

General Service in Malang, November 26, 2023 (Sunday Morning)

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

Revelation 21:1-8 can be divided into three parts as follows:

1. Verse 1 = The new heaven and earth.
2. Verse 2-3 = The new man.
3. Verse 4-8 = The new atmosphere.

ad.2. **The new man.**

Revelation 21:2-3

21:2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

21:3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God."

The renewal that happens through the system of Tabernacle is by the water baptism (the Court), shepherding (the Holy Place), the sprinkling of blood (the Most Holy Place).

The new man is the same as the heavenly bride who adorns herself for her husband.

There are three kinds of the adornment of the heavenly bride as follows:

1. **The belt.**

Jeremiah 2:32

2:32 Can a virgin forget her ornaments, Or a bride her attire? Yet My people have forgotten Me days without number.

There are two meanings of the belt as follows:

- The belt of righteousness and faithfulness.

Isaiah 11:5

11:5 Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist.

Luke 17:7-8

17:7 "And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and sit down to eat'?"

17:8 "But will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink'?"

Serving and ministering to God in faithfulness and righteousness is the same as stretching out the hands for giving food and drink to Jesus or satisfying His heart.

- The belt of strength.

Psalms 18:32

18:32 It is God who arms me with strength, And makes my way perfect.

We can defeat the wickedness.

Romans 12:21

12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

We can repay good for evil. We always do good things or have the faithfulness and righteousness, so we are strong. Doing evil, one will be weak and destroyed.

Jesus stretches out His hands for giving us satisfaction. The matter of eating and drinking becomes God's.

Matthew 25:21

25:21 "His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

God gives the heavenly joy, so we always give thanks. He makes all things good. The destroyed things can be made good.

1 Timothy 6:6

6:6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

God gives the two wings of a great eagle to evacuate us to the wilderness, far away from the presence of the Antichrist who reigns over the world for three and a half years. We are preserved by God through the teaching Word and Christ's sacrifice.

2. The crown of life or the bride's.

James 1:12

1:12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

It is given to the servant of God who can endure in facing the wind and waves or storm in the sea of the world.

The wind refers to the false teachings.

The waves refers to sins up to the peak, namely the sins concerning eating-drinking such as smoking, getting drunk, and drugs abuse and the ones concerning marrying-being given in marriage as well as the impossible problems in all aspects which cannot be finished by anything.

Enduring is the same as being silent and quiet.

Being silent means that we do the introspection in our life by the sharpness of the sword of the Word. Finding sin, we can confess and do not repeat it, but repent.

1 Peter 4:7

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

Being quiet means that we control ourselves, so we do not walk about, but we can be shepherded well and correctly. Do not hope any men, but only believe and hope God!

Being silent and quiet is the same as repenting and praying or stretching out the hands to God. As a result, God will stretch out His hands for making the wind and wave calm. It means that our heart becomes peaceful and all things become easy and light.

We can be the servant of God who is like the wind for bringing the coolness. Nothing may hinder us. All problems are finished by God.

We can follow and minister to God according to the ministry and gifts which He has entrusted to us until being perfect. We get the crown of twelve stars or the bride's.

3. Adorning.

Revelation 21:2

21:2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

1 Peter 3:4-5

3:4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.

3:5 For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands,

There are two kinds as follows:

- The hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit.
Gentleness refers to the ability to receive the true teaching Word or God Himself regardless of how hard it is for sanctifying the sins. We can also receive others, namely forgiving and forgetting the sin of others.
Quietness refers to being silent or not commenting too much, not criticizing, gossiping, nor being rebellious.

- The outwards adornment, namely submission.

We can be obedient until the flesh does not speak anymore. For example, Sarah could be submissive to Abraham.

1 Timothy 2:11-12

2:11 Let a woman learn in silence with all submission.

2:12 And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence.

If a woman teaches and has authority over men, the head is not God, but the serpent. It means making the marriage naked or ashamed until it cannot be glorified.

1 Peter 5:5-6

5:5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

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

We can be obedient until our fleshly feelings or mind do not speak anymore. It is the same as stretching out our hands to God to fully surrender to Him.

As a result, God pays attention to, cares, struggles for, and stretches out His merciful hands for lifting us up in His time. It means as follows:

- a. The hands of God change us from the fleshly men to the spiritual ones. We can be honest. We become the house of prayer and our prayer is answered by God.
- b. God gives us the beautiful successful future life in time of need.
- c. God lifts us up from the fall in sin. We are healed to live in righteousness and holiness as well as used by God. We can serve and minister to Him faithfully and fervently in spirit. It is the same as being the shining star or the witness of God. It continues until we are changed to be as perfect as He is.

God blesses you.