

Bible Study Service in Malang, September 29, 2022 (Thursday Evening)

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

Revelation 17:1,5,15

17:1. Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,

17:5. And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

17:15. Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.

Revelation 17 is about the judgment of Babylon.

The great Babylon is the great harlot who sits on many waters. It means controlling the Gentiles.

The facts of the Gentiles who are controlled by the great Babel are as follows:

1. A harlot means that a woman is not faithful to a man.

2 Corinthians 11:2-4

11:2. For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

11:3. But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

11:4. For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted--you may well put up with it!

The spiritual meanings are as follows:

- A harlot is one who is not faithful to one man, namely Jesus or the true teaching Word because of being deceived by the false teaching. He leaves the true teaching Word and chooses the false one. Be careful! The false things want to become greater than the true ones. He does not become a chaste virgin because of unfaithfulness. Being corrupted from the simplicity that is in Jesus is the same as being corrupted from holiness.
- A harlot is one who is not faithful up to leaving the ministry to God. There are two big secrets in the Bible, namely the ministry and the marriage. If one is not faithful in the ministry to God, he will most likely become unfaithful in his marriage. That is why, let us pray and remind one another to become faithful in the ministry to God.

Psalm 137:1-4

137:1. By the rivers of Babylon, There we sat down, yea, we wept When we remembered Zion.

137:2. We hung our harps Upon the willows in the midst of it.

137:3. For there those who carried us away captive asked of us a song, And those who plundered us requested mirth, Saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"

137:4. How shall we sing the LORD'S song In a foreign land?

The willows by the rivers of Babylon refer to the servants of God who minister to God but only for the worldly or fleshly interest.

'hung our harps' means being unfaithful up to leaving the ministry that God gives to us. Such life will hang himself when he is not helped like Judas Iscariot.

Matthew 27:3-5

27:3. Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

27:4. saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." And they said, "What is that to us? You see to it!"

27:5. Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.

Galatians 3:13

3:13. Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),

'*hanged himself*' means rejecting Christ's sacrifice, so he must bear the curse of the sin. Judas Iscariot fell headlong, burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out. It refers to one who bears the curse of the sin, namely weariness and heavy burden. His life is not beautiful, but he is ashamed up to perdition forever.

John 15:6

15:6. *"If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned."*

One who is not holy and faithful is the same as a branch that does not abide in the true vine, so he becomes the dry branch. It means experiencing the spiritual dryness. It can be detected from the dry words, namely gossip, evil speaking (the true thing becomes false, and vice versa) as well as blaspheming the true teaching Word. The dry branches will be gathered to be used in the dry fellowship, namely without the true teaching Word and purification. Consequently, the dry branches will be burnt in the hell forever. That is why we must keep our faithfulness and holiness earnestly.

2. **Selfishness.** It means that one just prioritizes himself in all things especially in the physical ones.
The facts found in it are as follows:

- **Becoming as muddy water** which just receives the water but he does not flow to others. Such life only wants to receive God's blessing but he does not want to become the blessing for others. The muddy water is useless. It just becomes the place for mosquito, crocodiles, and salt.

Isaiah 14:22-23

14:22. *"For I will rise up against them," says the LORD of hosts, "And cut off from Babylon the name and remnant, And offspring and posterity," says the LORD.*

14:23. *"I will also make it a possession for the porcupine, And marshes of muddy water; I will sweep it with the broom of destruction," says the LORD of hosts.*

Ezekiel 47:11

47:11. *"But its swamps and marshes will not be healed; they will be given over to salt."*

The swamp refers to the place of the salt of the sin until it becomes the Dead Sea, namely one who spiritually dies. He is not fervent anymore in the spiritual thing such as praying, reading the bible, et cetera until he aims at the second death in the hell forever. He cannot do the good thing, but just harms others.

- **Not giving to and visiting the body of Christ who is despicable and weak.**

Matthew 25:42-45

25:42. *'for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink;*

25:43. *'I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'*

25:44. *"Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?'"*

25:45. *"Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.'*

2 Timothy 3:1-5

3:1. *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:*

3:2. *For men will be lovers of themselves⁽¹⁾, lovers of money⁽²⁾, boasters⁽³⁾, proud⁽⁴⁾, blasphemers⁽⁵⁾, disobedient to parents⁽⁶⁾, unthankful⁽⁷⁾, unholy⁽⁸⁾,*

3:3. *unloving⁽⁹⁾, unforgiving⁽¹⁰⁾, slanderers⁽¹¹⁾, without self-control⁽¹²⁾, brutal⁽¹³⁾, despisers of good⁽¹⁴⁾,*

3:4. *traitors⁽¹⁵⁾, headstrong⁽¹⁶⁾, haughty⁽¹⁷⁾, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God⁽¹⁸⁾,*

3:5. *having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!*

One who is selfish will experience the perilous times in his marriage, working, *et cetera*. He does not care others because he just remembers himself, so he surely cannot become obedient. It is hard for him to change from the fleshly man to the spiritual one. He keeps the flesh and blood man with its eighteen characteristics, so he is marked with the triple six. He becomes the same as the Antichrist. Be watchful! The Antichrist goes out from us. He was shepherded with us, but he was not of us, so he becomes as the goat which is cursed and destroyed forever.

Matthew 25:46

25:46. *"And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."*

3. **Being controlled by the spirits of evil, uncleanness, and bitterness.**

Revelation 18:2

18:2. And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!"

The evil spirit causes the sin of wickedness, namely the love of money, so men become greedy and stingy.

Stinginess means that one cannot give.

Greediness means that one steals the possession of God, namely the tithe and special offering, and the one of others. For example, Gehazi wanted to be rich, so he sinned.

The spirit of bitterness is envy and hatred without a cause. We may not hate those who are guilty to us. But one who is controlled by the spirit of bitterness hates the righteous man.

The spirit of uncleanness is sin of eating-drinking and marrying-giving in marriage. One who is unclean will be destroyed. He may not enter the New Jerusalem.

Revelation 21:27

21:27. But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Luke 17:26-27

17:26. "And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man:

17:27. "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.

On the last days, the woman of Babylon will sit on many people of the Gentiles, so their condition is like her. It is like the days of Noah where men lived in sins of eating-drinking and marrying-giving in marriage. They will be destroyed by the fire from the heavens (the doomsday) up to the lake of fire and brimstone in the hell forever. The contents of the world are destroyed, except eight persons. We cannot be negligent. Do not try to hear the false teaching even once because it will drag us to the woman of Babylon up to perdition forever!

There were eight family members of Noah who were saved because they entered Noah's ark. Noah's ark refers to the true water baptism that is in line with the will of God. There are two things that we learn from Noah, so we are saved as follows:

- We must have a good conscience.

Genesis 6:5-8

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.

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

6:7. So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."

6:8. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

The people in the days of Noah had the heart that tended to do evil and uncleanness continually. The heart is the strong base-- not cleverness or riches--for us to receive all things from heaven. If the heart tends to do evil, men will be dragged to

Babylon with the sin of uncleanness that aims at the mixed-marriage and marrying-giving in marriage.

Genesis 6:1-2

*6:1. Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them,
6:2. that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.*

The meaning of entering Noah's ark is that we enter the true water baptism according to the will of God. Noah had to enter his ark, so he was saved from the floods. The other arks could not save. It means that there is only one true baptism that can save us.

1 Peter 3:20-21

3:20. 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.

3:21. 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,

Hebrews 2:1-2

2:1. *Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.*

2:2. *For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward,*

The term of the true water baptism is believing in Jesus and repenting or stopping sinning and returning to God.

The implementation of the true water baptism is that one must be buried in the water with Jesus and come out or rise from water with Him to receive the heavenly life, namely the heart that tends to do evil and uncleanness is changed into a good conscience and obedience, so we can live in righteousness.

The result of the true water baptism is the obedient heart or being strong and of good courage. Thus, we cannot be dragged by the woman of Babylon and she cannot sit on us.

- We enter the ministry that is in line with the will of God, namely the one with the pattern of the Tabernacle or eternal kingdom of heaven.

Genesis 6:15-16

6:15. *"And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits.*

6:16. *"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 Tabernacle has the three rooms, namely the Court (salvation), the Holy Place (holiness), and the Most Holy Place (perfection). Noah's ark also has the three levels. Now, we must enter the Holy Place, namely the sheepfold or the perseverance in committing the three kinds of main service to God. In the sheepfold, our body, soul, and spirit attach to the trinity of God, so we are always purified and anointed by Holy Spirit. We receive a good conscience and obedient heart, so we always minister to God faithfully and fervently.

Leviticus 21:12

21:12. *'nor shall he go out of the sanctuary, nor profane the sanctuary of his God; for the consecration of the anointing oil of his God is upon him: I am the LORD.*

The servant of God who is holy, faithful, and fervent is the apple of God's eye, namely one who is called, chosen, and faithful (being devoted by God). Thus, we can win over Babylon. We can be used in the revival of the building of the perfect body of Christ.

Revelation 17:14

17:14. *"These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."*

We as the apple of God's eye are protected and taken care of by God, so a grain of sand cannot enter us until we are perfected (*"I shall not want"*). On the last days, we will indeed experience the crisis but in the shepherding we will keep being taken care of up to abundance.

Genesis 7:16

7:16. *So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in.*

The LORD shut Noah in. it means that we must always live in God's merciful hand. There were many arks in the days of Noah, but only Noah's ark had the miraculous merciful hand of God. Let us surrender all things to the mercy of God when we cannot think nor do a thing anymore.

The term of living in God's merciful hand is that we must receive the sprinkle of blood, namely suffering in the flesh with Jesus. Noah was mocked when he followed God's order to build an ark on the mountain while there was no rain. Receiving the sprinkle of blood is receiving God's mercy.

1 Peter 3:3-6

3:3. *Do not let your adornment be merely outward--arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel--*

3:4. *rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.*

3:5. *For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands,*

3:6. *as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with*

any terror.

We may adorn ourselves physically so we look good, but we may not do it for showing off. A wife puts on make up for her husband, not others. We may not be desperate when we do not have the physical adornment. The spiritual adornment that we receive from the sprinkle of blood is more important than anything we have. If we experience the sprinkle of blood we will experience "*Shekinah Glory*" or the glory of God that changes us from the fleshly men to the spiritual ones. We are adorned spiritually as follows:

- Being gentle. It means that we can receive the Word no matter how hard it is to purify us. We can also forgive others' mistake and forget it.
- Being quiet. It means that we only do the introspection in our life through the sharpness of the sword of the Word. Finding the sin, we must confess and repent. Being quiet also means not giving too many negative comments.
- Willingness to yield. It is the same as submitting or obeying until the flesh does not speak anymore.

We just totally trust and commit ourselves to God. He will stretch out His merciful hand to us and the miracle will surely happen.

Hebrews 2:17-18

2:17. 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.

2:18. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

The results are as follows:

- The hands of God forgive and finish all of our sins by His sacrifice on the cross, so we experience peace. All of our diseases and problems have been borne by Jesus on the cross. We feel easy and light. We do not feel anything that flesh feels but just God's love and peace.
- The hand of God can help us in His time. He finishes all of our difficulties in His time. All of our failures are finished by God, so our life becomes beautiful and successful in His time.
- God's merciful hand is able to protect and take care of us physically in the midst of the crises of the world until the Antichrist reigns over the world for three and a half years. We keep living in righteousness and holiness by God's mercy.

Genesis 6:8

6:8. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

- Noah was lifted up while the others drowned. It means that God's merciful hand is able to lift us up from all of drowning. It is the same as changing us from doubt to trusting and committing ourselves to God. We just hope the miraculous God's mercy, so we are surely strong and of good courage. It continues until Jesus comes a second time that we are changed to become as perfect as He is to enter the New Jerusalem. We will never go out of there forever.

God blesses us.