

Public Service at Surabaya - Sunday, August 19, 2007

We will continue our discussions in Jude. In Tabernacle, Jude points to the badger skins which are defined as the protection and blessings of God for His true churches. It also refers to the separation of the true churches from the false ones. One kind of false churches is fleshly church. It can be seen in verses 8

Characteristics of fleshly church are **Jude 1: 17-19**

17 But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ:

18 how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts.

19 These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.

1. they are mockers -->vs. 18
2. they are trouble makers --> vs. 19

We have discussed about them. Now, we are going to discuss about the fleshly churches which are like mockers (vs. 18). They only live according to their lust and wickedness.

2 Peter 3: 3-6

3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,

4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."

5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water,

6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water.

It is clear then that they mock the prophecy that is the word of God which tells the happenings in the future.

They mainly mock two things as follows:

1. the second coming of Jesus in holiness and glory as the King of all kings and as the bridegroom of heaven. It is called as the teaching word which sanctifies our life until we are perfect/ become the bride of heaven. Thus, we have to be ready to walk in holiness. However, this is the teaching word that is refused since those mockers do not want to be sanctified.
2. the condemnation of God for this world in the future. God is not wrong in the case of punishing the world because the fact of it is already preached.

Vs. 6 --> in the Old Testament, in the era of Noah, there had been done the condemnation of God to this world through the great flood. However, in the end of the world, it will be destroyed with the fire from heaven.

2 Peter 3: 10, 11

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

In the era of Noah, the world was not perished but the condition was very terrible because men were destroyed with the great flood and it was only eight people who were saved from the great flood. Nevertheless, the condition of the condemnation of God in the end of the world will be worse than in the era of Noah. Not only men will be destroyed, but also the world itself.

It is stated that --> Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness. It signifies that we have to live in holiness through the work of the word of God because there is no other thing which is able to confront the condemnation in this world. Thus, we may not laugh at the true teaching word. Instead, we have to receive it even though it is sharp and hard, but it is to sanctify our life so that we are not included in the condemnation in this world.

Now, we will learn why God punished the world in the era of Noah. Let us read **Luke 17: 26, 27**

26 "And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man:

27 "They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

So, why did God command the great flood to punish this world in the era of Noah? Because men refused the sanctification/ the true teaching word in the era of Noah. It is stated in vs. 26 that in the end of world, men and the children of God reject the true teaching word too. Consequently, they will get into the condemnation of fires from heaven. In vs. 27 the practice of rejecting the sanctuary word of God is They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and

the flood came and destroyed them all. In short, the practice of rejecting the sanctuary word of God is getting into the peaks of sins; those are sins of eating-drinking and marrying and giving in marriage. These are the risky consequences of refusing the true teaching word. The peaks of sins invite the condemnation of God. It is only the true teaching word which can be the constraint so that we do not fall in sins and do the sins repeatedly so we do not get into the peak of sins.

Let us now see that eating and drinking are our needs. However, if these things become repeated sins, the direction will be the peak of sins. So does marriage. It is the gift from God, but if it becomes sin, it will turn out to be the peak of sins.

The repeated sins are also called habitual sins. When we do the sins for the first time, we will feel very sorry and ask for His forgiveness and our fellows wholeheartedly. However, if we do them repeatedly, it will be habitual sins so that we do not feel sorry since we regard that our flesh, in fact, is weak. It means we are headed to the peak of sins.

If the sins have become habitual sins, they will increase to be intended sins and it means there is no constraint anymore. The sins will go directly to the peak of sins and there is no forgiveness. Thus, we have to be careful. If the sins cannot be controlled so that there is no forgiveness, they will lead us to the peak of sins.

If it has become intended sins, there is no forgiveness and it is only the fires from heaven. One of intended sins is like what we can read in **Hebrews 10:25-27**

25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.

The repeated sins/ habitual sins will increase to become intended sins and there is no forgiveness anymore and the sins go directly to the peak of sins because they cannot be controlled. Consequently, they will invite the condemnation of fires of heaven. They will reach the fire of hell with this world. Thus, we have to watch out of the repeated and intended sins.

One kind of intended sins which are not realized is sin because you do not come to the service and devotion. We have already known that murdering is sin, yet we often do not know that not coming to the devotion in purpose is one of risks for it leads us to that peak of sins which will be punished with the fire from heaven.

The condemnation has been done in the era of Noah because men refuse to be sanctified. In the end of the world, it will be the same as in the era of Noah. We have to be careful because approach Jesus second coming, the sin of not coming to the devotion has become the habitual sins. I hope we can understand it.

How can we get out from these things so that we do not become mockers and not include in the next condemnation of God?

A. On the previous part in Luke 17: 27

27 "They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

We learn from the era of Noah. In the past time, God punished the world with a great flood. In the next time, God will punish this world with fires. Noah was escaped from the great flood because he did not include in the groups of mocker, but he got into the ark. We also have to get into the ark of Noah. This is the solution so that we do not become mockers who refuse the sanctification and live in lusts.

What is meant by getting into the ark of Noah? There are two definitions of the ark of Noah, they are:

1. water baptism¹ Peter 3: 20,21

20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

21 There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

Noah and his family got into one ark. Now, our family and us have to get into one water baptism in order to be saved. It is a notice for young people! Marriage has to be in one ark/ one baptism, not different one.

Water baptism is for -->**1 Peter 3: 21b**

(not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

In short, in the water baptism, we gain the change of our consciences, from the evil consciences like in the era of Noah to be the good ones. That is, we have to be obedient. This is the definition of water baptism. Let us pray for our marriage and families in order they can get into one water baptism. So, we are all saved. In the era of Noah, the consciences of men, including the children of God and little children, had the tendency to do evil things. Thus, we have to be careful because at that time no child was saved. Let us read in **Genesis 6:5, 6**

5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

6 And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

Making God grieved = making God abashed. So, the evil consciences lead men to be mockers and refuse the sanctuary word of God. However, in the water baptism we can gain the good/ obedient conscience. The good/ obedient conscience is able to praise God. On the other hands, evil conscience makes God sad.

Hence, young people have to notice it. As Christians who have been in the true teaching word, we have to keep our conscience so it does not do evil things, refuse the sanctuary word of God and make God grieved/ abashed and make our parents sad because we keep sinning repeatedly. These are not acceptable before God. I hope we understand it.

We also can praise God with our possessions --> **Proverbs 3: 9**

9 Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the first fruits of all your increase;

Praising God starts from small thing. That is with our possessions which God has given to us. This is a good and obedient conscience. Praising God with our possessions is the prayer of the King of David when Solomon was going to build the temple of God. He prayed "Give me a good conscience in order to be able to give to the building of the temple of God by preparing things."

In 1 Chronicles 29: 17, 18--> this is about praising God with our possessions.

17 "I know also, my God, that You test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of my heart I have willingly offered all these things; and now with joy I have seen Your people, who are present here to offer willingly to You.

18 "O LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our fathers, keep this forever in the intent of the thoughts of the heart of Your people, and fix their heart toward You.

A good conscience which praises God with possessions is started from the edifying of the body of Christ (in the past time it was for the building of the temple of God of Solomon).

The King of David prayed for his family and people. He did not pray for blessings. Instead, he prayed in order to gain a good conscience. There are two alternatives of conscience as follows:

- a. first alternative --> an evil conscience which tends to do sins. Tendency is something uncontrolled or doing sins repeatedly until you reach the peak of sins. Thus, water baptism is very essential. Maybe you have been baptized several years ago, but you have to gain the fruits now.
- b. second alternative --> a clear conscience which tends to give in the edifying of the body of Christ.

Let us pray for our family and ourselves as the King of David did. For the congregation --> Let us pray for each other so that our consciences are kept by God and become the good ones so that we can get in the ministry of the body of Christ.

Getting into the edifying of the body of Christ is by scarifying anything, for instance our time. Let us get into the body of Christ because if not, there is only exist:

- a heart which tends to do sins
- doing evil things
- doing sins repeatedly
- reaching the peak of sins.

There are only two alternatives of conscience and they are determined through the water baptism. Thus, let us now check our water baptism --> a family/ husband and wife are in one water baptism/ one ark and we pray in order to gain a good conscience so that we can give others and get into the ministry in the edifying of the body of Christ and we will be as perfect as Jesus is. We will not be punished. Instead, we will be glorified with God at Jesus' second coming.

Here now, we face the condition as in the era of Noah and the condemnation will come soon. In the past time, the condemnation of God is in the form of water but now it is in the form of fire. What have to be kept? We get into the water baptism/ we have to keep our conscience. We may not have an evil conscience, but the good one which tends to give others and get into the edifying of the body of Christ.

It is good if you study, work, etc. But it will be better that approach Jesus' second coming, we beg to God to keep our consciences --> the tendency of my conscience is not for other things, but for being active in ministries in the edifying of the body of Christ. Otherwise, what we have achieved for instance school and job are nothing for they will be destroyed.

Once again, you are not forbidden to do your activities in this world, yet more than that we should ask to God to get the tendency of clear conscience to get into and be active in ministries in the body of Christ and it is not vain. The

first definition of the ark of Noah is about conscience.

2. Tabernacle/ getting into tabernacle.

I will give you evidence that the ark of Noah points to the Tabernacle. The ark of Noah consists of three stages. So does Tabernacle.

a. first evidence --> **Genesis 6: 16**

16 "You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it with lower, second, and third decks.

The ark of Noah stands for lower, second and third decks. Tabernacle has three rooms; those are the court, holy place and the most holy place (please check <http://www.gptkk.org/tabernakel-en.php>). These are the similarity between the ark of Noah and Tabernacle.

b. second evidence --> the command of God to make the ark and the Tabernacle is same, but the new translation of Holy bible is not very clear. I have compared with the old translation and the similarity of the command of God is clear. In the old translation in vs. 14 --> the command of God to Noah to make the ark, God always said --> 'you have to make'. So did in the building of Tabernacle --> 'you have to make' --> Genesis 25 starts from vs. 8, Tabernacle--> the ark of covenant. In **Genesis 6: 14-16** to **Genesis 25: 8, 10**. In New translation of Holy Bible --> 'you shall make'. So, the command to make the ark of Noah = the command to make Tabernacle.

In tabernacle, water baptism (please check <http://www.gptkk.org/bejana-en.php>) points to the court (please check <http://www.gptkk.org/pelataran-en.php>). We have a big question: Where will we go? After believing in Jesus, repenting from our sins, getting into water and spiritual (Holy Spirit) baptisms, we have the good conscience which tends to give others and be active in the edifying of the Body of Christ. Then, where will we go? Let us look the answer in **Acts 2: 41, 42** we get into the patience in the holy place.

41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

As a conclusion, after we got into water baptism we have to get into the shepherding service system/ the holy place which is led with the true teaching word/ true vine = the patience in three main services/ three tools in the holy place. If we are willing to be shepherded, let it be not because of the big building of the church, the pastor or money but because of choosing the true vine/ the true teaching word.

Three kinds of patience = three tools in Holy place, they are:

- patience in the apostles' doctrine and in the breaking of bread --> Bible Study service followed with the holy communion --> the table of Showbreads (<http://www.gptkk.org/mrs-en.php>). Breads, which are divided into two rows, six in a row, point to the true teaching word --> 66 --> Holy Bible which consists of sixty six books (the true teaching word), but bread also points to the Body of Christ/ crumbs of breads (the Holy Communion). Indeed, there is blood. If you learn Genesis 25, you will read that on the showbreads there is also wine which is poured on the table. It points to the blood of Jesus. So, it can be concluded that: breads (the figure 66) is the true teaching word and the body of Christ and the wine is the blood of Jesus. It is clear because the other tools do not have bread and wine, only the table of showbreads. I hope we understand it.
- the patience in fellowship --> the golden candlestick (please check <http://www.gptkk.org/pelita-en.php>) and now it refers to the public service which is followed by the gifts/ ointment of Holy Spirit. In this kind of patience we get the pouring of gifts of Holy Spirit. If we are patient in our ministries as the musicians, our gifts will be improved so that we become blessings for other people. I hope we understand it.
- the patience in praying --> the altar of incense (please kindly check <http://www.gptkk.org/dupa-en.php>) and now it points to the pray and worship service.

This is it! After getting into water baptism, we get into the Holy Place/ the shepherding service system which is led by the true teaching word/ the true vine = patience in three kinds of main services = Noah got into the ark.

Now, approaching the condemnation of God through fires from heaven --> let us get into the ark of Noah/ get into the shepherding service system/ the patience in 3 main services. The 3 main services have their own characteristics so that they are not monotonous.

1. Bible Study: there is the word of God and Holy Communion.
2. the public service: there is holy spirit which gives the gifts.
3. the pray and worship service: there is the love of God which we can enjoy since it gives new power in our life.

The late rev. In Juwono always said --> this is the proof that God gives the service system which is not monotonous. It is like

the Israelites who have three kinds of celebration days those are:

1. Easter day (the Lord's Passover)= bible study and Holy Communion. So, to get into the service of Bible study is not a suffering for us even though we have just finished our work in the office. Instead, it means that we come to the Easter celebration.
2. Pentecost day = the pouring of Holy Spirit, there is the atmosphere of celebration/ happiness.
3. The Feast of Tabernacle = the patience in pray and worship service. In the past time there is the Feast of Tabernacle and the wedding party/love. Now, it means the relationship between head and neck --> husband and wife/relationship of spiritual marriage = worship.

So, our party/service is not monotonous. It is the reason why we have to pray in order not to be bored in the shepherding service system. Instead, we join the atmosphere of the parties of God. Thus, if we are willing to serve God = we have to feel like we are going to go to the parties.

If we are invited to come to a party, for instance, a party of a governor or a president, we will prepare everything well, such as our shoes and clothes and we will not come late. How about if we are going to the church? We often forget where we put our shoes. Let us change our attitudes to go to the church. That is, we go to the church like we are going to go to the party of the King of all kings, Jesus Christ. For you all who are hesitant to serve God, please beg to God in order you are not bored in the shepherding service system. Instead, we are like going to the party of the King of all kings. It is also important for me who is physically so tired, but my heart has to be in the atmosphere of a party. We must give the best for God. I hope we can understand it.

We are going to read in Psalms about the shepherding service system. **Psalms 92: 12-15**

12 The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

13 Those who are planted in the house of the LORD Shall flourish in the courts of our God.

14 They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing,

15 To declare that the LORD is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

vs. 13 --> being shepherded = being planted in the temple of God

tree = fleshly men who are planted in the temple of God.

vs. 15 --> there is no unrighteousness in Him = God, the Great Shepherd, never deceives us.

If we are planted in the temple of God, the Great Shepherd will not deceive us; if we are shepherded, we can pick the real fruits.

The real fruits are:

1. Related to palm tree--> vs. 12 The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree. The palm tree refers to the sweetness/joy/party. If we are wholeheartedly shepherded, it means we are planted. A plant cannot be planted and then pulled out then planted again because it will not produce sweetness, even to live is a luck. Being planted and then pulled out means not coming consistently to the service and devotion. However, if we are planted well, we will pick the palm tree/ joy quickly or slowly in God's time. Please pay attention the graduation of Lempin-el, I read the handwriting of the late rev V. Gessel which is then quoted by the late rev. Totaijs for the servants of God. It says: 'if we have been patient in the shepherding service system for 20 years, we have felt the sweet fruit'. The congregation also may not be easily hopeless. If you are patient, you will pick the sweet fruit.
2. A cedar--> It is the strongest tree. In short, it points to the strength/ protection in confronting the winds --> winds of temptation, winds of false doctrine, we keep strong. There is a blessing also as in vs. 14 'they shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing'. The blessing of God in earthly things is as the king David said: 'Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want'. We are also blessed spiritually --> shall not want = we are spotless as God = to be the bride of God. We are blessed spiritually until we cannot do any sins. How great the Lord is.

This is the shepherding service system. If we have got the joy, we will feel the real protection and blessings from God in our life. We can declare that the Lord is upright, He is the rock and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

There is no unrighteousness in Him means we may bear witness --> vs. 15. After we got all things from God, we have to bear witness to other people. There are a lot of trees beside the road than those which are planted in the temple of God. There are still a lot of wandering Christians --> maybe it is too rude. It is like the fig tree which is planted beside the road and is not blessed, his spirituality is dry until his roots which brings him to the destruction. I hope we can understand it.

The definitions of "Noah got into the ark" for us are:

1. we get into the water baptism --> we keep our conscience: do not have the tendency of evil things, yet being active in the body of Christ by sacrificing or giving everything (money, minds, strength, etc). For husbands who have had wives and children, you have to pray as King David did. That is, God, please keep our conscience in the right direction that is the body of Christ. If we do not join the body of Christ, our conscience tends to do evil things that are the peak of Babylon sins. It is our responsibility. Having the good conscience, we have to be shepherded.
2. we are shepherded --> husband, wife and children get into one ark/ one shepherding service system. As a result, we

will feel sweetness in our lives. To stay in different arks is unsafe. I have said that there were a lot of different ships at that time, yet it was only one which was salvaged. It implies that there are many kinds of shepherding service system, but only one which has the true teaching word. If you have been convinced in a shepherding service system, you should bring your wife and children and your family to be in that shepherding service system. I am in no doubt that if Noah had grandchildren, he would have encouraged them to get into the same ark.

As conclusion, we have to enter in the ark of Noah, that is gaining entry to the water baptism (to get the good conscience) and the shepherding service system, to run off from the condemnation in this world due to be mockers.

B. Living in the hands of the Lord/ Great shepherd/ High Priest, in Genesis 7 --> the difference between the ark of Noah and other arks

Genesis 7: 16

16 So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in.

It was God own hands which shut Noah in --> this is the difference between the ark of Noah and other arks. It was not the sophisticated things from this world which shut him in. So, the shepherded person = one who lives in the hands of the Lord/ Great shepherd/ High Priest. It is God himself who open and close the doors for us, not our own abilities.

The promise of God is not only revealed to Noah, but also to the churches who live in the end of the world, one of them is the congregation in Philadelphia. God promises to them --> "I am the one who close and open the doors for you". The congregation of Philadelphia is the churches of God who live in the end of the world and cope with the last condemnation. The condemnation of God is in the form of the great flood at the past time and now is in the form of fires from heaven. It is God who determines to open or close the doors for us, not our diploma and wealth even though we need both of them as long as we live in this world.

Revelation 3: 8

8 "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

To get the power of the hands of God which are able to open and close the doors, we have to be shepherded, obey the true teaching word and do not deny God (= being faithful) -->these are what we need. We have to be shepherded, obedient and faithful although we do not have great abilities.

Being obedient and faithful is like we stretch our two hands to God and He, the Great Shepherd, will stretch His merciful and trustworthy hands too to be able to help us in time of need like what He had done to Noah. If God did not shut the door in time of need, the great flood would get into the ark and Noah, his family and the animals would be destroyed.

Now, it is defined that maybe we do not have great power, yet let us give what we have. They are obedience and faithfulness. It denotes that we stretch our hands to God and He, the High Priest, will stretch His merciful and faithful hands too in order to help us.

Hebrews 2: 17, 18

17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

If we stretch our hands to God, He, the High Priest, will stretch His merciful and faithful hands too in order to help us in time of need like what He had done to Noah. He had helped Noah from the great flood. Now, we will also receive His Power to help us.

The spiritual definitions of the great flood are:

- temptations/ problems which are too difficult to be answered with men's abilities and riches --> men go up to the coconut trees, but the great flood was higher than them. They climbed to the mountain, yet the great flood was still higher than them. It is only the hands of the High Priest which are able to help us.
- the peaks of sins, they are the sins of eating- drinking and sex which cannot be solved by anything in this world. It is only able to be worked out if we stretch our hands to the High Priest and He holds us so that the sins cannot come in to our life and all things will be fine.
- impossibilities
- the condemnations of God cannot finger us if we live in the hands of the High Priest.

So let us be obedient and faithful. As a result, the High Priest will stretch His merciful and faithful hands to us. He had helped Noah from the great flood by shutting him in the ark. Now, He is able to help us in time of need.

Confronting the great flood in the end of the world purports that:

- temptations in all things, including the natural disaster can be solved by God
- the peaks of sins are stopped up by God
- the impossibilities become doable
- we cannot be touched by the condemnations of God if we live in the hands of God.

God is able to close the doors. Besides, He is also capable of opening the doors --> the hands of the High Priest open the doors/ ways; those are the new ways for our lives.

For the young people, maybe your future is clogged, the hands of the High Priest are able to open it.

Hebrews 10: 19- 21

*19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,
20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,
21 and having a High Priest over the house of God,*

It is the fact that God is able to open the doors/ give the new ways as what I have said about the wise people that came to baby Jesus. When they were going to go home, God ordered them to pass the way which was without Herod. They had to pass the new way-the way without Herod/ Satan/ sins-. It is the way of a wonderful future whose direction is on the way of perfection/ the way through the veil.

God does not only provide the beautiful future in this world, but also the way of perfection so that we can get together with God forever. Thus, in these days-which are like in the era of Noah in which people face the condemnations of fire- we have to:

- get into the ark by care for our heart.
- get into the shepherding service system wholeheartedly
- live in the hands of the Great Shepherd: we are obedient and faithful. Although we are in the condition of destruction, if we are obedient, faithful and stretch our hands to God, He will stretch His hands too to us. He is able to help us in time of need by opening the new ways for us.

God blesses us!