

# Sure

#0353

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—July 27, 1976

I invite you to turn to Proverbs the 22<sup>nd</sup> chapter beginning with the 19<sup>th</sup> verse. It may be trite to remark that we are in a world of uncertainty. And it's a wonderful thing to have a book that shows us how to be certain in uncertain times, how to be sure in a perplexed and confused world.

I read our text:

“That thy trust may be in the LORD, I have made known to thee this day, even to thee. Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge, That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?” Proverbs 22:19–21.

God wants us to be sure. He wants us to be certain. And really, in the things that you and I are dealing with, certainty is of the essence. I notice that when people are buying a piece of property, especially if it is of quite a bit of value, they have a title company search that goes through the deeds from way back to make sure that the deed that is being conveyed has something back of it, that there can be no question. God wants you and me to search for our title. And thank God, it'll bear inspection, friends.

Sterling silver, the more you rub it, the brighter it shines. You don't have to worry for fear something underneath is going to show up that will be embarrassing. It's solid. It's sterling all the way through. And so it is with truth.

This morning I want to study with you two of God's great channels through which He communicates to us His will, and we want to study the certainty, the assurance that we can have in connection with them.

The first is His law. When God came down from heaven and on the Mt. Sinai communed with Israel, He not only spoke these Ten Commandments but wrote them on two tables of stone and delivered them to Moses that they might be placed in the Ark. All of this, the Scriptures show, was a copy of the great original in heaven. And in the closing book of the Bible, in Revelation 11:19, the beloved John sees the Temple in Heaven opened, and there he beholds the Ark of God's testament. The Ten Commandments are there in heaven.

And as the psalmist says in the 119<sup>th</sup> Psalm:

“For ever, O LORD, Thy word is settled in heaven”  
Psalms 119:89.

When God spoke these Ten Commandments, Moses in recording them in Deuteronomy, says:

“...He added no more” Deuteronomy 5:22.

The reason He didn’t add any more is simply this, there was nothing more to add. And so, in Psalms 19:7, we read:

“The law of the LORD is perfect...” Psalms 19:7.

That which is perfect needs no additions. One of the great British statesmen and authors once stated that the American constitution was perhaps the greatest work ever composed at one time by a group of men. It is indeed a masterpiece, the American constitution, and yet the framers of the constitution saw it necessary to add a few amendments to the constitution and to make provision for other amendments of which there have been over a score.

This is simply saying that men do not have the wisdom to put it all down, and that’s it. There are some afterthoughts. And this is not to reflect upon humanity. God never made human beings either omniscient or infallible. He has reserved to Himself the ability to foresee the future and to know in advance that which will be best under all circumstances.

And so, when we’re dealing with God’s law, we are dealing with that which we can be certain of, which we can depend upon. And in the 111<sup>th</sup> Psalm, will you turn to that please, I want you to notice the statement concerning His commandments in verses 7–8:

“The works of His hands are verity and judgment; all His commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness” Psalms 111:7–8.

Notice those expressions indicating the certainty:

“...all His commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever...” Psalm 111:7–8.

They never have to be changed. To help us to appreciate what we’re looking at, let us turn for a moment from this moral code to the natural world. All around us is a universe that is evidently governed by law. From the minutest atom to the greatest star and on to the great galaxies, everything is under law.

Sir Isaac Newton once observed an apple falling from a tree. People had seen apples fall for millenniums, but that great philosopher was thinking, “Why does the apple fall? Why does the apple fall?” And he discovered what he called the law of gravitation.

Now, Newton didn’t *make* the law of gravitation, you understand. It was there all the time. Who made the law of gravitation? Why, the same One that wrote the Ten

Commandments. The law of gravitation is one of God's laws as truly as the law of the Sabbath. Both come from a mind of infinite wisdom and perfect love. I'm so thankful for the law of gravitation, aren't you? Why, yes. That's why we're all sitting here or standing here comfortably just now instead of bumping our heads against the ceiling or being pushed against the walls.

I suppose there are times that we wish we could suspend gravitation. People have dreamed about such ideas, something to neutralize or cancel out gravitation. But so far, I'm thankful for it the way God made it. What do you say? Yes.

But now, gravitation isn't the only law. When we see an airplane flying up there in the sky thousands of feet above the earth, is that breaking the law of gravitation? No, no. It's using some other laws. It is using the law of gravitation, but it's using some other laws too. So, God has more than one law, and they work together.

A scientist is one who studies the laws of God in the natural world. And he discovers this law, that law, and they're studying them all the time. These men that made the trip to the moon originally, how did they get there? By studying the laws of God.

And how unwilling they would have been to set forth on that flight, had they the slightest idea that one of those laws would change midway between their departure from planet earth and their arrival at the moon. They counted on the certainty of those laws. Am I correct?

They had it all calculated. The precise gravitational pull of the earth and of the moon, and of the increasing intensity of that gravitational pull as the spaceship would approach the moon. And so in reverse, in return to earth. All of that was observed and calculated. And I repeat, the astronauts were depending upon the certainty of law. And they weren't disappointed.

The laws of physiology are things we depend upon to keep our health if we understand those laws and are willing to keep them. I'm so glad, friends, that the thing that will get us well will keep us well, and the thing that was good for our health a year ago is still good for our health and will be good next year. We don't have to wonder whether times have changed.

“...All His commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever...” Psalms 111:7–8.

And so, it is in every department of life. In gardening:

“...Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap”  
Galatians 6:7.

Of course, I recognize, as we all do, that there are elements of discord. There are diseases and pests and storms that seem to interfere with happiness and health. And the Bible explains the author of all these disturbances. It calls him the Devil, the

adversary, Satan, the enemy of God and man. The Bible tells us how he got here, and what's going to happen to him. His reign is not forever.

This life is a little interlude. The space allotted to this world's history is a few millennia between two great eternities. And here is being worked out the *great* drama of the ages. And men are choosing whether they will line up with law, or stand on the side of discord and rebellion. Those who choose law-breaking will eventually reap the fruit.

“For the wages of sin is death...” Romans 6:23.

But thank God, whatever our personal experience has been of rebellion, of failure to cooperate with God, through Jesus, a way has been arranged that you and I can come back to God. Jesus died that our sins might be forgiven and that our hearts might be changed so that we would think like God thinks, love what God loves and hate what God hates. I'm so thankful for those provisions of the Gospel, aren't you, dear friends? Thank God.

And all over this world, hearts and lives are being changed as people come in contact with this law. I think of the work that God has helped our missionaries to do down in the islands of the Pacific. There a generation, even two generations ago, our missionaries went down to islands where the inhabitants were headhunters and cannibals, and by living the life of Jesus and telling about the law of Christ and the love of our Heavenly Father, and demonstrating that love in practical ways, helping the people in their sicknesses, thank God the Holy Spirit has moved upon their hearts and hundreds, thousands, tens of thousands of those people, cannibals or children of cannibals have been changed.

Whole islands have turned to God, and where once were filthy huts, now there are clean villages. Where once the pigs and the people lived together, the pigs are gone, and the people are decently clothed, clean, law-abiding. Where once one tribe was in terror because of a stronger tribe's warlike approaches, now there's peace. All because the Gospel has brought those people a knowledge of God's law and of the way to get rid of sin which is the transgression of the law, through the grace of Jesus Christ.

Now, besides God's law, which is the revelation of His will telling us what to do, we have another great channel of revelation. Would you turn to 2 Peter the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter and the 19<sup>th</sup> verse? We read this earlier. The apostle Peter in the earlier verses is referring to the certainty of the work and message of Jesus as authenticated by His miracles and by the personal witness of the Father on the Mount of Transfiguration.

But passing by those spectacular evidences, he says:

“We have also a more sure word of prophecy...” “  
2 Peter 1:19.

There is something more certain, dear friends, that what we can see with our eyes or hear with our ears. It is the sure word of prophecy.

Why is that more certain? Let me explain. Were you ever fooled by what you saw with your eyes? Were you ever mistaken? Did you ever think you heard something and found out it was something else? Oh, yes. All of us that have lived very long will admit that we've been mistaken. Wouldn't it be a shame to be mistaken about the things that concern eternal life? Thank God there is something to base our security on, more established, more proven, more impossible to be mistaken about than these sensations of sight and hearing.

What is it? Prophecy.

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the Day Star arise in your hearts" 2 Peter 1:19.

A great agnostic was once asked what it would take to convince him of the existence of God. His answer was an interesting one.

He said, "Well, if some morning I should hear a voice from the skies that would foretell in detail what was going to happen to me through that day, especially if it included some unlikely or unusual event, then at the close of that day, if all those things had happened like the voice told me at the beginning of the day," he said, "I think I would be convinced."

My dear friends, God has done something infinitely more wonderful than that. He started, not this morning but thousands of years ago to foretell, not merely the events of one day, but of the entire history of this world—to foretell interesting and important and unusual events in a sequence that has been so perfectly fulfilled that as James A. Garfield once remarked, "History is the unrolled scroll of prophecy."

I'm so glad for the *prophetic* voice of the Bible. The world has its sacred books. Various religions have writings of their founders and leaders. But there is no book in *all* this world, my friends, and in all the history of the world, that dares to deal with the future in the way that the Bible does. There is no book in *all* the libraries that we can point to in which prediction after prediction after prediction has come to pass with unerring accuracy.

Turn to Isaiah the 46<sup>th</sup> chapter, verses 9–10:

"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure" Isaiah 46:9–10.

I've thought of it this way, dear friends. Suppose that I have recently come into this community, and I decide I want to have a house built. So, I secure an appropriate location, and I look around for a man that will build me a house.

Somebody hears that I'm looking to have a house built. Presently, a man calls on me and says, "Mr. Frazee, I understand you want a house built."

"Yes."

"Well, I'm a contractor. I'm a builder. I can build your house."

And I say in my heart, "I wonder whether this man can build me a house or not? I never met him till today."

Does the fact that he claims to be a builder prove that he can build a house? No, no. People have been fooled.

But suppose, knowing my desire to be certain, he says, "Mr. Frazee, I want to take you and show you some of the houses we're presently building."

And so, he takes me into a subdivision, and I see this house and this house and this house, each in a different stage of construction. In some cases, the foundation is just being poured, the footings. Others, the walls are up. Others the work is nearly finished. And I walk through these structures.

More than that, suppose that from time to time over a period of weeks, I visit this building operation. I watch him as he supervises, as he arranges for the completion of house after house. After I've observed him for a period of time and have seen house after house under his hand reach completion, do I have any question whether or not he can build a house for me? No. How has he proved it? By demonstration. Not by claims, but by demonstration.

And so, my dear friends, in the Bible, God has seen fit to demonstrate His infinite wisdom by doing that which only infinite wisdom could do, and that is foretell the future. Man can do many things with this marvelous brain the Creator has given him, but man simply cannot foretell the future. He can guess about it, but his guesses are just that.

He may form certain conclusions. The weatherman getting information about the weather pattern a hundred miles from here, five hundred miles from here, a thousand miles from here, puts that together, and you hear him say, "We can expect such and such."

But do you notice they're getting now where they say, "Probability of rain, 30 percent, probability of rain, 60 percent"?

And that means that if it doesn't rain at all, they can say, "Well, I told you it was at least 40 percent chance that it *wouldn't* rain."

Do you see what I mean, dear friend? And if the mind of man, with all the scientific research available to him, can't even tell us for certain the weather pattern a week ahead, or even sometimes 24 hours ahead, do you see the audacity of the Bible prophets when they said, "God has shown us this and this and this about the sequence of history. We're writing it down in advance, and now you folks down

there, a thousand, two thousand, three thousand years after it's written down, you look over the unrolled scroll, and *you* be the witnesses as to whether these predictions have been fulfilled."

This is what we have in the marvelous prophecies of Daniel and Revelation and the other prophetic books of the Bible. This is what we have in that grand sequence of Daniel 2 and Daniel 7 and Daniel 8, in which the great empires of history from the days of Babylon when the prophecy was written on down to our time, *all* is laid out in language that's plain and clear. Not like the mystical and ambiguous mouthings of the Delphic oracles. No, no, but plain, simple and clear.

Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome arose and went down exactly as prophecy had predicted. And the sequence of history from Rome on down to our time, here it is, written out in advance. Oh, my dear friends, what confidence this gives the student of prophecy and history, knowing that when we're dealing with what *God* has said in the Bible is to come to pass, we are dealing with certainty.

As Jesus told His disciples:

"And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe" John 14:29.

And so, this morning, we have not only a sure law, we have sure prophecy. And may I point this out, that prophecy deals especially with giving us information about what is going to happen. Law deals especially with instruction as to what we should *do* about it.

Thus, with wisdom as to what is coming and wisdom about what to do, we are perfectly secure provided we follow the instruction and listen to the information. What do you say?

And so, as our opening text says, God is speaking to each one of us, "I have written to you excellent things in knowledge that you might know the certainty of the words of truth, a certain law, laws that are immutable and eternal, and certain predictions [a paraphrase of Proverbs 22:20–21].

There's no "if" and "and" and "but" about them. What God has commanded is certain. What He has foretold is certain. We may be sure.

And now, dear friends, all of this is focused on the individual life in the gift of Jesus Christ. For those same prophecies of Daniel that foretold the sequence of world history *dared* to lay down in mathematical terms predictions concerning when the Son of God would appear on earth.

In Daniel 8 and 9, we have that marvelous prophecy focusing on the year 27 A. D. of the Christian era for the appearance of the Messiah, focusing three and a half years later on the spring of 31 A. D. as the time for Messiah to lay down His life as a sacrifice for sins, bringing to an end the long system of animal sacrifices and earthly priesthood. And then, the spread of the Gospel following, to all the world.

All this is there for those who will study it, mathematical evidence not only—watch this—not only that the Bible can foretell the future, but that the One who appeared in Judea, who was baptized by John in Jordan, who gave His life upon the cross in 31 A. D. was the Son of God, that He's more than a man dying a martyr's death. He is the Savior of the world dying for me.

And I have a solid foundation for my faith. I *know* that what He has done demonstrates that He can foretell and has foretold the future and that He is God, very God. It takes this combination of God and man in the person of Jesus Christ to be my Savior.

And so, I'm so thankful for the certainty of His revelation, the certainty of His sacrifice, and the certainty of the fact that it was for me. For, He tells me that it was for me personally as if I had been the only one in all this world. Oh, I'm so thankful for that assurance this morning, friends.

Somebody says, "But Brother Frazee, what about this text over in such and such a book? How do you explain that?"

And it may be one of the hundreds of texts that I don't know the answer to at all. I find nothing strange if I'm a beginning student in mathematics if somebody can turn over near the end of the book and ask me about a problem in mathematics that I haven't the least idea how to solve. It doesn't cause me to throw the book away. Does it you? No, no. It encourages me to keep studying, but I have to begin where I am.

And friends, some of you have heard me say, and I want to repeat it this morning, "I would rather know what I know and not know what I don't know than to know everything I don't know and not know what I know."

And I mean it with all my soul because what I know is going to lead me on to know everything else eventually. Oh, I'm so glad that Jesus came where I was and started me off where I could climb the ladder rung by rung, walk up the road step by step, walking with Him.

And my dear friend, wherever you are in the search for truth, in the path of light this morning, wherever you are, just beginning, or well along, I tell you there are other great blessings on up the road. Let's keep walking with Jesus. What do you say?

But remember, nothing we shall ever discover in the future can change the immutability, the certainty of His law. Nothing that we shall ever discover in the future can ever change or lessen our faith in the certainty of prophecy. The law and the prophets are the revelation of His will. And thank God, nothing in all eternity will ever change or shake our faith in the gift of His love in the person of Jesus Christ, our sacrifice, our atonement, our mediator, our coming King. I'm thankful for his love this morning. What do you say?

I wonder if there's anybody here this morning that has never given yourself fully to Jesus and you'd like to this morning. Would you stand if you'd like to let Jesus know that you want to be all His, you yield to the evidence of His wisdom and His laws and put your life in His hands? Would you like to stand?



Is there somebody else that's been walking the Christian way but somehow this morning, the Holy Spirit convicts you that there is something that has come between you and your Lord, some habit, some practice, something that has come between you and the dear face of Jesus. And this morning, you want to get that out of the way, and you want to make a full surrender of that which Jesus has convicted you of. Would you like to stand?

Now, we're going to go to the Lord in prayer, and if there's someone in addition to those who have stood who would like in a special way to be remembered in this closing prayer for whatever the need or desire in your heart this morning, would you like to raise your hand? Thank God.

Would you kneel with me?

Our Father in heaven, we thank Thee for the certainty of Thy truth. We thank Thee for the immutability of Thy law. We thank Thee that all Thy commandments are sure. They stand fast forever and ever. We thank Thee that all Thy predictions are true and certain. And oh, we thank Thee that Thy love never wavers, that the Son of God has come in answer to the predictions of prophecy, has lived for us and died for us and risen for us and ascended for us, and we rejoice that this morning Jesus is our mediator, our ambassador at the court of the King of the universe.

And so, we come in His wonderful name. You've seen these who've stood with the decisions of various kinds, and you have seen these hands that have been raised in token of desire. Lord, Thou dost see every hand; Thou dost look into every heart. Just now, suit out a blessing to each one here in Thy presence. Ere we leave this chapel this Sabbath day, fill our hearts to overflowing with Thy wonderful presence.

As we have given ourselves to Thee, we know Thou dost accept us. Thou canst not lie. Thy promises are sure, and so we believe them with all our hearts this morning, and as we go, we thank Thee that we're going with Thee to share with others the good news of the certainty of Thy truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us stand.

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost."  
*Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, #694.*

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