

General Service in Malang, April 18, 2021 (Sunday Morning)

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

Revelation 13:2

13:2. Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.

The Antichrist is the combination of four beasts as follows:

1. He is like a leopard.
2. His feet are like the feet of a bear.
3. The mouth is like the mouth of a lion.
4. The dragon gives him his power.

ad. 2. His feet are like the ones of a bear.

The peculiarity of the feet of a bear is that its claw has the powerful gripping, so its target cannot free itself. Its claw also has the powerful tearing to destroy its prey.

1 Timothy 6:9-10

6:9. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

6:10. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

The Antichrist or bear grips the servant of God with the root of the love of money. It is the last bond, so the servant of God does not love God and others. He becomes greedy and stingy.

Stinginess means that one cannot give for God and others who are in need, even harming and deceiving others.

Greediness means that one steals the possession of God, namely the tithe and special offerings. He does not attach to God, but money or the physical thing, so he strays from the faith, righteousness, and the true teaching word until he commits the sin that drowns in perdition.

The facts found in sinning that drowns us are as follows:

1. **Peter doubted to the true teaching Word or hard and firm God's Word because of the wind of temptation and false teaching, so he began to sink.**

Matthew 14:29-31

14:29. So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.

14:30. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

14:31. And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

James 1:6-8

1:6. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

1:7. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

1:8. he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

If one doubts, he will be unstable in all his ways. He does not experience peace, but laboring, and being heavy laden, in toil, and tears. He lives in fear. He experiences the spiritual dryness. His life starts not being true and holy. He gets bored in hearing the Word up to being unable to worship God.

Consequently, he will not receive anything. He starts experiencing the physical and spiritual failures. He does not bear any fruit, but gets naked. His physical and spiritual life starts decreasing.

2. **Pharaoh hardened his heart like a stone, namely disobedience to God or the true teaching Word, so he surely lied.**

Exodus 15:4-5

15:4. Pharaoh's chariots and his army He has cast into the sea; His chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea.

15:5. The depths have covered them; They sank to the bottom like a stone.

Consequently, Pharaoh was drowned in the Red Sea like a stone, although he was great, clever, and rich in his position.

There are two warnings for us as follows:

- A stone refers to the Gentiles who often become disobedient.
- The measurement of success in the world and heaven is not the greatness, but obedience to God or the true teaching Word.

3. **The sin of Babylon, namely unfaithfulness (harlot), and the sins of eating-drinking and marrying-giving in marriage.**

Revelation 18:21

18:21. Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore.

Consequently, one becomes the same as a great millstone that shall be thrown down and shall not be found anymore, namely being destroyed in the lake of fire and brimstone forever.

Matthew 3:6-9

3:6. and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.

3:7. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

3:8. "Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance,

3:9. "and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

The true water baptism is the way out, so we are not clawed by the bear as well as drowning in the lake of fire and brimstone.

The requirement of entering into the true water baptism is believing Jesus and repenting or stopping sinning and returning to God (being dead to sin).

The implementation of the true water baptism is being according to God's will and we are baptized as Jesus is, namely one who has died to sin or repented must be buried in the water with Jesus and come out or rise from water with Him, so the heavens are opened.

Matthew 3:15-17

3:15. But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.

3:16. When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

3:17. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

We receive new life, namely the heavenly one.

Actually, the baptism is only for the Israelites, but a part of them has rejected it, so there is opportunity for the Gentiles to enter it with the true requirement and implementation.

We receive the new life or heavenly one. We become Abraham's descendants who are worthy to receive God's promise.

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,

We experience the renewal from the heart that tends to do evil continually to a good conscience that is anointed by Holy Spirit, namely honest and sincere hearts. We say yes if yes and no if no especially about the true teaching word or God Himself, so we can hold fast the true teaching Word. We cannot be driven and tossed by false teaching.

If we obey the true teaching Word, our position will be like a branch that abides in the true vine. We attach to God or the true teaching Word, not money. We are shepherded in the true teaching Word like a donkey that is bound to the choice 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.

We are always in the sheepfold, the Holy Place, or Noah's ark. It refers to the perseverance in committing the three kinds of main service to God as follows:

1. The Golden Candlestick refers to the perseverance in committing the General Service. We have fellowship with Holy Spirit God in His anointing and gifts.
2. The Table of Showbread refers to the perseverance in committing the Bible Study Service with Holy Communion. We have fellowship with the Son of God in the teaching Word and the sacrifice of Christ.
3. The Golden Altar of Incense refers to the perseverance in committing the Prayer Service. We have fellowship with Father God in His love.

In the sheepfold, our body, soul, and spirit attach to the trinity of God, so we cannot attach to money or other worldly things. The bear or the Antichrist cannot claw us. We will never drown, but be lifted up by God although we face the great flood.

John 21:15-17

21:15. So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs."

21:16. He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep."

21:17. He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep."

In the sheepfold, we experience the abundant love of God.

Ephesians 3:18-19

3:18. may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height-

3:19. to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

The width and length and depth and height come from the cross. The abundant love of God comes from the cross of God.

We do not drown in the lake of fire and brimstone, but in the abundant love of God.

1. The depth and height of the love of God.

Ephesians 4:8-12

4:8. Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."

4:9. (Now this, "He ascended" --what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?

4:10. He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

4:11. And He Himself gave some to be apostles, 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

The term "the depth" refers to Jesus' first descending into the lower parts of the earth to release us from the captivity of sin or death, so we can live in righteousness and holiness. We are bound in the spirit.

The term "the height" refers to Jesus' ascending far above all the heavens and sitting at the right hand of the Father God to lift us up to become the priests and kings or living stones that are used in the building of the body of Christ. Our life blooms beautifully and bears sweet fruits.

2. The width and length of the love of God.

Ephesians 5:25-27

5:25. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

5:26. that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

5:27. that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

After drowning in the water baptism, we must drown in the true teaching Word.

The repeated Word is God's longsuffering. We are purified deeper up to our inmost minds or kidney.

Psalms 73:21

73:21. Thus my heart was grieved, And I was vexed in my mind.

1 Samuel 1:15

1:15. And Hannah answered and said, "No, my lord, I am a woman of sorrowful spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD."

2 Kings 4:20,27

4:20. *When he had taken him and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and then died.*

4:27. *Now when she came to the man of God at the hill, she caught him by the feet, but Gehazi came near to push her away. But the man of God said, "Let her alone; for her soul is in deep distress, and the LORD has hidden it from me, and has not told me."*

John 21:18-19

21:18. *"Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish."*

21:19. *This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."*

God stretches out His merciful hands to finish all things.

Mother's problem is finished, namely the dead son is risen.

Hannah who was barren could bear a child.

All impossible things become possible

Peter refers to the image of fathers who have drowned and sinned. They will be restored and used by God

God will lift up those who have drowned in economy and disease or the impossible thing.

Youth who has been destroyed or failed will become beautiful and successful until being exalted in due time.

1 Peter 5:6

5:6. *Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,*

It continues until Jesus comes a second time that we are purified or washed and changed to become as perfect as He is.

We do not stumble in words. We just say: "*Alleluia*" to greet Jesus' coming on the glorious clouds.

God blesses us.