

Ascension Service in Malang, May 18, 2023 (Thursday Evening)

Peace and grace in the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Revelation chapter 19-20 refers to the second coming of Jesus for the two kinds of men as follows:

1. As for the church of God who is ready, Jesus comes as follows:
 - a. Verse 6, namely as the King of kings.
 - b. Verse 7, namely as the Heavenly Bridegroom.
 - c. Verse 11-16, namely as the High Priest who is Faithful and True.

The church of God who is ready and perfected like Jesus will be lifted up on the glorious clouds to enter the marriage supper of the Lamb of God.

2. As for those who do not trust Jesus, so they do not experience the remission of sin by the blood of Jesus, but keep living in sins up to the peak, and the church of God who is not ready, they are left when Jesus comes a second time. Consequently they are not lifted up on heaven.
[Revelation 19:17 to Revelation 20] For them, Jesus comes as the righteous Judge to punish and destroy them.

That is why we must make effort earnestly to become the church of God who is ready, namely the perfect bride of God, so we can be lifted up on heaven with Jesus. We are not left and destroyed.

We celebrate Jesus' ascension to heaven. It means that we receive and utilize God's lifting power that we can experience from now on in the world until Jesus comes a second time.

The usefulness of the power of God's ascension is as follows:

1. Taking away the stone.

John 11:38-40

11:38. *Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.*

11:39. *Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days."*

11:40. *Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"*

Jesus' lifting power is able to take away the hard stone. It means destroying the hardness of the heart, so it becomes gentle and lowly in heart.

Exodus 7:14,16

7:14. *So the LORD said to Moses: "Pharaoh's heart is hard; he refuses to let the people go.*

7:16. *"And you shall say to him, 'The LORD God of the Hebrews has sent me to you, saying, 'Let My people go, that they may serve Me in the wilderness'; but indeed, until now you would not hear!*

The facts of the hardness of the heart are as follows:

- Not trusting and obeying God because of using the logic. One feels that he is smarter than God.
- One is always hindered in the ministry up to unable to minister to God like Satan.
- Keeping the decay of sins up to the peak, namely the sins of eating-drinking and marrying-giving in marriage up to producing stench.

Isaiah 66:24

66:24. *"And they shall go forth and look Upon the corpses of the men Who have transgressed against Me. For their worm does not die, And their fire is not quenched. They shall be an abhorrence to all flesh."*

If it continues, it will be worms, so one becomes the rebellious who transgresses against God up to perdition forever in the hell where the worm does not die but keeps gnawing.

God's lifting power is able destroy the hardness of the heart to become gentle and lowly in heart. The facts found in it are as follows:

- Trusting and obeying God or the true teaching Word although the thing does not make sense. We can receive it by

faith, so God will make the impossible thing possible.

- We experience the purification.

1 Peter 1:22

1:22. Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

It starts from the heart, deed, and words, until our whole life is purified. We can love one another. We just do the good thing and love our enemy by repaying good for evil. We can produce fragrance as well as become the witness of God.

- Prioritizing or fighting for the ministry more than anything in the world.

1 Timothy 4:8-10

4:8. For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.

4:9. This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.

4:10. For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.

We can minister faithfully and fervently until the finish line. As a result, there is the guarantee of certainty of God from now on in the world, beautiful future, up to eternal life.

In the Old Testament, God punished Egypt to fight for the ministry of the Israelites.

In the New Testament, Jesus willingly dies on the cross to fight for the ministry of the Gentiles.

2. Taking up the bed.

John 5:1-9

5:1. After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

5:2. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches.

5:3. In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water.

5:4. For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had.

5:5. Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years.

5:6. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?"

5:7. The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me."

5:8. Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk."

5:9. And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.

Jesus' lifting power is able to heal the paralysis for thirty eight years.

The spiritual meanings of the paralysis are as follows:

- Not willingly being shepherded well and correctly--the Sheep Gate. He does not appreciate even does not want to eat the shepherding Word. The shepherding Word is God's mercy for us--Bethesda means the mercy. On the contrary, he enters the horse gate. It means relying on the power of the flesh.
- Being inactive in the revival of Holy Spirit in the last rain, namely the ministry of the building of the body of Christ.
- [verse 7] Just hoping others, so one never hopes God, but sacrifices Him.
- The destruction in marriage and children.
- The impossibilities.

If the paralytic is not cured, he will experience the spiritual dryness, so he is not fervent in the spiritual thing. He has no relationship with God, so he just commits sins up to the peak. It means that he has relationship with Satan up to perdition.

[verse 6-8] In the impossible problem, God offers the helping through the teaching Word which is impossible or out of mind.

God's lifting power in the teaching Word is able to heal the paralysis. It means taking away the impossibilities in our life. Our attitude is obeying the Word, so we receive the lifting power. As a result, the paralysis is cured.

John 5:14

5:14. *Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you."*

- 'in the temple' means that we can be shepherded well and correctly. We enter the sheepfold, namely the perseverance in committing the three kinds of main service to God. Our body, soul, and spirit are purified continuously until we do not sin anymore, so God make all things well. Getting bored in the shepherding means getting bored to live.
- We just hope Jesus as the Great Shepherd until we shall not want.

Psalm 23:1

23:1. <<A Psalm of David.>> The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

We are taken care of physically up to abundance. We can always give thanks and become the blessing for others up to perfection like Jesus.

- The marriage and children are restored to become one, true, and holy up to perfection.
- God is able to finish all of impossible problems.
- [verse 14] We are used in the revival of Holy Spirit in the last rain, namely the building of the perfect body of Christ. The time for thirty-eight years is the limit whether we want to use logic or the Word; whether we want to be like the ten men who used the logic or the two men who used faith.

Deuteronomy 2:14

2:14. "And the time we took to come from Kadesh Barnea until we crossed over the Valley of the Zered was thirty-eight years, until all the generation of the men of war was consumed from the midst of the camp, just as the LORD had sworn to them.

3. Lifting up your heads.

Luke 21:25-28

21:25. "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring;

21:26. "men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken.

21:27. "Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

21:28. "Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

Approaching Jesus' second coming, we will face the shocks in all things, the pre-persecution of the Antichrist. It is the sprinkle of blood, namely the suffering because of Jesus. It often makes us in worry, fear, stress, disappointment, and despair until we leave God or the true teaching Word. It is the same as becoming the salt that loses its flavor. Consequently, one is trampled by the Antichrist.

God's lifting power is able to lift up our face to see and worship God. We experience the renewal of life from the fleshly men to the spiritual ones, namely being strong and of good courage. We just trust and hope to God. We worship Him, so we experience peace, and we become the place of Holy Spirit.

The usefulness of Holy Spirit are as follows:

- Holy Spirit is the strong east wind that divided the Red Sea.

Exodus 14:21

14:21. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided.

Holy Spirit is able to take care of our life in the midst of the difficulties of the world. The miracle happens; from nothing to something.

Holy Spirit is able to finish all of impossible problems. He gives us the beautiful and successful future.

- [John 4:14] Holy Spirit is the living water that gives us the heavenly satisfaction, so we always give thanks and become God's witness. We draw off Holy Spirit to the dry land.
- Holy Spirit is the burning fire that purifies the Gentiles from the characteristics of the dog and swine.

Romans 15:16

15:16. that I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

We can be honest in all things up to perfection. We are lifted up to Heaven when Jesus comes a second time.

God blesses us.