Christ was one grand mistake; a mistake of the century, and then he said "I opened my eyes, I was awakened by the singing of the choir, and they were singing Joy to the world, the Lord has come." And he said, "I looked about me and I heard the choir singing that hymn, the story of a virgin-born Son of God, and I realized that it was all a dream." Do you know, my dear friends, that I would call that a nightmare, and yet if you ever

thought of this, as far as millions and millions of people in the world are concerned, that might just as well be true, what that man dreamed. He had been thinking just what the world would be like if Jesus hadn't come into the world. And then he had that dream, and as far as millions of people are concerned it might just as well be true. Oh the tragedy of it.

Here we read and in this Isaiah Chapter 32, "and a man shall be as a hiding place from the wind." And my friends, the wind of adversity being blown in your direction. Have you just recently stood in a death chamber? Or stood beside an open grave? Have there been other winds of adversity coming your way? My dear friends, there is a hiding place from that. A hiding place that will keep your soul in perfect calm, even at a time when a great shadow was come over your life. "A man shall be as a hiding place from the wind," and then he goes on to say, look at that next statement, He is more than just that, "He is covert from the tempest." That is, he is a safe harbor for the Mariner who has been out in the ocean, in the storm; and his ship has been tossed about by all kinds of winds and then he has come into the harbor, and everything is calm, and he is in a place of protection, and the spirit of God leads Isaiah to liken the Lord, Jesus Christ, to that and he calls him a covert from the tempest.

You know, my dear friends, that our degree of spiritual development is not gauged by our ability to run away from hard things. You know that that's the only escape of a coward. Our spiritual development is witnessed to the by going through them, going through any circumstance that the Lord in His providence puts in your way and mine. And in the midst of the storm, being quiet in our hearts, and more than conquerors. Don't you ever, my dear friends, run away from a hard job that the Lord puts in your way? You know that that isn't victory. That's just cowardly, that's all. Your spiritual development, let me say again, will not be measured by your ability to escape or to sidestep hard issues, but your ability and your strength from the Spirit of

God in your life will be witnessed to by going your through in the midst of the storm. Have you, my dear friends, within your heart and within your life, a calm that bespeaks the presence of God when everything is going wrong? Let me remind you that the Lord has not promised you immunity from storms, but he has promised you shelter in the midst of them. You remember how that he said to the disciples "in the world ye have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." He did not say that they had overcome the world. He says "Be of good cheer I have overcome the world." In other words he was presenting himself as the haven of rest, a covert from The Tempest.

You know that when the World War number Two was on, you know that there was a captain that was here at the head of one of the regiments, that his father was a godly man. But he himself did not know the Lord at all. And he wrote to his father and the letter was just full of complaints of everything. And he ended up by saying "Father, it is hell all around here." And you know that that was a way that he expressed to them that it was a terrible situation with men dying, and men that had been shot to death, and there they were, and then he wrote to his father all about this. And then that Captain came to know the Lord, Jesus Christ, and he wrote to his father another letter. And he said to the father this, he says, "father everything that I said in that last letter to you is all true," he said, "it's hell all around here but," he says, "Father I have a wonderful calm in my soul. For only just recently I came to know the Lord, Jesus Christ, as my own personal Savior."

Do you know, my dear friends, that there are storms that come into your life that we call financial storms that is storms that sweep everything away. And let me tell you that if that ever comes your way, my dear friends, that you remember that there was a covert from the tempest. That is, that word tempest there in that second statement just refers to the storm; a covert, that is

that as a harbor from the storm. And when financial storms come your way, and everything that you have saved up just gets swept away, don't you do what unconverted people do, my dear friends that is to go and commit suicide. I remember when the Great Depression was on in 1928, and I was in Philadelphia, and I was reading one night as I retired to rest about the numbers of people in that city alone, to say nothing of New York and Chicago, men and women who had jumped top of buildings, or taken poison, or something because of the financial storm. My dear friends, whatever storm you go through, you remember that Christ wants to be to you a covert from the tempest, talking about storms.

My dear friends, you know that sometimes I refer to my father. You know that my father was a liquor man in Australia. He was the head of one of the great liquor concerns; his business made whiskey, and so on. And you know that he was a very wealthy man, back there in those days. And then everything was swept away. My father did not know the Lord, but my mother knew the Lord, and she used to get up at 5 o'clock and pray for me, and pray for my brothers, and pray for my father. And she used to say "now, Lord, I want you to save them, and I don't care how you do it; and if you want to sweep everything that we have away and bring us to actual beggary, if that is the only thing that will awaken my husband and my children, then I want to do it, Lord." And my dear friends, the Lord did that very thing, and we walked out of a beautiful home. That was before the days of the automobile, and all of us in our families, and our own carriages, and our own horses. But my dear friends, the thing that stirred my heart and the thing that brought me to a realization of the reality of Christianity was the calm of my mother. She knew the Lord, Jesus Christ, as a covert from the storm.

She was just like another man that I knew and he was, well, 250,000 dollars at the time of the other great depression of 1929. He lost it all, every bit of it. Back there in those days 250,000

dollars was a lot of money. And this man was a Christian. And when he was informed that all of his money was gone and that he had gone to bed that night a comparatively wealthy man. And then he awakened to find himself a pauper. He got into the quietness of his room and he said to the Lord this. He said "Lord, I have been praying for years that prayer. That Thou didst teach thy disciples to sayeth, and give us this day our daily bread. But Lord it has never meant anything to me on former occasions, but now I come to Thee and I can pray with sincerity, and give me this day my daily bread." Do you know that that man, my dear friends, is living to this day? You know he is comparatively small. He is a poor man, just put it that way, continued to be a poor man. But you know he knows something about riches that the storms of adversity cannot sweep away. My dear friends, I may not touch your stone this morning, but you remember that whatever it is he has not only a hiding place from the wind, but he is also covert from the tempest.

All right, now look at the next statement here. What a description of the Lord, Jesus Christ, this is. Now look at the next statement, "a man shall be as rivers of water in a dry place." That is, the Lord Jesus is going to be that. And I wonder if I'm speaking to somebody whose life seems to be very dry and very barren. Well, my dear friends, here is the Lord, Jesus Christ, meeting that need: "A man shall be as rivers of water in a dry place." Not a few drops of water, my friends, but rivers of water. Have you ever stood upon a desert? And you have wondered just what would happen in that place if only the Niagara could be turned loose there? There all the potential powers and the strength of the soil; everything that's needed to grow the finest of crops. But the trouble is that it's desert because there is no water, and everything about a desert just reminds you of death. And God says here: in that desert life of yours, my friends, filled with all the potentialities of spiritual power, I will be a river that will turn your life into a garden, and I'll

be a river that will bring forth fruit in your life, and make your life count for Christ and I'll be all that to you. I want to tell you this, my dear friends, it may be that I am talking to somebody who does not know the Lord, Jesus Christ, and you may be a university graduate, you might be a professional man, it may be that you have studied law, or studied medicine, and you stand high in your profession. But if you do not know the Lord, Jesus Christ, my dear friends, in spite of all the potentialities that are there in your life without the Lord, Jesus Christ, you're just a desert that is all. I guess you have been from time to time on the Santa Fe Railroad that crosses the great desert and links up with Dallas Texas and for days you're going across that desert. And every time I see that desert I think, my dear friends, of some people that I know. People who are marvelously gifted, but because they don't know the Lord, Jesus Christ, that their lives are just simply a desert as far as God is concerned. And oh what their lives would mean, what their influence, the impact that it would make, if they only knew Him, who is the water of life. And here, Isaiah writing about the Lord, Jesus Christ, hundreds of years before Christ came, he says this man that I'm talking about he'll be a rivers of water in a dry place.

And then there is the fourth thing that he says, my dear friends, about the Lord Jesus. And it is this: the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. You know that there are some hymns that are written about that: Jesus is a rock in the weary land. And when Isaiah said that this man is going to be the shadow of a great rock in a weary land, my dear friends, of course he is referring to Jesus: the rock of ages. You know that this is weary land. And even we Christians become weary; we become weary in the Lord's work. My friends, I oftentimes become weary in the Lord's work. Don't misunderstand me, I never become weary of it, but I become weary in it. And my dear soul, my dear mother; those of you have a bunch of children, and you've been trying to bring them up in the knowledge and then and then nurture the Lord, and up to this date you don't

seem to be getting very far, and sometimes you get weary of it all. You don't have to, my dear friends, confess that weariness as a sin because it isn't a sin to be weary. I am so glad that when I read the Gospel According to John, I read in the fourth chapter how that the Lord, Jesus Christ, went into Samarra and He is sat by well. And He was waiting for that Samaritan woman to come, and you know that we read that He had sat on the well because He was weary with His journies. I'm so glad, my dear friends, that the Lord, Jesus Christ, was weary. And I want to say to all of you dear friends in radio-land that if you are weary because of the burdens and the stress of the day, that He knows all about it. And you know that He is the shadow of a rock in a weary land, and He can calm your soul at a time like that and give you assurance; give you assurance, my friends, that everything is going to come out all right, and you will become victorious in the end. Even with those things, such as your endeavors to bring the children to a knowledge and to the loving of the Lord.

Now I see that my time has gone. I want to say, my dear friends, tomorrow I am going to come back to the first statement in that text: "A man shall be as a hiding place," and I want to put before you the four things from which we need a hiding place. My time is up. Mark that text in your Bible, my friends, Isaiah 32 verse 2. One of the great statements in the prophecies concerning who the Lord, Jesus Christ, is and what He desires to be to every one of this listening audience. Don't forget to get your letter in the mail today. Bible Institute of Los Angeles, and ask for your chart. And don't forget to send a portion of your tithe to make possible this continuance of radio ministry. Goodbye and God bless you all.

Talbot: Verse by Verse: Isaiah 32:2

Announcer:

You just listened to Dr. Louis T. Talbot, Chancellor of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. The half century old Christian training center of the West earnestly covets your continued powerful support for its worldwide ministry. Listen each day Monday through Friday for a verse by verse study of the Bible.