

GENERAL SUBJECT: THE CURRENT WORLD SITUATION
IN THE LIGHT OF THE LORD'S COMING

Message One

**God's Sovereignty, the Divine History within the Human History,
And the World Situation**

Scripture Reading: Rev. 4:11; 5:13; Lam. 5:19; Joel 1:4; 3:11; Acts 17:26; Matt. 24:14

- I. It is crucial that we see a vision of God's sovereignty and have a clear view and proper understanding of God's sovereignty – Rev. 4:2; 5:1; Dan:4:1-3, 34-35; Rom. 9:19-23:**
- A. Sovereignty refers to God's absolute and unlimited right, authority, power, and position – Rev. 4:11; 5:13.
 - B. As the sovereign One, God is above everything, behind everything, and in everything – 1 Kings 22:19.
 - C. God has the full capacity to carry out what He wants according to the desire of His heart and according to His eternal economy – Eph. 1:4-5, 10; Dan. 4:35.
 - D. Like Jeremiah, we need to change our position and angle from ourselves to God and recognize God's eternal being and His eternal and unchanging government – Lam. 5:19.
 - E. The book of Revelation is a book of God's administration, unveiling the throne of God for the divine administration throughout the universe – 4:2; 5:1; 6:16; 7:9; 8:3; 21:5.
 - F. Romans 9:19-23 refers to God's sovereignty:
 - 1. We need to realize that we are God's creatures, and He is our Creator; as His creatures, we should not resist His purpose or answer back to Him, the Creator – vv. 19-21; Jer. 18:1-6.
 - 2. Rom. 9:22-23 reveals that God sovereignly created us to be His vessels, His containers, according to His predestination – 2 Tim. 2:20-21.
 - 3. In His sovereignty God has the authority to make the ones whom He has selected and called vessels of mercy to contain Him in order that His glory might be manifested – Rom. 9:23.
- II. The Bible reveals the universal history according to God's economy – the divine history within the human history – Joel 1:4; 3:11; Dan. 2:21, 31-45; Eph. 1:3-6; Micah 5:2; Rev. 19:7-9; 22:17a:**
- A. In this universe there are two histories: the history of man, the human history, and the history of God, the divine history; the former is like an outward shell, and the latter, like the kernel within the shell.
 - B. God's move among men is wrapped up with the course of human history.
 - C. In the Minor Prophets the human history is defined and signified by the four kinds of locusts in Joel 1:4 and the divine history is with Christ and His mighty ones, the overcomers, in 3:11.

- D. The divine history within the human history is revealed in the Bible in considerable detail – Eph. 3:9-11; 1:10; Acts 2:23; 2 Thes. 2:2-8; Dan. 2:21, 35, 44; 7:22, 27; Rev 11:15.
- E. We were born in the human history, but we have been reborn, regenerated, in the divine history; now we need to consider whether we are living in the divine history or living merely in the human history:
 1. If our living is in the world, we are living merely in the human history.
 2. If we are living in the church, we are living in the divine history, for in the church life God's history is our history, and thus we and God have one history, the divine history – 1 Cor. 6:17; Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20.

III. The events of world history have been sovereignly arranged by God for Him to carry out His purpose – Acts 17:26; Rom. 8:28; 2 Tim. 1:9:

- A. We all need a clear view from which to consider the world situation – Eph. 3:11.
- B. The world situation is under God's sovereign arrangement; God determined the appointed seasons and boundaries – Acts 17; 26; Dan. 2:21.
- C. For God to carry out His purpose, He has arranged the world situation; history is meaningful when we realize this – Eph. 3:9; Dan. 2:20-21; 4:2-3, 25-26, 34-35.
- D. All the major events in human history match God's move on the earth.
- E. Since the church comes out of mankind, we as God's chosen ones need to have this view of history; in order to have the proper church life, we must therefore know the world situation – 1 Thes. 1:1; 1 Cor. 1:2.
- F. We need to be more aware of God's sovereign arrangement of the world situation, more concerned about the crucial time in which we live, and more burdened for God's move in the present world situation – Matt. 6:33.

Message Two

Spreading the Divine Truths and Seeing a Vision of the World's Ultimate Situation, God's Ultimate Move, and the Lord's Ultimate Recovery

Scripture Reading: Matt. 24:14; 28:19-20; Col. 2:2; Eph. 3:4; 4:16; Rev. 19:7-9

- I. The Lord needs the truths of His recovery to spread to the whole earth – Matt. 28:19; 1 Tim. 2:4:**
 - A. The spreading of the divine truths of the Lord's recovery will be a preparation for the Lord's coming back to bring the recovery and the restoration not only to Israel but also to the entire creation – Matt. 24:14; Mark 16:15.
 - B. There is the need of the spreading of the translated, interpreted, and understood divine truths for the Lord's recovery and restoration; the spreading of the divine truths will bring in the Lord's restoration – Isa. 11:9.
 - C. The Lord's charge to us is to go and teach the nations so that the present age may be consummated – Matt. 28:19-20; 24:14.
- II. It is a historical fact that the world situation has always been the indicator of God's move on earth – Dan. 4:26, 35; 7:2-14:**
 - A. The history of the church also shows us that the world situation is the indicator of God's move on earth – Rev. 2-3.
 - B. There is the need of an appropriate direction for God's move today to match the recent changes in the world situation.
 - C. When we see many changes in the world situation, we must wake up and consider what the Lord wants to do and how these changes concern us.
- III. We need to see a vision of the world's ultimate situation, God's ultimate move, and the Lord's ultimate recovery – Prov. 29:18a:**
 - A. The world's ultimate situation involves the United States as a base for the spreading of the central vision of Paul's completing ministry – Acts 26:18; Col. 2:2; Eph. 3:4; 5:32.
 - B. God's ultimate move is to carry out His economy concerning Christ as the mystery of God and the church as the mystery of Christ – Col. 2:2; Eph. 3:4-6.
 - C. Three things have been recovered – the preaching of the gospel, the teaching of the truth, and the scriptural way of meeting; God's ultimate move is to gain a people who have Christ as their life and live Him – Col. 3:4; Phil. 1:21a.
 - D. God's ultimate move is the fourth step of His move to accomplish His eternal purpose – Eph. 3:11; 2 Tim. 1:9; Rom. 8:28:
 1. The first three steps are the preaching of the gospel, teaching the Bible, and meeting according to the Bible.
 2. The fourth step is His gaining a good number of believers who know how wonderful Christ is, who have Him as their life and live Him, who are filled, permeated, and saturated with Him, who grow in life and are transformed by His flowing life within them, and who are built up with fellow believers to be the golden lampstand in their locality – Eph. 4:12, 15-16; Rev. 1:11-12.

IV. The Lord's ultimate recovery is the same as His ultimate move – Col. 2:2; Eph. 3:4-6, 11; 5:32; Rev. 2:1; 19:7-9:

- A. The ultimate move of God has been lost sight of, but now the Lord will recover it and thus complete what He desires to do – Matt. 16:18; Eph. 4:16.
- B. The Lord wants to recover Christ, the mystery of God, becoming the indwelling Spirit to dispense the Triune God into the believers, thus making us members of His Body for His corporate expression; this Body is expressed locally as the lampstand, which becomes His testimony, the testimony of Jesus – Col. 2:2; 1 Cor. 15:45b; Rom. 8:11; 12:4-5; Rev. 1-11-12.

Message Three

Cooperating with the Heavenly Ministry of Christ for God's Ultimate Move

Scripture Reading: Phil. 1:21a; Eph. 4:16, 24; Rev. 1:2, 9, 11-12; 19:7; 5:6;

Acts 20:24; Matt. 6:10

- I. We need to cooperate with the heavenly ministry of Christ in order to bear our responsibility related to the world's ultimate situation, God's ultimate move and the Lord's ultimate recovery:**
 - A. Our ultimate responsibility is to be saturated and permeated with Christ for the church as the Body of Christ, the one new man – Eph. 3:16; 4:12, 16, 24.
 - B. Our ultimate responsibility is to be a living witness of Christ in our daily life and to meet in our locality in such a way that we may be the Body, the new man, the lampstand, and the bride – Eph. 4:16, 24; Rev. 1:12; 19:7.
 - C. Our ultimate responsibility is to bear the testimony of Jesus – 1:2, 9, 20; 19:10b.
 - D. Our ultimate responsibility is to spread the testimony of Jesus by establishing local churches as golden lampstands – Rev. 1:11-12, 20.
- II. In order to bear the ultimate responsibility in God's ultimate move, we need to know and experience Christ as the center of the divine administration according to God's eternal economy – Rev. 4:2; 5:6; 22:1:**
 - A. Christ in His ascension has been enthroned to execute God's administration, His governmental operation – Heb. 12:2; Rev. 3:21; 22:1; 5:6.
 - B. Christ as the embodiment of God is the Administrator of the universe today; all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him – Matt. 28:18.
 - C. After the Lord Jesus was crucified and buried, God resurrected Him and set Him at His right hand, making Jesus the Lord of all the universe – Acts 2:34-36; Phil. 2:5-11.
 - D. According to the book of Revelation, the throne on which the ascended Christ is sitting is the throne of the divine administration – 4:2, 5; 5:6; 22:1:
 1. The Lamb, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Redeemer, the One slain on the cross for our sins, is now on the throne carrying out God's administration over the entire universe, signified by the seven seals on the scroll in the hand of Him who sits on the throne – John 1:29; Rev. 5:6.
 2. The Lord Jesus has been enthroned to execute God's governmental administration in the universe:
 - a. As the One enthroned as the heavenly Administrator in God's universal government, Christ is the Ruler of the kings of the earth; the affairs of the nations are under His rulership – 1:5a.
 - b. In God's governmental administration, Christ is the Leader and the Savior and the One who has the key of David – Acts 5:31; Rev. 3:7.
- III. We need to cooperate and correspond with the heavenly ministry of Christ by praying for the will of God to be executed on earth according to God's ultimate move and the Lord's ultimate recovery:**

- A. Although God has a will for everything, He does not act independently; rather, He wants the human will on earth to echo His will before He does anything – Matt. 6:10; 1 John 5:14-15.
- B. God's intention is to accomplish His will through the believers' prayer in union with Him.
- C. Effective prayers for God's will to be done on earth are the expression of God's desire and intention and are the issue of our abiding in the Lord and of His words abiding in us – John 15:4-5, 7; Dan.6:10; 11:32.