

General Service in Malang, July 21, 2013 (Sunday Morning)

CHILD SUBMISSION SERVICE

The baby of Jesus is born in a pen to show the importance of a shepherding.

1. Jesus as the Savior.

Matthew 1:21

1:21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

2. Jesus as the Shepherd.

Matthew 2:6

2:6 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'"

3. Jesus as the Heavenly bridegroom and King of kings.

Matthew 2:2

2:2 saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

A child must be brought to the shepherding pen to be able to experience the ministry of Jesus as the Savior, Shepherd, and King of kings.

Jesus as the Savior will set us free from sins and justify our life. Jesus as the Shepherd will care our body, spirit, and soul. He will also lead us to a beautiful future until we enter the New Jerusalem. Jesus as the Heavenly bridegroom will wash and renew us, until we are as perfect as Him and become the heavenly bride who is ready to welcome His second coming on the glorious clouds.

GENERAL SERVICE

Peace and grace in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 28:20b

28:20 ... and lo, I am with you always, event to the end of the age." Amen.

It is about the accompaniment of God to the end of the age. It means that God accompanies us starting from now, until His second coming, even until we sit together with Him on the throne of New Jerusalem.

Revelation 3:21

3:21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

The church of the Laodiceans who is in the worst condition can be lifted up by God. Whatever our condition is, He is able to lift up our life. We must struggle to win together with Him.

Proverbs 21:31

21:31 The horse is prepared for the day of battle, But deliverance is of the Lord.

The hand of God determines the deliverance. All things in this world are only tool to get the deliverance, but the hand of God determines it. If we want to win until we sit on His throne, we must always be within the hand of God.

Revelation 1:16

1:16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

To live within the strong hand of God, we must become as the stars. Thus, we will always win until we sit on His throne forever.

Who is the star?

Revelation 1:20

1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

The star is the angel of the congregation or a pastor who shines and becomes a pattern for the congregation, especially example in faith. If a pastor lives in righteousness and has the true teaching Word, true marriage, and true ministry, he becomes the star or example in faith for the congregation. If a pastor becomes a star, the congregation will be in a bright light.

Generally, the star also refers to the servant of God, priests and kings, who is used by God to glorify Him and become His witness. Do not grieve and shame God as people did during the days of Noah. The consequence is the judgment of God.

Star is the descendant of Abraham. Actually there are three types of the descendant of Abraham as follows.

1. As the dust of the earth.

Genesis 13:16

13:16 And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered.

The dust of the earth refers to Christian lives who are only satisfied with carnal matters, and they even sacrifice spiritual matters.

The practices are as follows.

- Ministering God for getting carnal matters, even stealing the possession of God, that is the tithe and special offering.
- Being unfaithful and leaving the ministry for looking for carnal matters. It is as Esau who sacrifices spiritual matters to get the carnal ones. He gets what he wants but he weeps forever.

Genesis 3:14

3:14 So the Lord God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life."

The servant of God as the dust of the earth will be eaten by the serpent.

2. As the sand on the seashore.

Genesis 22:17

22:17 blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.

Matthew 7:26-27

7:26 "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:

7:27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

The sand refers to Christian lives who like to hear the true teaching Word but do not practice it, so they do not endure the temptation.

- The rain descended from above refers to Satan with evil and unclean spirit that makes the children of God fall in sins concerning eating-drinking and marrying-being given in marriage.
- The winds refer to false prophet with the spirit of lies and false teaching. The consequence is lying, leaving the true teaching Word, and following false teaching.
- The floods refer to antichrist with the power of mammon or money, that makes us stingy and greedy and become a thief as Judas.

The consequence is the spiritual house of our life falls. The fall is great and it cannot be built anymore.

3. As the stars of the heaven.

Genesis 22:17

22:17 blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.

The stars refer to Christian lives who become light and blessing to the others. One who is as the stars will not become a burden to the others.

But we must be careful because the stars encounter the tail of the dragon.

Revelation 12:4

12:4 His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.

The process to become shining stars so we will not be thrown to the earth is as follows.

1. Working out our salvation with fear and trembling.

Philippians 2:12

2:12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

In the past, we were sinners. But we have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus so we are saved and not judged. After being saved, we must work out our salvation with fear and trembling, with faithfulness and responsibility, as a branch abides on the true vine or as a donkey bound to the true vine.

Genesis 49:11

49:11 Binding his donkey to the vine, And his donkey's colt to the choice vine, He washed his garments in wine, And his clothes in the blood of grapes.

It means we must be shepherded in the shepherding system. We are obedient to the voice of the Shepherd and we persevere in three main services as follows.

- Golden Candlestick, that is perseverance in General Service as the drink for the sheep.
- Table of Showbread, that is perseverance in Bible Study Service with Holy Communion as the food for the sheep.
- Golden Altar of Incense, that is perseverance in Prayer Service as the breathing of the sheep.

Thus, we will experience spiritual growth. If our spiritual life grows, the physical one will follow.

Job 39:5

39:5 "Who set the wild donkey free? Who loosed the bonds of the onager,

If the Gentiles are not shepherded to the true teaching Word, they will become onager, meaning entering the sins concerning eating-drinking and marrying-being given in marriage.

The Gentiles who are not shepherded will also become wild donkeys, which equal to insane man at the tomb.

Mark 5:1-5

5:1 Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes.

5:2 And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,

5:3 who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains,

5:4 because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him.

5:5 And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones.

If we are not shepherded, we will live at the tomb. It refers to the place of the lengthening of the death, such as discotheque, movie theatre, et cetera. But church can also become as the tomb. It is when the church only magnifies carnal prosperity and entertainment but does not present the true teaching Word.

Insane man also cries out, meaning his words hurt the others. He also hurts himself by cutting himself with stones. For example is husband who is rude to his wife.

2. Experiencing intensive sanctification by the true teaching Word.

Philippians 2:14-15

2:14 Do all things without complaining and disputing,

2:15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

Sanctification is started from within the heart that is the center of our spiritual life.

Revelation 8:10-11

8:10 Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers

and on the springs of water.

8:11 The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.

We must be sanctified from bitter heart, that is bitterness, envy, and revenge. We must stay away from bitter lives, because they will cause spiritual death.

The Gentiles must experience sanctification of the heart from worry. Worry will make us unrighteous and disobedient. It will also make us become a rebel. The Gentiles must believe and put hope on God, so we can live in righteousness and obedience.

Philippians 2:14

2:14 Do all things without complaining and disputing,

The sanctification is continued with sanctification of the lip, so we do not complain, dispute, or lie, but we say only right word. Let “yes” be “yes” and “no” be “no”.

James 3:18,2

3:18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

3:2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

It is until we do not stumble in word and only say “Alleluia”.

Ephesians 4:11-12

4:11 And He Himself gave some to beapostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

If we are sanctified, God will give us the ministry and the gifts of Holy Spirit in order to use us in the ministry of the building of the perfect body of Christ.

3. Holding fast the true teaching Word that has become our life experience.

Philippians 2:16

2:16 holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

Letting go the sword of the Word means holding on the tail of the dragon and one will be drawn and thrown to the earth.

Practicing the Word equals to stretching out our hands to God, and He will also stretch out His hands to us. We live in the merciful hands of God so miracle happens, and we are renewed little by little until we become the bride of God.

Esther means the star. Esther has no father or mother. She lives with her relatives. She seems to have no future, but she follows the process to become a star.

Esther 2:3

2:3 and let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather all the beautiful young virgins to Shushan the citadel, into the women’s quarters, under the custody of Hegai the king’s eunuch, custodian of the women. And let beauty preparations be given them.

Esther is gathered into the women’s quarters under the custody of Hegai. This place refers to the sheepfold.

Esther is also obedient. She holds fast the Word and only follows the voice of the shepherd.

Ester 2:15

2:15 Now when the turn came for Esther the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her as his daughter, to go in to the king, she requested nothing but what Hegai the king’s eunuch, the custodian of the women, advised. And Esther obtained favor in the sight of all who saw her.

The result is God holds out the golden scepter to Esther. It refers to the grace and mercy of God. We may do many efforts, but only the golden scepter that decides.

The usefulness of the golden scepter is as follows.

- Deciding our death and life.
It means that our life in this world does not depend on wealth, et cetera, but on the grace and mercy of God. Only the merciful hands of God that can help to solve all our problems and give us beautiful and good future.
- Taking us to the New Jerusalem, to sit together with Jesus on His throne forever.
Revelation 21:15
21:15 And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall.

God blesses us.