

General Service in Malang, December 21, 2014 (Sunday Morning)

CHILD SUBMISSION SERVICE

Esther 2:7

2:7 And Mordecai had brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter, for she had neither father nor mother. The young woman was lovely and beautiful. When her father and mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter.

Esther is as beautiful girl. The spiritual meaning is living in holiness and only paying attention to godly matters, prioritizing God more than everything, prioritizing ministry to Him more than the other matters in the world.

Esther is also willing to be put in the women's quarter, meaning being shepherded, the flesh desire is dammed, and willing to be faithful in the shepherding pen.

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 only obeys Hegai who represents a pastor.

Esther 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.

Thus, Esther receives the golden scepter from the king. The submitted child will also receive a scepter from God, meaning she will live in the merciful hands of God, her life and death are within His hands. At the end, Esther becomes the queen, meaning we will become the bride of God.

God blesses us.

GENERAL SERVICE

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

Revelation 2:9

2:9 "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

The condition of the church in Smyrna is in tribulation, poverty, and being blasphemed. It equals to having death or cross experience together with Jesus.

Why does God let the church of Gentiles have cross experience?

1. So they receive the grace of God.

1 Peter 2:19

2:19 For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully.

In the grace of God, we get everything until we become His bride who is ready to welcome His second coming on the glorious clouds.

2. It is as the Israelites who also had cross experience.

Exodus 1:1-5

1:1 Now these are the names of the children of Israel who came to Egypt; each man and his household came with Jacob:

1:2 Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah;

1:3 Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin;

1:4 Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher.

1:5 All those who were descendants of Jacob were seventy persons (for Joseph was in Egypt already).

God lets the Israelites go from Canaan down to Egypt, that is from the Promised Land full of milk and honey to the world as the wilderness.

Why does God let the Israelites and the Gentiles have the cross experience?

1. It is in the same rhythm with Jesus' experience. He goes from the Heaven down to the world that is full of curses. The Israelites and the Gentiles are let have death experience so they can become the same as Jesus.

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.

The practice of the way of the cross in daily life is flesh suffering to stop sinning, flesh suffering to live in righteousness, flesh suffering to become the instrument of righteousness that is to become the priest and king.

Walking in the way of the cross means as follows.

- Not compromising with sins, meaning not doing sins or agreeing sins.
- Not compromising with the world and its influences.
- Being ready to reconcile with God and the others.
- Being ready to be blamed although we are right, being ready to be blasphemed as the church in Smyrna.

Exodus 1:1

1:1 Now these are the names of the children of Israel who came to Egypt; each man and his household came with Jacob:

We must bring our family to enter the cross experience, to be in one way of the cross. We, together with our family, live in righteousness and become the instrument of righteousness.

If we are in one way, the results are as follows.

- We can unite and cannot be separated or scattered.
- There is the blessing of God behind the cross. We can fully experience and enjoy His blessing.

Exodus 1:2-5

1:2 Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah;

1:3 Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin;

1:4 Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher.

1:5 All those who were descendants of Jacob were seventy persons (for Joseph was in Egypt already).

All the names who come to Egypt are mentioned one by one, meaning God always remembers clearly all the servants of God who have the cross experience together with Him.

Revelation 2:9

2:9 "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

God knows our suffering and tribulation. He never lets us alone in facing the way of the cross. God also feels our suffering and struggles with us. He gives us extra power so we can endure and be joyful, until we win and all problems are solved.

If we are on the way of cross, we must also always remember God. Accordingly when we are blessed, we must not forget God and the way of the cross.

2. Since there is wheat in Egypt, while famine attacks Canaan.

The spiritual meaning of Canaan is the great spiritual revival. But if there is no wheat (the revelation of the Word) and the physical things are prioritized, famine will attack. The consequence is grumbling and murmuring, until one faints and is lukewarm. He is no longer fervent in spirit and only habitually ministering God. His life is not renewed.

In the death experience, God reveals the secret of the Word abundantly. The bread of life comes down from the Heaven. It is the true teaching Word according to the Bible.

John 6:33-35

6:33 For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

6:34 Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always."

6:35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

The usefulness of the revelation of the Word or the bread of life is as follows.

- God gives us life, so we can live in righteousness and holiness.
- God gives us Heavenly satisfaction that cannot be influenced by anything in this world. We can even be happy in the middle of suffering.

3. Because there is Joseph in Egypt to fulfill the twelve core tribes of the Israelites, who are the core of the bride.

Exodus 1:5

1:5 All those who were descendants of Jacob were seventy persons (for Joseph was in Egypt already).

During the death experience, the perfect body of Christ is formed in the world.

Ephesians 2:13-16

2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

2:14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

2:15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,

2:16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

The Israelites and the Gentiles become one perfect body of Christ by the work of His cross.

Becoming one body means placing Jesus as the Head. The proofs are as follows.

- Having peace and not feeling the things felt by the flesh anymore. There is no more worry, fear, envy, revenge, or being offended. We love the others as we love ourselves. We love God more than everything.
- Worshiping God with a contrite heart. We believe and fully surrender our life to Him. We fully depend on His cross and mercy.

The results are as follows.

- The power of the cross is able to divide the Kolsom Sea, meaning giving a way out from every problem even the impossible one.

Exodus 14:16,21

14:16 But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.

14:21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided.

The power of the cross gives us life in the middle of impossibilities.

- The power of the cross changes a bitter thing to become the sweet one.

Exodus 15:25

15:25 So he cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet. There He made a statute and an ordinance for them, and there He tested them,

- The power of the cross is able to solve and reconcile our sins.

Matthew 18:27

18:27 Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

On the cross, Jesus says "It is finished!". On His second coming, we will be sanctified and renewed until we are perfect as Him and there are no more sins. We become the Heavenly bride who is ready to welcome His second coming.

God blesses us.