

General Service in Malang, January 24, 2021 (Sunday Morning)

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

Revelation 12: 3-18 is about the clear and complete appearance of Satan or dragon with his activities on the last days as follows:

1. [Revelation 12:4a] His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven.
2. [Revelation 12:4b] Devouring.
3. [Revelation 12:7] Fighting.
4. [Revelation 12:13] Persecuting or catching up fast.
5. [Revelation 12:15] Causing the woman or the church of God to be carried away by the flood.
6. [Revelation 12:17] Making war or persecuting.

ad. 3. **Fighting.**

Revelation 12:7-12

12:7. And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,

12:8. but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.

12:9. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

12:10. Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

12:11. "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

12:12. "Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

Satan or the dragon makes war in heaven.

There are three stages in warfare as follows:

1. The pre-war stage, namely the atmosphere of peace.
2. The stage of war.
3. The post-war stage.

Ad. 3. **post-war stage.**

There are two things that happen in the post-war stage as follows:

- The earth must receive the great wrath of Satan because he knows that he has a short time.
- The heaven rejoices because of victory.

The condition of the world since Adam and Eve were tempted by Satan in the form of snake, so they sinned and were cast out of Eden to enter into the world is as follows:

1. In the curse atmosphere, namely weariness, heavy burdens, labor, and tears.
2. Facing against the great wrath of a great, fiery red dragon.
3. Facing against God's punishment, namely the three times seven condemnations of God up to doomsday, so the earth is destroyed.

That is why we must win over Satan, so we experience the heavenly bliss or eternal shout of victory.

There are three things that make us experience the heavenly bliss as follows:

1. [Luke 15:7] The joy because of **repentance**.

We must repent from the sins as follows:

- Not being shepherded well and correctly. It is the same as the lost sheep or walking around, so one is lost in the wilderness. He starts laboring and being heavy laden and full of tears. He is in trouble until he is torn by the beast.

Luke 15:4,6-7

15:4. "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?"

15:6. "And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!'"

15:7. "I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine

just persons who need no repentance.

It means that one falls into sins up to the peak. He is deceived by the false teachings, so he leaves the true ones. Consequently, he does not aim at heaven.

That is why we must repent from the sin of not being shepherded. We must be shepherded well and correctly to the true teaching word like a branch that abides in the true vine.

The term of being shepherded is that we must always be in the sheepfold or the perseverance in committing the three kinds of main service. We just hear and obey the true teaching word, so our life is correct. We are not deceived and torn by the beast.

As a result, '*I shall not want*' means that our physical life is taken care of up to the abundance. We have no lack, but give thanks. We become the blessing for others.

Our spiritual life experiences peace, serenity, and the heavenly bliss.

- The sin of stealing especially stealing God's possession, namely the tithe and special offerings, and the one of others.

Stealing God's possession is like living in the darkness, fear, and difficulty, and having no joy.

Luke 15:8-10

15:8. "Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it?"

15:9. "And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!'"

15:10. "Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

That is why we must repent from the sin of stealing the possession of God. We must return correctly the tithe and special offerings that belong to God. It must be signified by giving thanks and tears (the blood sign).

As a result, we live in the light. We are not in fear anymore but living in serenity. We experience the atmosphere of God's blessing and the heavenly bliss.

- [Luke 15:11-32] The sin of not being faithful and fervent up to leaving the true ministry to God.

Luke 15:32

15:32. 'It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.'

Consequently, we will surely fall into the field of Satan or swine. It means being fervent in the sin of uncleanness, namely eating-drinking, marrying-giving in marriage, and false marriage. He lives blindly, wallows in the sins, and labors. He is dirty and smelly up to drowning in the lake of fire and brimstone. He is destroyed forever.

That is why we must repent from the sin of unfaithfulness. We must willingly suffer in flesh or weep, so we can be fervent in the true ministry to God. We become good and faithful servant even returning good for evil.

Matthew 25:21

25:21. "His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

2. **The heavenly bliss.** We praise because of the purification word that is sharper than any two-edged sword.

Psalms 126:5-6

126:5. Those who sow in tears Shall reap in joy.

126:6. He who continually goes forth weeping, Bearing seed for sowing, Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, Bringing his sheaves with him.

We must weep or suffer in flesh in the sowing of seeds both the Gospel Word for people who have just known Jesus and the true teaching one that is sharper than any two-edged sword to grow our spirituality to maturity and purify our heart from evil desire (the will of money), unclean desire, and bitterness.

Matthew 15:19-21

15:19. "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts⁽¹⁾, murders⁽²⁾, adulteries⁽³⁾, fornications⁽⁴⁾, thefts⁽⁵⁾, false witness⁽⁶⁾, blasphemies⁽⁷⁾."

15:20. *"These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."*

15:21. *Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon.*

Men's heart has the seven desires of evil, uncleanness, and bitterness, so the candlestick goes out.

They are blind as well as living in the darkness of sins up to the peak.

Men live in the atmosphere of darkness, fear, anxiety, and difficulty. If it continues, they will enter into the outer darkness, namely weeping and gnashing of teeth forever.

That is why we must suffer in flesh to receive the sword of the true word that is sharper than any two-edged sword, so we realize, regret, and confess our sin earnestly. Do not sin anymore after being forgiven!

As a result, our heart is purified from seven desires of evil, uncleanness, and bitterness.

Matthew 5:8

5:8. Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.

If we are purified by the sword of the word from seven desires of evil, uncleanness, and bitterness, our heart will be holy.

Our eyes will become bright. We become the burning lamp, so we can see God or heaven.

It means that Holy Spirit with His seven manifestations anoints us. He opens our heart to see the revelation of the Word or the true teaching word, so we read the Word delightfully. We enjoy when hearing the word.

Revelation 1:3

1:3. Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

Hebrews 12:14-17

12:14. Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

12:15. looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

12:16. lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.

12:17. For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

If we can see God, we will not see others' mistake but our own mistake. It is the same as doing introspection in our life.

We may not be jealous with others' blessing but imitate it.

We also do not see the food that makes Esau lose his birthright.

It means that we do not look at the worldly things that make our spirituality decrease and make us blind again and lose the spiritual thing.

Esau loses everything including the heavenly bliss, so he weeps forever. He cannot see God or the true teaching word anymore. He just sees Jacob's mistake and one morsel of food.

Consequently, he loses salvation and the heavenly bliss forever.

3. The joy in the true worship.

Revelation 19:6-7

19:6. And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"

19:7. "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."

Romans 8:26-28

8:26. Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

8:27. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

8:28. And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

The worship means groaning and crying to God. We are broken-hearted before God.

Revelation 12:1-3

12:1. Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head

a garland of twelve stars.

12:2. Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

12:3. And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.

How great the church of God is, our position is like a pregnant woman who will give birth. We have no strength while we are facing a great, fiery red dragon, the most dangerous enemy.

Romans 8:22-23

8:22. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

8:23. Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

Holy Spirit helps us to groan and cry or worship God with a broken heart. We confess our physical and spiritual weaknesses. We ask His mercy to help us and take away our weakness.

When we groan and cry to God, we will experience the things as follows:

- The redemption of our body.

It means that we experience the renewal of life from fleshly men to spiritual ones.

We become the same as a newborn baby, namely in honesty and sincerity.

We become the house of prayer, so our prayer is answered by God, and the miracle happens.

We must be patient and persevering when God has not answered us yet. We are patient in suffering by giving thanks, waiting God's time, and not grumbling, but keeping in the line of the will of God.

Do not look for other way which is outside the word! Do not stray!

- God works for us. Holy Spirit works for good. All things become good, beautiful, and successful in due time. All things up to the impossible ones are finished by God in due time.

Romans 8:28

8:28. And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Revelation 19:6-7

19:6. And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"

19:7. "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."

It continues until Jesus comes a second time that we are changed to become as perfect as He is. We do not stumble in words. We just say: "Alleluia" with our family to greet His coming on the glorious clouds.

We are with Him forever. We experience the heavenly bliss forever. There are no more tears.

God blesses us.