

General Service in Malang, April 25, 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, throne, and great authority.

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 set itself free. Its claw also has the powerful tearing to destroy its prey.

2 Kings 2:23-25

2:23 Then he went up from there to Bethel; and as he was going up the road, some youths came from the city and mocked him, and said to him, "Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!"

2:24 So he turned around and looked at them, and pronounced a curse on them in the name of the LORD. And two female bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the youths.

2:25 Then he went from there to Mount Carmel, and from there he returned to Samaria.

The bear mauled forty two of the youths in Bethel because of mocking Elisha.

The forty two of the youths refer to the forty two months, three and a half years, or the time when the Antichrist reigns over the earth.

They spiritually refer to the sons or servants of God whose spirituality has not grown up yet.

Elijah refers to Holy Spirit at the early rain while Elisha refers to Holy Spirit at the latter rain.

Elisha refers to the prophet that preaches the prophetic Word. The prophetic Word means the Word which is revealed by Holy Spirit through a verse that explains other verses in the Bible.

The prophetic Word means the Word of God which reveals all things which have not happened yet, but will happen for sure, especially about Jesus' second coming as the King of all kings and the Heavenly Bridegroom as well as about the judgment to the sinful world.

Thus, the forty two of the youths in Bethel's mauling Elisha refer to the churches or God's servants that serve and minister to Him only for physical things. They only seek for the mistakes of others, so they mock, despise, blaspheme, and reject Jesus as the Head, so they do not meet Him. They do not grow spiritually. They are not obedient, but only commit sins up to the peak. It means imperfection.

The consequence is meeting the Antichrist or bear, so they are mauled by the Antichrist who reigns over the world for three and a half years until being beheaded and destroyed like him.

Be careful! Not being serious in the service and ministry to God, one will meet the Antichrist or bear, moreover if he is not faithful or he does not serve and minister to God.

Therefore, we or the Gentiles whose main characteristic is anxiety must serve and minister to God until we meet Jesus and place Him as the Head so that we do not meet the Antichrist or bear and we are not torn or destroyed.

John 12:20-26

12:20 Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast.

12:21 Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."

12:22 Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus.

12:23 But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified.

12:24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.

12:25 "He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

12:26 "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

In the true service and ministry to God, the Gentiles must only have a will, namely meeting Jesus.

The way of the Gentiles' meeting Jesus is through Andrew and Philip.

John 1:38-40

1:38 Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, *Teacher*), "where are You staying?"

1:39 He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour).

1:40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

Andrew refers to one who has the relationship with the teaching.

The thing which was asked is the dwelling place of Jesus, namely the Tabernacle.

Thus, the Tabernacle teaching is the one which can bring the Gentiles to meet Jesus.

John 1:45

1:45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote-- Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

Philip refers to one who confesses Jesus as the fulfillment of the Law.

He refers to the teaching of the bride.

Thus, the Gentiles can meet Jesus through Andrew and Philip or the Bride Tidings in the light of the Tabernacle or the true teaching Word which is sharper than any two-edged sword.

Thus, the true service and ministry to God that can meet Jesus must long for and prioritize or hear and obey the true teaching Word or the Bride Tidings. As a result, the Gentiles can get the sanctification and renewal towards the spiritual maturity until someday we are full in the maturity like Jesus. It means being as perfect as Jesus is. The Israelites and Gentiles can be one perfect body of Christ or the heavenly bride who is ready for welcoming Jesus' second coming on the glorious clouds. The meeting between the body and the Head happens. There is no separation anymore forever.

John 12:24

12:24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.

The facts found in the true service and ministry to God, prioritizing the true teaching Word, or placing Jesus as the Head are as follows:

1. A grain of wheat must fall into the ground.

It means that Jesus as the sinless Head humbles Himself as low as possible until being dead and cursed on the cross for confessing, bearing, and forgiving all of our sins, so we are saved and set free from the curses and judgments of sins as well as the perdition.

It means as follows:

- We must humble ourselves as low as possible until we can confess that we are only the clay regardless of any condition we have. We feel unworthy and powerless.

It means that we confess that we have many spiritual weaknesses, especially the sins, so we are encouraged to humble ourselves and confess our sin to God and other people. As a result, the blood of Jesus forgives us, so we are set free from the curses of sin and the judgment of the death. We are not weary, sorrowful, and heavy-laden. We do not perish.

We must be careful about the things which can make us arrogant as follows:

- Being forgiven, we must not repeat the sins, or else the forgiveness is cancelled because the repeated sin will peak in the sins concerning eating-drinking and marrying-being given in marriage.

- Do not use the self-truth, namely committing sin, but covering it through blaming at others and God or the true teaching Word and not forgiving the sin of others, but only judging the sin of others as well as agreeing the sin of others because of physical consideration.

The true service to God refers to feeling unable or confessing that we have many physical weaknesses, so we can fully surrender to God.

- Esteeming others better, so we do not show our life off. We also do not insist our right or self-interest.

Philippians 2:3

2:3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

If the Gentiles or we can humble ourselves as low as possible and confess that we are only the clay, we will never stumble and do not become the stumbling-block in the service and ministry to God. We keep faithful and fervent in spirit until the end line. We cannot be touched by anyone, including Satan.

2. [John 12:24] **Being dead means denying our life or experiencing the tearing of the flesh until it does not speak anymore.** The results are as follows:

- We can firmly say 'no' to anything that does not please God or the thing which is not in line with the true teaching Word although there are risks, threats, compulsion, profit, and so on. For example, Joseph always said 'no' to Potiphar's wife although he could have had the advantage and he had to be put in prison. David did not kill Saul, who hated him. He could repay god for evil.
- We are willingly humiliated or trampled. It means experiencing the sprinkling of blood. We can keep silent when we are not wrong, but others blame at, vilify, and harm us. As a result, we can fully surrender to God. In such condition, we are experiencing the death with Jesus. It means that we can rise, bud, and yield fruits up to the love.

John 12:25

12:25 "He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

We can do good things and love others like we love ourselves. It means that we do not harm others; even we can love our enemy. We do not repay evil for evil, but good for evil.

We can love God more than anything and obey Him until the flesh does not speak anymore.

We get the two tablets of stone or the perfect love that is able to unite and perfect us in the one perfect body of Christ. The Israelites and Gentiles will be one perfect body of Christ that unites with Jesus or places Him as the Head.

The unity between the body and the Head refers to the relationship between the branches and the true Vine that cannot be separated or the relationship in holiness and faithfulness.

It also refers to the relationship between the husband and the wife, namely the relationship in the worship prayer or the lovingkindness that cannot be separated anymore.

Isaiah 54:5-10

54:5 For your Maker is your husband, The LORD of hosts is His name; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth.

54:6 For the LORD has called you Like a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, Like a youthful wife when you were refused," Says your God.

54:7 "For a mere moment I have forsaken you, But with great mercies I will gather you.

54:8 With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; But with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you," Says the LORD, your Redeemer.

54:9 "For this is like the waters of Noah to Me; For as I have sworn That the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth, So have I sworn That I would not be angry with you, nor rebuke you.

54:10 For the mountains shall depart And the hills be removed, But My kindness shall not depart from you, Nor shall My covenant of peace be removed," Says the LORD, who has mercy on you.

Why do we absolutely need the kindness of God?

We absolutely need it because we face the great shakings on the last days.

The functions of the kindness of God are as follows:

- It makes us strong and of good courage, so we do not turn away from Him regardless of anything that happens. We

always follow Him. We are not separated from Him.

- It gives us peace in the midst of the shakings in the world. We keep peaceful and all things become easy and light.
- The miraculous kindness of God is able to protect and preserve us in the midst of the difficulties in the world until the time when the Antichrist reigns over the world, up to the doomsday and we get the eternal life. We become the apple of God's eye that cannot be touched by anything.

Psalm 17:7-8

17:7 Show Your marvelous lovingkindness by Your right hand, O You who save those who trust in You From those who rise up against them.

17:8 Keep me as the apple of Your eye; Hide me under the shadow of Your wings,

- The marvelous lovingkindness of God is able to change us from the fleshly men to the spiritual ones, namely being meek and confessing our weaknesses. As a result, the physical miracles happen and the impossible things become possible. It continues until the time when Jesus comes a second time that we are changed to be as perfect as He is and worthy to welcome His second coming on the glorious clouds. The Head unites with the body forever. We enter the Paradise and the New Jerusalem forever.

God blesses you.