

General Service in Malang, December 06, 2020 (Sunday Morning)

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

Revelation 12:3-18

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.*

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.*

12:5. *She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.*

12:6. *Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.*

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."*

12:13. *Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.*

12:14. *But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.*

12:15. *So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood.*

12:16. *But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.*

12:17. *And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

12:18. *Then I stood on the sand of the sea.*

There are six activities of Satan 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. 2. **'to devour her Child as soon as it was born'**

The male Child refers to the deliverer.

There are three deliverers who are shown as the male child in the Bible as follows:

1. Moses, the deliverer of the Israelites from the bondage of Egypt.

Exodus 2:1-2

2:1 *And a man of the house of Levi went and took as wife a daughter of Levi.*

2:2 *So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he was a beautiful child, she hid him three months.*

2. Jesus, the deliverer of the believers from the sins.

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."*

3. The male Child as the deliverer of the Church or God's bride on the last days.

Revelation 12:4b-6

12:4b to devour her Child as soon as it was born.

12:5. She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.

12:6. Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

The three deliverers have the same experience, namely almost being killed, but getting safe.

- Moses would be killed by Pharaoh, but he was saved.
- Jesus would be killed by Herod, but He was saved.
- The male Child would be killed by the dragon, but He was saved.

It refers to the death experience. Being saved refers to the resurrection experience.

Thus, the three deliverers get the death and resurrection experience.

The dragon, old serpent, or Satan wants to devour the male Child. It means as follows:

- Satan always hinders the deliverance of the sons of God or the Church.
- The Church or servant of God who does not get the deliverance or death and resurrection experience with Jesus must be devoured by Satan or destroyed forever.

For example, Judas Iscariot was bound by money or did not get the deliverance.

Therefore, we must get the deliverance or death and resurrection experience with Jesus so that we are not devoured by the dragon or Satan.

The facts found in getting the deliverance or the death and resurrection experience with Jesus are as follows:

1. **Following the steps of Jesus or the way with the sign of Jesus' blood.** It refers to the cross or the straight and plain way.

1 Peter 2:21-25

2:21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

2:22 "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth";

2:23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;

2:24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed.

2:25 For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Jesus must willingly pour His blood until He dies on the cross for delivering us from sins up to the peak.

The way of the cross means as follows:

- Being dead to sin or believing Jesus and repenting.
It means not committing sin, not lying, not repaying evil for evil, but repaying good for evil.
- Rising and living for righteousness. Living for righteousness means that we do not want to commit sin although there are chance, profit, and threat.
Living for righteousness is the same as the deliverance from sin.

Proverbs 12:26

12:26 The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray.

The righteous will find the true shepherding, namely the true spiritual food or the true teaching Word. We will not go astray. Our way is not serpentine, but straight forward. We do not fall in the sins of evil, uncleanness, and arrogance.

The result of being on the plain or straight way is Jesus' passing by, so we get His power.

- [1 Peter 2:25] The power of preservation until we do not lack of anything. Spiritually, we can live in righteousness and holiness up to the perfection.
- [1 Peter 2:24] The power of His stripes or healing from the diseases in the body, economy, and household as well as the spiritual ones such as the distress, bitterness of heart, painful heart, and so on. We can have peace and all

things become easy and light.

2. **We must prioritize the service and ministry to God more than anything in the world.**

Colossians 3:1-3

3:1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

3:2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

3:3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

1 Timothy 4:7-10

4:7 But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness.

4:8 For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.

4:9 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.

4:10 For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.

Thus, the service and ministry to God refer to a fight that needs many sacrifices.

We must sacrifice, but Jesus has sacrificed first for us.

Hebrews 9:14

9:14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Thus, Jesus as the Son of God must willingly sacrifice His blood or soul on the cross for fighting for and sanctifying the Gentiles so that they can deserve to serve to Him.

Therefore, we must sacrifice all things such as time, energy, thought, and so on, except the true teaching Word for fighting for being able to be faithful and fervent in spirit as well as faithful and responsible in the service and ministry to God. After being faithful and fervent in spirit as well as faithful and responsible, we will get the deliverance from the world with all of its influences.

James 4:4

4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Who can sacrifice all things for prioritizing the service and ministry to God?

- [1 Timothy 4:9] The servants of God who believe and hold fast the true teaching Word or Jesus' words.
- Ones who appreciate the sacrifice of Christ on the cross and always remember or realize that the Gentiles can serve to God only by the sacrifice of Christ on the cross.

If they are combined, the teaching Word and the sacrifice of Christ refer to the Bible Study Service with the Holy Communion. It encourages us for fighting for the spiritual things, for the service and ministry to God, and other things (facing the pandemic and so on).

Be careful! The false teachings deceive men so that they will not prioritize the service and ministry to God. Such teachings are about the false service and ministry, namely serving and ministering to God only for physical things, prosperity, and entertainment, without the sanctification. Consequently, they are not faithful in the service and ministry to God. It begins from the pastor, and then the congregation.

Exodus 4:22-23

4:22 "Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: "Israel is My son, My firstborn."

4:23 "So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn."

The consequence is the death of the firstborn son. It means as follows:

- All things which are hoped or lifted up and the things which men are proud of more than God or the service and ministry to Him will die, perish, or become useless.
- The spiritual death. It means the death in sins up to the peak and one cannot reach the throne of the heavenly

kingdom.

On the contrary, we will get the double guarantee of assurance or the atmosphere of the throne for the present life in the world up to the eternal life forever until sitting at the heavenly throne forever if we prioritize or faithfully commit the service and ministry to God.

Revelation 22:3

22:3 And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.

The only activity which lasts in the world up to the heavenly throne is the service, ministry, and worship to God.

3. **Experiencing the life renewal or the greatest miracle from the flesh and blood men to the spiritual ones like Jesus.** It refers to the deliverance from the fleshly men to become the perfect ones like Jesus.

Why must we get the greatest miracle or the life renewal from the fleshly men?

1 Corinthians 15:50-52

15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

15:51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed--

15:52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

It is because the fleshly men cannot inherit the heavenly kingdom.

By what can we get the life renewal?

- The true water baptism.
- The sound of the trumpet, namely the true teaching Word which is repeated by the pastor or the Shepherding Word.

Ephesians 4:21-25,29

4:21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:

4:22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,

4:23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

4:24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

4:25 Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another.

4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

What must be renewed.

- Our outward man. It refers to the honest words, especially the honesty about the true teaching or godly matters. After that, we can be honest in all things. Our words are righteous and good to glorify God and become blessings for others like the shining stars.

Ephesians 4:26-28

4:26 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath,

4:27 nor give place to the devil.

4:28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.

Our deeds are also renewed. There must be no anger without any cause or love. We may get angry, but there must be the reason and love for bringing up and helping others who are in the mistake.

- Our inward man.

Ephesians 4:30-32

4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

4:31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

We can be friendly and full of love or meek. We can forgive one another and be obedient until the flesh does not speak anymore. We can cry out "Abba, Father".

Ephesians 5:1-2

5:1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.

5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

We can stretch out our hands to God to fully surrender to Him like the burnt offering or the wave offering.

Exodus 29:24-25

29:24 "and you shall put all these in the hands of Aaron and in the hands of his sons, and you shall wave them as a wave offering before the LORD.

29:25 "You shall receive them back from their hands and burn them on the altar as a burnt offering, as a sweet aroma before the LORD. It is an offering made by fire to the LORD.

We are like a baby in the merciful hands of Jesus, the High Priest, or the Great Shepherd.

Isaiah 49:15-16

49:15 "Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you.

49:16 See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me.

The eyes of God monitor us or always pay attention to, care for, and struggle for all of us.

The results are as follows:

- a. The merciful hands of God are able to preserve and protect us who are small and powerless in the midst of the difficulties in the world until the time when the Antichrist reigns over the world.
- b. The merciful hands of God bear all of our weariness, heavy burden, and sorrow, as well as wipe away our tears. All things become easy, light, and joyful.
The merciful hands of God make us warm. It means that we keep on loving God and others like we love ourselves. We can love one another until we can love the enemy. Do not hurt others!
- c. The merciful hands of God do all things which a baby cannot do. He is able to create something which does not exist yet. Impossible things can be made possible.
- d. The merciful hands of God lead us to the beautiful successful future life until we can be as perfect as Jesus is.

Revelation 21:12

21:12 Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

We are lifted up to be with Jesus forever when He comes a second time. We worship God day and night or forever.

God blesses you.