

General Service in Malang, March 03, 2024 (Sunday Morning)

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

Revelation 21:9-27 - Revelation 22:1-5 is about the New Jerusalem.

Revelation 21:9-11

21:9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife."

21:10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

21:11 having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

The angel has double duties as follows:

1. Pouring the bowl of the wrath of God or the seven last punishments from Father God because men reject the love of God.
2. Showing the heavenly bride of the New Jerusalem city that is full of glory.

The angel on earth refers to the pastor who delivers the shepherding Word or the sound of trumpet with the double duties as follows:

1. Setting the congregation free from the wrath of God.
2. Preparing the congregation to become the heavenly bride for entering the New Jerusalem.

Who is the heavenly bride?

Jesus, the Heavenly Bridegroom, is a man of flesh and blood who is sinless, but he must die on the cross for saving the sinners and rise in the body of glory to ascend to heaven.

Matthew 24:31

24:31 "And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

The Church or heavenly bride refers to the men of flesh and blood who willingly receive the sound of the trumpet or shepherding Word until being sanctified and renewed to be as perfect as Jesus is.

Mark 8:38

8:38 "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

The angel cannot become the bride, but only as the bridesmaid because of having no flesh, but only the spirit.

Thus, the sinful man of flesh and blood must be shepherded well and correctly as well as able to hear and obey the shepherding Word until experiencing the sanctification and renewal until being as glorious as Jesus is and becoming the heavenly bride.

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.

There are some Christians who pass away, but the others are alive until the Lord comes. It is the mercy of God. The matter of death or life is not important. The important thing is experiencing the life renewal through hearing and obeying the shepherding Word while we are still alive in the world.

Do not become like the woman who was bent over for eighteen years in the temple. It means already serving and ministering to God, but there is no life renewal because of keeping the eighteen characteristics of the flesh until being stamped with triple six by the Antichrist and being the same as him that will be destroyed.

Thus, the bride refers to the men who passed away or live until Jesus comes a second time, whose life is in hearing and obeying the sound of the trumpet until experiencing the life renewal. It continues until Jesus comes a second time or there is the last sound

of trumpet when the two following big things happen as follows:

- The dead in the Lord will be resurrected in the body of glory.
- The living in the Lord will be changed in the body of glory in the twinkling of an eye.

Both of them become one perfect body of Christ or the heavenly bride for entering the New Jerusalem.

What must be changed by the sound of the trumpet?

1. The hard heart is changed into the meek one.

James 1:21

1:21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

- The heart is sanctified from all evil sins, namely the love of money, stinginess, and greediness as well as uncleanness and bitterness.
- Being able to receive the teaching Word, no matter how hard and long it is.
The process is through hearing the Word seriously, understand, and believe it to become faith in the heart.
The proof is being able to confess Jesus as well as sins to God and others. Being forgiven, do not repeat the sin!
The faith becomes the brake so that we do not commit sin. It also encourages us to live in righteousness.

Acts 5:33

5:33 When they heard this, they were furious and plotted to kill them.

Being hard-hearted, one rejects the teaching, keeps sins, and perishes.

- Being able to receive other people in the goodness (not being envious, but taking the example) and weakness (forgiving and bringing it to God).

2. The hard tongue or meaningless words can be the gentle one.

- Being able to confess sins honestly.
- Saying the righteous and good words to become blessings for others.
- Being able to testify for glorifying God.

1 Peter 3:10

3:10 For "He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit.

As a result, we get the bright future life. The tongue is the rudder that determines our life.
It continues until we do not stumble in words or we become perfect.

Little child learns to say many words, but the adult must learn to keep silent more.

3. The hard characteristic that does not realize the weakness and always blames at others can be gentle.

The fig tree can be gentle. It means realizing the weaknesses until being able to get the life renewal or bear nine fruits of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23

5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 5:23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

The last fruit is the self-control as follows:

- Keeping silent much more or controlling the emotion so that there is no quarrel, hatred without a cause, and so on.
- Controlling the fleshly lust which aims at the sins up to the peak, namely the sins concerning eating-drinking and marrying-being given in marriage.
- Controlling the fleshly feelings not to be doubtful or hope to others, but to believe and fully entrust our life only to God.

1 Peter 4:7

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

As a result, we can be silent and peaceful. All things can be easy and light. We can pray and worship God. We wait for His time.

The example is King Hezekiah.

Isaiah 36:12,21

36:12 But the Rabshakeh said, "Has my master sent me to your master and to you to speak these words, and not to the men who sit on the wall, who will eat and drink their own waste with you?"

36:21 But they held their peace and answered him not a word; for the king's commandment was, "Do not answer him."

Isaiah 37:1,14-15

37:1 And so it was, when King Hezekiah heard it, that he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the LORD.

37:14 And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD.

37:15 Then Hezekiah prayed to the LORD, saying:

Isaiah 37:36

37:36 Then the angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses--all dead.

Facing the Jerusalem's being surrounded until the economy crisis happened and experiencing the insult, King Hezekiah could keep silent and pray for submitting all things to God. As a result, God worked for finishing all impossible problems until they became nothing like carcasses.

On the contrary, the carcass can be revived to be the great army and used in the revival for the edification of the body of Christ.

Isaiah 38:1-3,5

38:1 In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.'"

38:2 Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the LORD,

38:3 and said, "Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what is good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

38:5 "Go and tell Hezekiah, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will add to your days fifteen years."

The Lord does not see our big problem, but our tears or regret, sincerity, and full surrendering. He pays attention to, cares, and struggles for protecting and preserving us. He finishes all impossible problems and gives the beautiful successful future life until we are perfect.

God blesses you.