

General Service in Malang, November 13, 2016 (Sunday Morning)

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

Revelation 4:8

4:8 The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"

The four living creatures, each having six wings, refer to the six days when God worked. On the seventh day, God stopped working and sanctified it as the Sabbath day.

2 Peter 3:8

3:8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

One day = a thousand years. Six days = six thousand years, that refer to the three ages when God is working in the world, so there is lifting up of men to the throne of Heaven.

1. The age of Father God (the beginning age) is started from Adam to Abraham (approximately 2000 years). It is represented by Enoch who was lifted up to the Heaven.
2. The age of the Son of God (the middle age) is started from Abraham to Jesus' first coming (approximately 2000 years). It is represented by Moses and Elijah who were lifted up to the Heaven.
3. The age of Holy Spirit God (the last days) is started from Jesus' first coming to His second one (approximately 2000 years). It is represented by Lord Jesus who was lifted up to the Heaven. At last, all of us as the church of God will also be lifted up to the throne of Heaven when He comes a second time.

The process of lifting up to the throne of Heaven is we will be perfected and lifted up to the glorious clouds when Jesus comes a second time. We will enter the spiritual or perfect marriage, that is the marriage supper of the Lamb. Afterwards, we will enter a thousand years Kingdom of Peace or the future Paradise. At last, we will enter the New Jerusalem and the eternal throne of Heaven forever.

How can we be lifted up to the throne of Heaven? We have learned from Enoch and Moses. Now, we are learning from Elijah.

2 Kings 2:1-2,4,6,8,10-11

2:1 And it came to pass, when the Lord was about to take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal.

2:2 Then Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, please, for the Lord has sent me on to Bethel."

But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So they went down to Bethel.

2:4 Then Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here, please, for the Lord has sent me on to Jericho."

But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So they came to Jericho.

2:6 Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, please, for the Lord has sent me on to the Jordan."

But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So the two of them went on.

2:8 Now Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up, and struck the water; and it was divided this way and that, so that the two of them crossed over on dry ground.

2:10 So he said, "You have asked a hard thing. Nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so."

2:11 Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

The process of Elijah going up to the throne of Heaven is as follows.

1. He must arrive in Gilgal.
2. He must arrive in Bethel.
3. He must arrive in Jericho.
4. He must cross Jordan River.

ad. 1. He must arrive in Gilgal.

Joshua 5:8-9

5:8 So it was, when they had finished circumcising all the people, that they stayed in their places in the camp till they were healed.

5:9 Then the Lord said to Joshua, "This day I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." Therefore the name of the place is called Gilgal to this day.

In Gilgal, there was physical circumcision to erase reproach or sin.

Colossians 2:11-12

2:11 In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,

2:12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

Now, we must experience the circumcision of Christ or spiritual birth or water baptism to erase our reproach or sin.

The true water baptism is doing the will of God. We are baptized as Jesus was. We must be buried in water together with Him, to be raised with Him in new life, that is Heavenly life.

1 John 3:9-10

3:9 Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

3:10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.

The result of the true water baptism is we become the children of God, with the following signs.

- a. Not doing sins anymore or leaving sins, so we can live in righteousness.
- b. Being unable to do sins. We live in righteousness as Jesus is.

Psalm 5:12

5:12 For You, O Lord, will bless the righteous; With favor You will surround him as with a shield.

The result of living in righteousness is God surrounds us with His grace, meaning He saves us. He also blesses us up to our descendants.

Be watchful, there is hard heart in Gilgal.

1 Samuel 13:6,8-13

13:6 When the men of Israel saw that they were in danger (for the people were distressed), then the people hid in caves, in thickets, in rocks, in holes, and in pits.

13:8 Then he waited seven days, according to the time set by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him.

13:9 So Saul said, "Bring a burnt offering and peace offerings here to me." And he offered the burnt offering.

13:10 Now it happened, as soon as he had finished presenting the burnt offering, that Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might greet him.

13:11 And Samuel said, "What have you done?" Saul said, "When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered together at Michmash,

13:12 then I said, 'The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the Lord.' Therefore I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering."

13:13 And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God, which He commanded you. For now the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever.

Hardening the heart in water baptism is in the forms as follows.

- a. One does not want to be baptized.
- b. Preserving the execution of water baptism that is not according to the Word.
- c. The execution is right, but one keeps preserving his sins.

If one preserves the wrong thing, it is a foolish and reckless act. As the consequence, he will lose the Heaven as Saul lost his kingdom.

ad. 2. He must arrive in Bethel.

Bethel means the house of God.

Genesis 28:17,19

28:17 And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!"

28:19 And he called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city had been Luz previously.

In the Tabernacle, it refers to the Holy Place.

Acts 2:41-42

2:41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

In the Holy Place, there are three types of equipment that refer to perseverance in three main services as follows.

- a. Golden Candlestick refers to perseverance in General Service. We have fellowship with Holy Spirit God in His gifts.
- b. Table of Showbread refers to perseverance in Bible Study Service with Holy Communion. We have fellowship with the Son of God in the teaching Word and the sacrifice of Christ.
- c. Golden Altar of Incense refers to perseverance in Prayer Service. We have fellowship with Father God in His love.

Hebrews 10:36-37

10:36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:

10:37 "For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.

We have many needs that increase in the last days. But all is covered by perseverance in three main services. Lord Jesus as the Great Shepherd will supply all our needs, until we can confess "I shall not want". It means as follows.

- a. The Great Shepherd is able to care our life physically in the midst of the difficulties of the world. We live in abundance and always give thank to Him.
- b. The Great Shepherd is able to care our life spiritually. He sanctifies and perfects us.

Be watchful since there are two golden calves, that is double hard heart.

2 Kings 10:29

10:29 However Jehu did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin, that is, from the golden calves that were at Bethel and Dan.

Hebrews 10:38

10:38 Now the just shall live by faith; But if any one draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."

Many will draw back from the true shepherding because of using the logic, not faith.

Hebrews 10:25-27

10:25 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.

10:26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

10:27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.

Many will also draw back from the ministry. They do not feel sad or sorry when they cannot attend the service.

ad. 3. He must arrive in Jericho.

Jericho means the valley of flower. It refers to the influence of the world with all its fragrances, that is bustle, delight, sadness, evil, uncleanness, *et cetera*.

1 John 2:15-17

2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

2:16 For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world.

2:17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

The contents of the world are as follows.

- a. The lust of the eyes that triggers sins concerning eating-drinking (smoking, getting drunk, consuming drugs).
- b. The lust of the flesh that triggers sins concerning marrying-being given in marriage.
- c. The pride of life that causes one to rely on something more than God.

The contents of the world attract and bind the servants of God so they cannot love Him and will be destroyed together with the world.

Joshua 6:9-10,20

6:9 The armed men went before the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard came after the ark, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets.

6:10 Now Joshua had commanded the people, saying, "You shall not shout or make any noise with your voice, nor shall a word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I say to you, 'Shout!' Then you shall shout."

6:20 So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

The way out is we must follow the Ark of the Covenant and the repeated sound of the trumpet until the fleshly man is sanctified (until the sixth day), that is being silent more. On the seventh day, there was a great shout and Jericho fell down. We love God more than everything. We are not bound by the world.

Be watchful since there is hard heart in Jericho.

Joshua 7:10-11,20-21

7:10 So the Lord said to Joshua: "Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face?"

7:11 Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. For they have even taken some of the accursed things, and have both stolen and deceived; and they have also put it among their own stuff.

7:20 And Achan answered Joshua and said, "Indeed I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and this is what I have done:

7:21 When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it."

Seeing = the lust of the eyes.

Coveting = the lust of the flesh.

Taking the spoils = the pride of life.

Joshua 6:24

6:24 But they burned the city and all that was in it with fire. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the Lord.

The taken goods refer to the tithe and special offering that belong to God. It is a pride of life since one feels that his life depends on money, not God. The consequence is going down to the Valley of Achor or the valley of difficulties.

Joshua 7:24

7:24 Then Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the garment, the wedge of gold, his sons, his daughters, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent, and all that he had, and they brought them to the Valley of Achor.

ad. 4. He must cross Jordan River.

2 Kings 2:8,10-11

2:8 Now Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up, and struck the water; and it was divided this way and that, so that the two of them crossed over on dry ground.

2:10 So he said, "You have asked a hard thing. Nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so."

2:11 Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

Joshua 3:15-16

3:15 and as those who bore the ark came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who bore the ark dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest),

3:16 that the waters which came down from upstream stood still, and rose in a heap very far away at Adam, the city that is beside Zaretan. So the waters that went down into the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, failed, and were cut off; and the people crossed over opposite Jericho.

Crossing Jordan River refers to the revival of Holy Spirit in the last rain or the revival of building the body of Christ that is led by the Ark of the Covenant or Bride Tidings. We serve according to the ministry entrusted by God to us. The revival of Holy Spirit in the last rain is until the veil is torn, that is until we reach perfection (the Most Holy Place).

Matthew 8:23-27

8:23 Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him.

8:24 And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep.

8:25 Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!"

8:26 But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

8:27 So the men marveled, saying, "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"

The ministry of building the body of Christ is as crossing the sea with sudden waves. Why does God let us experience flesh suffering together with Him?

- a. It is so that we know the cross of Christ. The proof is ceasing from sin.

1 Peter 4:1-2

4:1 Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

4:2 that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

- b. It is so that we know Jesus as the Savior and the Heavenly Bridegroom.

Matthew 8:25

8:25 Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!"

The proof is being calm, not being doubtful, believing and fully surrendering our life to God.

1 Petrus 4:7

4:7 But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

We can pray and cry out Jesus' name.

Matthew 8:26-27

8:26 But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

8:27 So the men marveled, saying, "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"

1 Peter 5:11

5:11 To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Thus, we can experience God's power, so the sea is calmed. We experience peace and everything becomes easy and light. Everything will be finished at His time. The sea is calmed also means there is a beautiful and successful future.

Psalms 107:29-30

107:29 He calms the storm, so that its waves are still.

107:30 Then they are glad because they are quiet; so He guides them to their desired haven.

When Jesus comes a second time, we will be lifted up to the throne of Heaven forever.

God blesses us.