



Gospel of The Heavenly Kingdom

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Preface

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

(Matt. 24:14)

The devil, through men's hands, has made countless idols of gold, silver, bronze, iron, clay, and paper. He has also created many religions and false theologies to blind men so they cannot distinguish the truth from falsehood. They cannot see the light of the glorious gospel of Christ. Without realizing it, they are led onto the path of destruction, the lake of fire. Even most Christians fail to see the light of the glorious gospel of God's kingdom. The denominations have perverted and degraded the gospel, causing believers to lose hope in the kingdom of heaven.

False preachers and pastors shut the kingdom of heaven against men. They neither go in themselves, nor do they allow those who are entering to go in. The Lord Jesus said, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven" (Matt. 7:21). However, the false preachers say to the believers, "All those who believe in Jesus can enter the kingdom of God." Their words are contrary to the Lord's. "Jesus answered and said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God'" (John 3:3).

A born again person can *see* the kingdom of God, for he is saved and will not perish in the lake of fire. But this does not mean that he can enter the kingdom of God. How then can we enter the kingdom of God? “Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God’” (John 3:5).

The Lord clearly stated in these two verses that there is a difference between *seeing* God’s kingdom and *entering* it. But the false preachers can’t tell the difference, nor can they discern between “born again” and “born of water and the Spirit.” Most of them do not have the experience of being born of water and the Spirit, yet they are rash enough to say that born again means born of water and the Spirit, and that seeing God’s kingdom means entering God’s kingdom. They casually explain that “seeing God’s kingdom” and “entering God’s kingdom” are the same, though it is contrary to the words of the Lord. How they have offended the Lord! If they meant the same thing, the Lord wouldn’t have mentioned them separately. What these false preachers preach is absolutely wrong and has confused many people.

In these last days, God has rebuilt the New Testament Church. He has appointed apostles and prophets in our midst and has specially set us apart to preach the gospel of the kingdom of heaven. Through the apostles and prophets, the Lord has revealed a sure way to all the saints who want to enter God’s kingdom. This way is also opened to all people, atheists or followers of any religion. All God’s children, separate yourselves from the denominations, the false doctrines, the sinful world, and return to the New Testament Church rebuilt by the Holy Spirit. Do the will of God in the body and await

the Lord's coming so you may enter His glorious kingdom.

This book is an excerpt from the important truth from *Entering God's Kingdom* by Sis. Kong Duen Yee. The truth is simplified and illustrated with parables for easier understanding. May God greatly use these two books so the gospel of the kingdom of heaven may be quickly preached to all the world as a witness to all nations. If brothers and sisters (in Christ) have the burden to translate this book into different languages, you are welcome to do so. May the people of this world share in the blessing of the gospel. Your work will be well pleasing to God and remembered by Him.

Bro. Victor Pi Sing,

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How to Enter God's Kingdom

And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.

(Matt. 11:12)

Not everyone who says to Me "Lord, Lord," shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

(Matt. 7:21)

The Two Different Kingdoms

There are two kinds of kingdom — the earthly kingdom and the heavenly kingdom. Most people know only about the earthly kingdom. Heroes of the past sacrificed their lives for their earthly kingdoms. Of course, as a citizen, one should perform his duty to defend his country. But the earthly kingdom is only temporal, whereas the heavenly kingdom is everlasting. This kingdom of heaven is where God and His people will live together and reign forever in glory. Yet there are few who know about this kingdom, let alone sacrifice themselves for it. Only saints who have spiritual enlightenment and are drawn by the glory of the heavenly kingdom are willing to give up their lives for this kingdom.

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Thanks be to God, for His great love has come upon us. “He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son” (Col. 1:13 RSV). He gives us, who believe in the Lord Jesus, the right to become children of God (see John 1:12). According to the will of God, we have to offer up ourselves, be wholly consecrated to Him, and live for Him. Today, we are dwelling temporarily in this earthly kingdom. However, our citizenship is in heaven, and we are eagerly waiting for our Savior, the Lord Jesus, to come from heaven (see Phil. 3:20). These heavenly citizens, the victorious Christians who do the will of the Father, strive for His kingdom, endure afflictions, disregard their lives even unto death and watchfully await His return will be brought into His glorious kingdom. In His kingdom, they will enjoy His glory and reign with Him. As for those who only call “Lord, Lord” but refuse to do the will of the Father, or depart from sins and the world, or offer themselves to the Lord, shall have no part in His glorious kingdom. Therefore, not all Christians can enter His kingdom, but only those who strive.

Two Different Gospels

There is only one gospel — the gospel of Jesus Christ. The testimony and faith of the pristine church were gradually lost after the rise of Roman Catholicism. The outcome is the present condition of the entire Christendom. According to the present situation, we can classify the gospel into two categories: the gospel of born again (merely saved) and the gospel of entering God’s kingdom. Jesus Christ started to

preach the gospel by saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Today, many preachers know only the gospel of born again, not the gospel of the kingdom of heaven or the full gospel. Many Christians are merely saved. Because they have not received the gospel to its fullness, they do not pursue further to overcome sins and inherit God's kingdom.

There are two kinds of wrong beliefs in Christianity today. The first kind maintains that one must not sin again after believing in the Lord Jesus. If he does, he will perish in the lake of fire. If this is true, where is God's love? If Christians will be cast into the lake of fire because they sin again, where is the hope of the gospel? And what is the use of believing in Jesus? The Scripture says, "...And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world" (1 John 2:1-2). However, Christians must not sin willfully. If we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins (see Heb. 10:26-27). If one is overcome by sins, he must come to the Lord and ask for the cleansing by His blood. The Lord's blood is forever powerful, and He will certainly forgive him.

The second erroneous belief is that all who believe in the Lord Jesus can enter the kingdom of God. This is contrary to the teachings of Jesus Christ, who said, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven" (Matt. 7:21).

If all who believe in the Lord Jesus can enter the kingdom of heaven, where is the justice of God? For generations, there

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have been many God's servants (like Paul and other apostles) and saints who have suffered for the faith. Some have endured the trial of chains, imprisonment, dangers, and tribulations. Some were stoned, sawn asunder, tempted, and slain with the sword. Some wandered about in sheepskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented... These people deserve God's kingdom and the rewards.

But there are many Christians who live in luxury and indulge in worldly pleasures. They befriend with the world, commit sins, do evil, and oppose God's truth. If these people can also enter God's kingdom and be rewarded, where then is the righteousness of God? Our God is full of loving-kindness but He is also righteous. The Lord Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent takes it by force" (see Matt. 11:12). It is by the righteous judgment of God that we must suffer much tribulation to enter His kingdom.

Oh Christians! Do not believe in the lies of the false preachers, lest you lose the hope of entering God's kingdom. For they shut up the kingdom of heaven against men. They neither go in themselves, nor do they allow those who are entering to go in (see Matt. 23:13). The Holy Spirit has rebuilt the New Testament Church to further the gospel of the kingdom of heaven to the uttermost parts of the world. This gospel is to establish all the saints upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, so that they will come to the unity of the faith, grow to the measure of the stature of Christ, await the Lord's return and enter His glorious kingdom.

How to Enter God's Kingdom

How can we enter God's kingdom? This is very important to every Christian. Most Christians only know that they should be saved. They do not know about entering the kingdom of God. Christendom remains at the elementary principles of Christ, not knowing how to go on to perfection (see Heb. 6:1). They regard the elementary principles as perfection. They keep on studying the elementary principles and pursuing individual enlightenment but they lack revelation from heaven. They don't understand the epochal mission, truth and vision of God.

Entering God's kingdom is like immigrating to a foreign country. A few years ago, there was a sister whose son was granted entry to the United States to further his studies. This elderly sister was happy for her son, but she was very worried for his spiritual condition. Her son used to love God very much as a teenager. But after graduating from the university, he stopped attending services, reading the Bible, and praying. He had basically forgotten about God. This elderly sister asked me to have fellowship with her son before he went abroad. So I went the next day. First, I asked whether his travel documents were ready and he said yes. Then I asked, "What about your documents for entering God's kingdom?" He was taken aback and asked, "What do you mean by the documents for entering God's kingdom?"

"What about your documents for entering God's kingdom?" is a question for all Christians. Brothers and sisters, if you have only the documents for traveling abroad but not those for entering God's kingdom, I am worried for you. Today,

God has set up the stewards of the mysteries of God in our midst (see 1 Cor. 4:1). The Holy Spirit has revealed the mysteries of entering God's kingdom to the present – day apostles and prophets appointed by Him. Here we are willing to help you follow the immigration procedures for entering the kingdom of heaven. We'll use this as an analogy. If you know how to process your documents for traveling abroad, you will definitely know how to process your documents for entering the heavenly kingdom because the procedures are similar. The following is an illustration:

1. Finding a sponsor — Jesus Christ, the only mediator between God and men

No matter which country you plan to move to, you need a sponsor. Without a sponsor, you won't be granted a visa. You also need a sponsor to enter God's kingdom. To enter the earthly kingdoms, you can have anyone as your sponsor as long as he has status and financial ability. But to enter God's kingdom, this is only one sponsor. This one and only sponsor is able and willing to be mankind's guarantor. I would like to introduce this honorable guarantor, Jesus Christ, to every friend, relative, brother and sister who desires to enter the kingdom of heaven. "For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus" (1 Tim. 2:5). The Lord Jesus Christ declared, "I am the way... No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). Jesus Christ is the only way to God's kingdom, because it is written, "Nor is there salvation in any other..." (Acts 4:12).

The Lord Jesus is our only guarantor (sponsor) for entering

God's kingdom. He is the Son of God. How secure and reliable it is to have Him as our guarantor!

Queen Victoria of England was a famous queen whom the British held in high esteem. One little boy heard of her kindness and greatly longed to visit her. But when he reached her palace, he was stopped by the guards. He began to cry. When the prince returned from outside and saw the little boy crying, he inquired why the boy was crying. The prince personally brought the little boy in to meet the queen, who received him warmly. If this little boy had not met the prince, no one else would have dared to bring him to the queen. Brothers and sisters, our Lord Jesus is the only begotten Son of the Most High God. He is the Lord of heaven and earth. Only He can bring us to the heavenly Father. He is willing to be our mediator. He is the most trustworthy sponsor, for He never fails.

A guarantor has to meet the following two conditions: First, he has to represent both parties, and assure their satisfaction. For example: Confucius represents Confucianism, Buddha represents Buddhism, and Mohammed represents Islam. Men may be satisfied with them as guarantors, but not God. None of these people are qualified to represent God, because they are sinners and are no different from other human beings. There isn't any qualified guarantor among men who can reconcile men to God.

Thanks be to the Most High God! He gave His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to be the mediator between God and man. Jesus is both God and man. Since He is the Son of God, He is able to represent God. He is also the Son of man, yet without sin. So He can also represent man. Other than Jesus Christ, there is no mediator between God and man.

Secondly, the guarantor has the power and responsibility to solve all problems between the two parties. For instance, if you are the guarantor of a debtor and creditor, you must pay the debt when the debtor fails to do so. Similarly, men have to pay God the debt of sin. How can it be paid? It is not by works but by blood. "... and without shedding of blood there is no remission" (Heb. 9:22). The wages of sin is death. Who can pay such a debt? Only the Lord Jesus has the power to pay our debt and He is willing to. On the Cross He bore our sins, satisfying God's righteous requirement. And through His death, men are reconciled to God.

When I had a chance to preach in Southeast Asia, the brothers and sisters there sponsored me when I traveled between countries like Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand. According to the law of their country, they could put a certain amount of money in the national bank as a cash deposit. In other words, they guaranteed me with money. But the Lord Jesus does not guarantee us with money, but with His blood and life. "To Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel" (Heb. 12:24).

Many religions of the world also express their desire to go to heaven, but they have chosen the wrong guarantors. They assume that all religions will lead to the kingdom of heaven. They have fallen into the soul-killing scheme of the devil. We hope that all the followers of these religions will turn back from their heretical beliefs. Jesus Christ is the only way to God's kingdom. He is the only mediator between God and man.

2. Applying for a passport — to be born of water and of the Spirit.

Someone who wants to immigrate to another country does not only need a sponsor but also a passport. Without a passport, he will be barred from entering the country. Likewise, one needs to have a passport to enter God's kingdom. What is this passport? The Lord Jesus said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). In other words, to enter God's kingdom, one has to be born of water and the Spirit. Being "born of water and the Spirit" is the passport to the kingdom of heaven.

What is born of the Spirit? Why is it called the passport for entering God's kingdom? The Scriptures state that the Holy Spirit is *the seal* and *the guarantor* of the inheritance, "Who also has *sealed* us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a *guarantee*" (2 Cor. 1:22). "In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance..." (Eph. 1:13–14). The Holy Spirit's *seal*, likened to the passport, is the guarantee of our inheritance in the kingdom of God. Through Jesus Christ, God the Father will lead His children into glory. He has also prepared for them a rich and glorious inheritance in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever wishes to inherit this inheritance must produce the *guarantee* and the *seal*. What is the guarantee of our inheritance? And what is the seal for entering the kingdom of heaven? The Holy Spirit is the guarantee, and praying in tongues is the seal.

After the Lord Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared to the apostles for forty days, speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. Each time the Lord spoke of *the kingdom of God*, He would also mention *the Holy Spirit*. He said, “You shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit” (see Acts 1:3–5). This is what the Lord commanded the disciples to do before His ascension. When He spoke of God’s kingdom, the disciples asked, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” The Lord was talking about the kingdom in heaven but the disciples inquired about the earthly kingdom. The Lord answered, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;...” (Acts 1:8). “Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God’” (John 3:5). It is clear that the “Holy Spirit” and the “kingdom of God” are connected, just as having a passport and going abroad are connected.

“And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, ‘Abba, Father!’ Therefore you [Christians of the Church of Galatia] are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ” (Gal. 4:6–7). Brothers and sisters, these verses also show that Christians who do not receive the Holy Spirit have no guarantee or seal. They cannot enter the kingdom of God, nor will they have a share in God’s inheritance. They do not have the glory of the Son of God because they are only slaves. A slave will not always live in the family (Father’s house), only the son will. In short, a Christian must be born of the Spirit, receiving the seal and the guarantee (passport) to enter the kingdom of heaven.

Born of the Spirit does not just mean receiving the Spirit

baptism and speaking in new tongues. It means receiving the witness of the Holy Spirit — that is, after the Spirit baptism, accepting the guidance and control of the Holy Spirit, and dealing with the flesh and soulish life. One has to be constantly filled with the Holy Spirit, speak in tongues to praise God, and daily offer up spiritual sacrifices which are acceptable to God (see 1 Pet. 2:5).

Born of water does not only mean the water baptism. After the water baptism, one must stand in the position of baptism (of offering or of death) all his life, and do the words of God. In other words, born of water is receiving the witness of water.

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

(Rom. 6:3–6)

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

(Rom. 6:12–13)

What is the witness of water? The witness of water means, through water baptism, we have been united in the likeness of Christ's death, His burial, and His resurrection. We have laid ourselves on the altar, walked in the newness of life, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father. We have become the witness of His resurrection, for we no longer live for self but for the Lord. We have given ourselves to God, and then to the apostles (see 2 Cor. 8:5). In one body, we shall do God's will, building up the spiritual house — the New Testament Church. We have given all our rights to God, our master will no longer be sins and self, but the Lord. In all things, we will deny self, put it to death, and let Christ be manifested through us. One will definitely not have the witness of water if he refuses to surrender his rights to God, obey the apostles' teachings, deny his soulish life, be dead to self and to the world, commit his future, career, marriage, family, and all to the Lord, and accept His molding and breaking.

A person's total dedication and consecration to God is the manifestation of God's full salvation on him. All newly converted Christians should have received the salvation to such an extent — a total offering to God. And they should continue to dedicate themselves to God for the rest of their lives. This is receiving the witness of water and bearing witness for Him who died and resurrected. The Lord will surely recognize whoever has the seal of the cross, and the guarantee of the Holy Spirit in his heart.

In short, to enter God's kingdom one has to be born of water — receive the witness of water — do His commandments, wholly dedicate himself to God and follow the footsteps of the Lamb all the days of his life. He also has to be born of the

Spirit — to receive the Spirit baptism, to be sealed by the Holy Spirit and receive the guarantee of inheritance. This is our passport to enter God's kingdom.

3. Getting a yellow book — an immunization record — to sanctify oneself

When you step into a foreign land, you may not be asked to produce your passport first, but your yellow book — immunization record. If you fail to do so, you will be stopped at customs even though you have a passport. You may even be asked to return to your own country. The yellow book is a person's clean bill of health, verifying that one is free from any infectious diseases. For a Christian to enter God's kingdom he also needs to have a "yellow book."

What is the yellow book for entering God's kingdom? It is to purify ourselves, just as the Lord is pure (see 1 John 3:3). "Let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous... Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God" (1 John 3:7,10). Therefore, all who pursue God's kingdom need to purify themselves and practice righteousness. They need to be justified by God.

Many Christians, after receiving the Lord's salvation, still defile themselves with sins and are reluctant to depart from wickedness. It is like a person going abroad who has found a sponsor and got a passport, but who does not have a clean bill of health. Isn't the whole plan ruined by the lack of last effort? As it is written, "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor

sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Cor. 6:9–10).

How can Christians purify themselves and practice righteousness? It is not by their own effort, but by the Lord’s blood and grace. “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin... If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:7,9).

Christians need to know the power of the precious blood, and live in the light of the Lord all the days of their lives. We should always examine our thoughts, speech, and acts, making sure we do not offend God or fall short of man. If we have sinned, we have to immediately deal with our sins by confessing them before God. If we have sinned against man, we shall also confess to man. We have to ask the Lord to cleanse us with His blood. Christians whose lives are young and tender may find themselves overtaken by trespasses. But as long as they confess their sins boldly, the Lord’s precious blood always has power. He will surely forgive and cleanse them from all sins, even hidden sins. “And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints” (Rev. 19:8).

4. Applying for the visa — total sanctification of the body, soul and spirit

After you have obtained a passport and a yellow book, you still need to apply for a visa. Each country has its own immigra-

tion laws. If your documents do not meet the requirements, you will not get a visa. Christians also need a “visa” to enter God’s kingdom. What is this visa? It is the total sanctification of the body, soul and spirit. “Because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy’” (1 Pet. 1:16). “Pursue... holiness, without which no one will see the Lord” (Heb. 12:14).

Many baptized Christians still love the world and are reluctant to offer themselves to the Lord. They are not sanctified to God. Even after receiving the Holy Spirit, they still mind the flesh and are unwilling to be guided or controlled by the Holy Spirit. They have not departed from the corruption in the world caused by lust (see 2 Pet. 1:4). They are contrary to the holiness of God. So why would God allow them to enter His kingdom and gain His glory?

“Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God” (Gal. 5:19–21).

Christians should oppose sins and flesh, depart from the world and be sanctified to God. In this way, they will be received by Him. “Therefore, ‘Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty.’” (2 Cor. 6:17–18). It goes on to say, “Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (2 Cor. 7:1).

The Lord commands us to come out from among them: all those who oppose the truth and all that hinder men from recognizing God, such as, false doctrines, organizations of men, and the world. Let us come out from among them and be not defiled by them. God will then receive us as His children and His people into His holy kingdom.

How can Christians be sanctified? We are sanctified not by ourselves, but by the Lord. We need only trust in Him with all our heart and obey His words, and He will sanctify us:

By the blood — “Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate” (Heb. 13:12). The Lord Jesus Christ has not only cleansed us of all our sins with His precious blood, but also redeemed us from our aimless conduct received by tradition from our forefathers, and the curse of the law. So in Christ Jesus we receive the blessings of Abraham and the promise of the Holy Spirit. (See 1 John 1:7; 1 Pet. 1:18; Gal. 3:13–14.) The Lord has redeemed us to God by His blood and has made us to be a holy kingdom and priests to our God. And we shall reign on the earth. (See Rev. 5:9–10; 1 Pet. 2:9.) The Lord fulfilled this salvation through His blood shed on the cross. By faith, let us stand in a position of “consecrated oneself to the Lord” and glorify Him in our body and in our spirit, which are God’s (see 1 Cor. 6:20).

By the water (truth) — “That He might sanctify her, having cleansed her [the church] by the washing of water with the word” (Eph. 5:26 RSV). What must we do to purify our hearts? Obey the truth (see 1 Pet. 1:22). What must we do to cleanse our ways? “By taking heed according to Your [God’s] word” (Ps. 119:9).

Therefore, Christians must always obey the word of God, walk in the truth, and hold fast the witness of water. That means one has to stand on the ground of consecrating himself to the Lord for his whole life, be built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, and always submit to the apostles' teachings (because by revelation God has made known to them the mystery of the truth). Being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, all saints will be united in the faith to become the glorious church — which is spotless and without wrinkle. The church is holy and without blemish, and she will be presented to Christ as a chaste virgin.

By the Holy Spirit — “in sanctification of the Spirit” (see 1 Pet. 1:2). One has to hold fast the witness of the Holy Spirit all his life, that is to obey and mind the Holy Spirit, and be filled with the Holy Spirit at all times. He will pray at all times in the Spirit, communicating with the Lord. Moreover, by the Spirit he will put to death the flesh and its desires, and will overcome sins, the devil, and the world. He will worship and serve God with spiritual gifts, together with other members, be built into a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ (see 1 Pet. 2:5). When the Lord comes back, we will be received as one body into His glorious kingdom.

Conclusion

Brothers and sisters, see what abundance and glory the Lord has prepared for us. It is what our eyes have not seen, our ears have not heard, and our minds have not conceived: “That the

God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church” (Eph. 1:17–22).

Brothers and sisters, let us walk in the will of God all our lives, lead a holy and victorious life, and receive a warm welcome into His kingdom when the Lord comes. Amen!

Seeing God's Kingdom and Entering God's Kingdom

“Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God’” (John 3:3). “Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God’” (John 3:5). These two verses of the Scriptures refer to “born again,” and “born of water and the Spirit.” The difference between these two is *seeing* God's kingdom and *entering* it. What is “born again?” “Born again” means being born from above. In simple term, born again means “born anew” or “the second birth.” Our first birth refers to our physical birth when we received a body of flesh and blood from our parents. This body of flesh and blood is from Adam. It is earthly (of dust) and corruptible. To be “born again” is to receive a spiritual life from God. It is the life from Jesus Christ, heavenly and incorruptible.

How do we know if one has been born again? When you hear a newborn baby cry, you know he is alive. Similarly, if you see a person pray, you know he is spiritually alive. Once a person calls upon the name of the Lord Jesus, he is born again and a new life has begun in him. The Scripture says, “For ‘whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved’” (Rom. 10:13). Some Christians who have believed in Jesus for years are still unsure if they are born again. This is because their pastors and preachers portray born again as something mysterious, some-

thing that is beyond reach. Even some preachers themselves are not sure if they are born again (saved). So what the Lord said about “born of water and the Spirit” seems even stranger to them. It is no wonder that many Christians confuse “born again” with “born of water and the Spirit”, and confuse “seeing the kingdom of God” with “entering the kingdom of God.”

To be born again, or saved is a free grace from God. Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Therefore, one is saved not by good works or by observing rules. “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast” (Eph. 2:8–9).

A born again (saved) person will escape the second death — the lake of fire, and will see the kingdom of God. However, to enter God’s kingdom, he needs to be born of water and the Spirit, to pay up a price to overcome. Therefore, the Lord Jesus said, “The kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force” (Matt. 11:12). He also said, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven” (Matt. 7:21). The apostle Paul also said, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:22; see 2 Thess. 1:4–5).

In the following we shall talk about two kinds of Christians. Brothers and sisters can choose wisely which kind they want to be:

Two Different Kinds of Christians

There are two kinds of Christians. One is the merely saved Christian, and the other, the victorious Christian. A victorious Christian is also called a Christian “who overcomes,” as mentioned in Revelation 2 and 3. A victorious Christian is definitely a born-again (saved) Christian. But a born-again Christian will not overcome if he fails to pay up the price to pursue further in the truth. Many saved Christians do not understand or obey God’s will. They have friendship with the world, give in to the lust of the flesh, and do not love God. There was such a person in the Church of Corinth, “It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles — that a man has his father’s wife... deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus” (1 Cor. 5:1–5). It is not stated that such a person will perish. Instead, it says that “his spirit may be saved.” However, such an unrighteous person shall not inherit the kingdom of God (see 1 Cor. 6:9–10).

It does not mean that a victorious Christian is perfect, without weaknesses. But he is one who presses toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (See Phil. 3:14.) Saints who desire to lead godly lives in Christ Jesus and strive to keep the Lord’s word of patience will be victorious. Therefore, the Lord Jesus said, “Not everyone... shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father which is in heaven.” (See Matt. 7:21.)

I believe many Christians are willing to do God’s will. Yet if they don’t understand God’s will, how will they do it? Some

presume they will understand God's will if they read the Bible more. That's not so, because God's will is a great mystery which concerns Christ and the church (see Eph. 5:17, 23, 30–32). This mystery is revealed by God, through the Spirit, to His holy apostles and prophets, not to every Christian. And among the apostles and prophets, there is always a special chosen apostle — the chief apostle. In his time, Paul, the special chosen apostle, had more knowledge of this mystery than all the other apostles and prophets (see Eph. 3:2–6).

The way of building the church is revealed to His special chosen apostle. This is the way God works. Anyone who wants to know God's will needs to come to God's special chosen vessel. Therefore, victorious Christians need to give themselves first to the Lord, and then to the apostles by the will of God — submit to the apostles' leading and abide by their teachings (see 2 Cor. 8:5; Acts 2:42). Christians have to be built together on the foundation of the apostles and prophets till we come to the unity of the faith, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (see Eph. 2:20; 4:11–13).

In these last days, God chose His maidservant Sister Kong Duen Yee to expound His mystery, His will. God revealed to her the glorious vision of 7.21 — the Holy Spirit rebuilds the New Testament Church. After receiving the epochal mission from God, she did her best to spread the full gospel of *Blood, Water and Holy Spirit* and the truth on *the Holy Spirit Rebuilds the New Testament Church*. This includes demolishing denominations, heresies and false doctrines, and restoring the testimony of unity — the body of Christ. Therefore, all Christians who long to overcome have to give themselves to God and submit to the apostles' leading in the vision and mission of Sis. Kong. Ac-

ording to the ministerial order, they have to co-work with one another, do the will of God congregationally, keep the testimony of unity, trample on snakes and scorpions, fight a good fight for God's kingdom, await the Lord's return and enter His kingdom.

Two Different Places for Souls

The soul of a merely-saved Christian will go to Hades after he dies, whereas the soul of a victorious Christian will enter Paradise in heaven where he will enjoy peace with the Lord. There are two passages of the Scriptures that indicate these two places.

“There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from

here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us” (Luke 16:19–26).

Many preachers think that this rich man was an unbeliever. In fact, the rich man and Lazarus were both descendants of Abraham. They both believed in God. They can be likened to the New Testament Christians who are descendants of Abraham by faith. They would not perish. The rich man went to Hades after his death because he had led a luxurious life daily and sought after worldly pleasures; he had no compassion for his brother, nor fear of God. Although Lazarus was a beggar and suffered afflictions, he led a righteous life. When he died, he was taken to Paradise where he rested in Abraham’s bosom. The rich man and Lazarus were both God’s people in the Old Testament era. The rich man signifies the merely-saved Christian, and Lazarus signifies the overcomer in the New Testament era.

Therefore, “Do not be haughty, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off” (Rom. 11: 20–22). By faith, we become the descendants of Abraham. God is just toward all His people; He will deal with us as He dealt with the Israelites.

One of the two robbers crucified beside the Lord called upon His name. “And Jesus said to him, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise’” (Luke 23:43). Though the robber was full of wickedness, on the cross he called upon the name of the Lord. When he died, he was immediately with the Lord in Paradise.

Since the robber entered Paradise without receiving the

water or the spirit baptism, you may think it's not important to receive them. This presumption is wrong. The robber did not receive the water baptism because he didn't have the chance. And he did not receive the Spirit baptism because the Lord Jesus had yet to ascend to heaven and send the Holy Spirit. If the robber was not on the cross and had the opportunity to receive the water baptism, he would have done the will of God and fulfilled all righteousness. If not, he would not go to Paradise. This robber was an exception, and his case cannot be regarded as a general rule. Since you are not under a special circumstance like that of the robber, this example should not be used as an excuse. You need to consider God's word your law and keep it.

The Two Different Outcomes

If the Lord Jesus were to come today, the victorious Christians who have slept (died) would rise and be caught up in the air. They would be followed by the overcomers who are still alive. "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord" (1 Thess. 4:16–17).

All victorious Christians, dead or alive, will be caught up before the great tribulation begins. But the merely saved Christians will be left behind. "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this

time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened" (Matt. 24:21–22). During the Great Tribulation, some of the left behind Christians may be enlightened and bitterly repent of their sins. (These Christians will come to their realization because they have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come.)

Amidst persecutions and torture from the anti-Christ, these Christians will witness faithfully for the Lord. They will not worship the beast and its image, nor will they receive the mark of the beast on their foreheads though it means death. "And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years" (Rev. 20:4). These Christians will be overcomers during the Great Tribulation. Ultimately, they may be victorious, but it will be a narrow victory amidst persecutions, sufferings, and ordeals. They will have to pay a price that may be a hundred or a thousand times more than those who overcome and are caught up before the Great Tribulation.

The Lord Jesus does not want us to be left behind in the tribulation. He wants us to hold fast the truth during this time of peace and safety so He will keep us from the hour of trial. "Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the

whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more” (Rev. 3: 10–12).

In other words, those who do not keep the Lord’s word of patience will not be victorious and will not be kept from the hour of trial (the Great Tribulation), which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. They will not gain the crown, nor will they be a pillar in the temple of God. There is a great difference between the outcomes of a merely saved Christian and that of a victorious Christian.

Two Different Resurrections and their Consequences

Victorious Christians will rise from the dead before the millennium, during which they will reign as kings with Christ. This is the first resurrection. The resurrections of the Christians during the Great Tribulation are also considered the first resurrection. But the rest of the dead will not live again until the thousand years is finished. “Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years” (Rev. 20:6).

The left behind Christians in the great tribulation will lose the hope of being saved, even merely saved, if they cannot endure the persecutions of the anti-Christ and instead worship

the beast and its image, receive the mark of the beast, and deny the Lord's name. The second death will have dominion over them and they will perish.

By His mercy and compassion, the Lord has informed us in advance of all these impending events so we can be watchful, lest we be left behind in the great tribulation or imprisoned in Hades. He wants us, at the shout of victory, to reign with Him.

The rest of the dead will not live again until the millennium is over. These souls who do not rise from the dead before millennium can be classified into two categories: The souls of unbelievers and the souls of merely saved Christians. During the millennium, they will be locked up in Hades. After the thousand-year kingdom — millennium — is over, they will be raised to face the great white throne. Those who do not believe in the Lord Jesus, who are not found written in the Book of Life, will be cast into the lake of fire — the second death. Nevertheless, the judgement of the merely saved Christians and the Israelites of the Old Testament era (e.g. the rich man mentioned in Luke 16), who are found written in the Book of Life, will be delivered upon their resurrection and will not suffer the second death.

What will happen after the thousand years? “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were

cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire” (Rev. 20:11–15). All these people are delivered from Death and Hades, but they are found written in two separate books: One is the Book of Life, the other “the books” (records of their works). If one does not believe in God, he will not be found written in the Book of Life but in “the books.” Those who have their names found written in the Book of Life will be saved from the second death. Although they are saved, they have no part in the millennium because their resurrection will be after the millennium. Furthermore, they will be judged before the great white throne.

Some may ask, “Why are the saved Christians kept in Hades? Does not the precious blood of the Lord Jesus have power?” Yes! It is by the power of the precious blood of the Lord Jesus that sinners are saved. If not, they would all be cast into the lake of fire. Why then are they kept in Hades? This is just a punishment of the Father for His rebellious and wicked children. For judgment must begin in the house of God. This proves that God the Father is righteous. He will not leave the guilty unpunished, no, not even His children. Therefore, we should not be reckless, and fail to do His will because of His love. Don’t assume that we are free from punishment just because we are His children.

The Two Different Places

The millennium is the transition period between today’s heaven and earth and the new heaven and earth. After the

millennium, a new heaven and new earth will appear. And New Jerusalem shall come down out of heaven. In Revelation 21, the glory of the New Jerusalem seen by John was beyond words. Remembering this glorious home shall renew our strength when we feel weak and weary.

“But there shall by no means enter it [the New Jerusalem] anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life” (Rev. 21: 27). Only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life can enter this glorious city of New Jerusalem. They are the companions of the Lamb. They follow the footsteps of the Lamb wherever He goes. On earth, they present themselves as a chaste virgin to Christ, leading a holy and sanctified life. They are the wife of the Lamb, and are worthy of the marriage feast of the Lamb. They shall reign with Him forever in the new heaven and new earth (see Rev. 22:5).

In the new heaven and new earth, the merely saved Christians who are written in the Book of Life (not the Lamb’s Book of Life) shall be outside the city of New Jerusalem. “But outside [the city] are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie” (Rev. 22:15).

Many preachers assume that the people outside the city are unbelievers. This is erroneous. Those who do not believe in the Lord will be in the lake of fire, not outside the city. “But the cowardly, *unbelieving*, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death” (Rev. 21:8). This verse indicates the consequence of the unbelievers. The word “unbelieving” is stated in Rev-

elations 21:8, but not in Revelations 22:15. This shows that the people mentioned in Revelations 21:8 are unbelievers and those in Revelations 22:15 are Christians. These Christians in Revelation 22 are saved but still live in sins. The scripture calls them dogs, sexually immoral and filthy. Therefore, they shall not enter the holy city, but stay outside the city.

Following are more Bible verses regarding outside the city. “And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matt. 25:30). “Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’” (Matt. 7:22–23). “And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you’” (Matt. 25:10–12).

In the holy city New Jerusalem, there shall be no night, for the Lord God gives them light. Outside the city there shall be darkness, where many will weep and gnash their teeth. How regretful it would be to always see the glory of New Jerusalem but not be able to enter!

Brothers and sisters, we rather suffer more with Him today, that we may also be glorified together with Him (see Rom. 8:17). By all means, do not love the world and her luxury. Obey the will of God, lest we be shut outside the gate where there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

The Called and the Chosen

The Lord Jesus said, “For many are called, but few are chosen.” Many are saved but few overcome; many see the kingdom of God but few enter it. “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom” (Luke 12:32). God shall give the kingdom to the little flock; the overcomers. “To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne” (Rev. 3:21). “And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations” (Rev. 2:26).

God shall give the kingdom to those who suffer with Him on earth. “. . . your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer” (2 Thess. 1: 4–5). “But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Luke 22:28–30). The church, the body of Christ, has to endure trials and tribulations on earth.

Brothers and sisters, are you suffering with the body of Christ (the church)? If we are members of the body, we should share in her afflictions. Since God has chosen us to rebuild the New Testament Church in this generation, do we live a life worthy of His calling? It is fitting that we present our bodies as living sacrifices to satisfy God. Let’s offer up ourselves in God’s

will to accomplish His great work in these last days.

A youth once asked me, “If I offer my all to the Lord and it turns out that God has not chosen me, will not my offering be in vain?” I replied, “I don’t know whether God has chosen me, and I don’t need to know. But I want to choose God courageously.” Brothers and sisters, if you bravely choose the Lord, God will certainly choose you. However, if you don’t choose God bravely, all that you possess will fail you, for you can take nothing out of this world.

Brothers and sisters, now you have seen the difference between a saved Christian and an overcomer. You need to make a wise choice between staying outside the new city and entering it. The kingdom of God is a great enterprise that’s worth our heavy investment. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field” (Matt. 13:44).

God's Eternal Plan and Ultimate Objective for His Kingdom

The omnipotent God works all things according to His plan, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. He also enlightens the eyes of our understanding that we may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe. According to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times, He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and on earth, with Christ as Head. God has given all power in heaven and on earth to His Son, Jesus Christ, and has put all things under His feet and gave Him to be head over all things to the church.

God's highest will and ultimate objective is to build His tabernacle among men. He wants to live with men, share His glory with them, and enjoy rest with them. They shall be His people and He shall be their God. In order to achieve His highest will and ultimate objective, He has made an eternal plan which will be fulfilled according to His predestined time. Now His highest will and ultimate objective is near completion. All creatures have been subjected to futility, groaning and toiling. They are waiting for the day when they will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. It is the day when God's highest will is done, and

now it has come. God has made known to us His eternal plan so that all the saints may comprehend His love. As God's children, we need to know His will and His plan for this era. Let us offer ourselves to serve Him according to His will. Below is a full account of God's eternal plan:

The Angels' World

1. How the angel was created and how he fell

“Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created. You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created...’” (Ezek. 28:12–15).

The angels created by God were full of wisdom and beauty. What He had prepared for them was perfect and complete. The angels enjoyed all that was extremely glorious and rich. The archangel was above all angels, and he had only to serve the Most High God. At such a high position, second only to God, he should have loved his God with all his heart, with all his soul, with all his strength and with all his mind. On the contrary, he started the first rebellion against God, and since then there has been no peace in the angels' world.

“You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you. By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence within, and you sinned; therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God; and I destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones” (Ezek. 28:15–16). Then came the downfall of the glorious angel. His beauty became His snare. His pride made him lose his honorable position, which he can never recover.

2. The main reason leading to the wicked angel’s downfall.

“Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, that they might gaze at you. You defiled your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities, by the iniquity of your trading; therefore I brought fire from your midst; it devoured you, and I turned you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all who saw you. All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; you have become a horror, and shall be no more forever” (Ezek. 28:17–19).

“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit” (Isa. 14:12–15).

From these verses, we learn about the greatest sin — pride. Pride changed the beautiful angel to the devil, making him fall from his honorable position to the lowest depths of the pit. In the pit, he will be burned forever.

Pride comes from Satan. To this day, the wicked angel still puts pride in man's heart. Whenever man accepts this pride from the devil, he will be arrogant, fall into darkness and be ashamed. This will ultimately lead him to destruction. "When pride comes, then comes shame" (Prov. 11:2). "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall" (Prov. 16: 18). It will be difficult for a proud person to know God. Furthermore, he will not receive the grace of God, for God gives grace to the humble and resists the proud.

3. The consequence of the fallen angel

In the olden days, Satan could occasionally go before God. "Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them" (Job 1:6).

After the Lord Jesus has risen from the dead and ascended on high, Satan no longer has a foothold in the air. "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men" (Eph. 4:8).

Satan was then cast out of the holy mountain, becoming the prince of the power of the air, the devil. "In which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience" (Eph. 2:2).

When the Lord Jesus returns to receive His church, Satan

shall have no more position in the air. “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” (Rev. 12:9).

When Satan is cast to the earth, the great tribulation will start. Once the tribulation is over, Jesus Christ shall come to the earth and establish the millennial kingdom. Satan will also have no place on earth, and he will be bound and cast into the bottomless pit where he shall be locked up for a thousand years (see Rev. 20:1–3).

And his final end shall be in the lake of fire which burns with fire and brimstone, the eternal punishment (see Rev. 20:10).

From the Lord Jesus and the devil, we learn the ways to be exalted and be abased. Jesus Christ humbled Himself, and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore, God highly exalted Him and made Him ascend on high and sit at the right hand of the Majesty.

The wicked archangel was proud and haughty. He wanted to make himself like the Most High, but was driven out of the holy mountain and cast down to the air. He will soon be cast to the earth, bound in the bottomless pit, and finally cast into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. Since we are treading on the path of the cross, let us imitate the Lord’s meekness, humility and obedience to God the Father.

Paradise — Eden

1. The restoration of the defiled world

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep” (Gen. 1:1–2). In the very beginning, the universe created by God was beautiful. So how did it turn out to be without form and void? It was defiled and ruined because cherub, the archangel, sinned. The Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters to restore the universe. During the first six days, God created light, water, air, land, sea, sun, moon, plants, animals, . . . so once again the universe was filled with light, life, and the glory of God. God created all these for mankind.

2. The origin of mankind

On the sixth day, God created man and let him have dominion over all the earth. God said, “Let Us [the Triune God] make man in Our image, according to Our likeness” (Gen. 1:26). Henceforth, God created man: body, soul and spirit — three in one. Man had dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, over every living thing that moves upon the earth. God blessed mankind and wanted them to be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it. How honorable was the original position of mankind! At that time, God actually lived, worked and shared His glory with man on earth because He wanted man to glorify Him (see Isa. 43:7), to represent Him, and to satisfy Him.

3. The covenant established in the Garden of Eden

God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there He put Adam and Eve. He gave them two responsibilities: to tend and

keep the garden. God commanded them, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die” (Gen. 2:16–17). This was the first covenant God made with man.

God always puts the good and the bad before man. After telling man what is good and what is bad, He lets him make his own choice. The angels and man created by God are no idiots. An idiot cannot glorify God. Therefore, the choice is man’s. If man chooses to obey the will of God, he shall have life and peace, brightness and joy, harmony and rest. But if he chooses to disobey God and breaks the covenant, his life will be full of jealousy, strife, hatred, sorrows, sicknesses, dangers, pains and death. Hence, whether in the Old Testament or the New Testament, the covenant God makes with man is the stronghold of his life.

4. Mankind’s first breach of covenant

Satan was anxious to destroy the covenant God made with man in the Garden of Eden. He wanted to lure man into the path of destruction so the eternal plan of God wouldn’t be fulfilled. First, he put pride and doubt in man’s heart. “Then the serpent said to the woman, ‘you will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil’” (Gen. 3:4–5).

God had told Adam and Eve not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for in the day they ate of it, they would *surely die*. But Satan told the woman that she

would *not surely die*. He made man doubt the words of God. Satan also encouraged man to be proud and made him desire to be like God, knowing good and evil. Eventually, Eve accepted the temptation and ate the forbidden fruit. This was man's first breach of the covenant with God. It happened because man obeyed Satan and rebelled against God. Sin came into the world and the spirit of man died (lost its function).

Consequently, men fell under the dominion of sin and death, and became the sons of the devil. As a result, Adam and Eve were driven out of the Garden of Eden. Since then the way to the tree of life has been cut off from mankind. Men can no longer see the face of God and are separated from the life of God. They have to eat their food in the sweat of their face. And they live by the sword. Even today, there is still no peace on earth.

Satan destroyed the angels' world and the Garden of Eden. He is at enmity with God. He does whatever he likes, because he assumes that God's plan will fail and that God can do nothing to him. Actually, the Lord knew all of this beforehand. All these events are a part of God's eternal plan and are also necessary steps. All creation in the universe (including Satan) is heading toward God's predestination, so no one can escape it.

Paradise beside Hades

1. Paradise located temporarily beside Hades

After Noah and his family entered the ark, the flood of waters came upon the earth for forty days. The waters prevailed

exceedingly and all the mountains under the whole heaven were covered (see Genesis 6 and 7). The whole earth was destroyed and the Garden of Eden on earth was no more.

From Luke 16, we can see that at that time, Paradise was still under the earth. It was the resting place for the souls of Abraham, Lazarus and all other saints of the past (see 1 Sam. 28:11–14). Paradise was located beside agonizing Hades under the earth. Between them was a great gulf fixed, preventing either side from crossing over to the other. “But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us’” (Luke 16:25–26).

Abraham and all the other righteous men in Paradise under the earth were waiting for the day of Christ. The Lord Jesus said, “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad” (John 8:56). “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them, . . . God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us” (Heb. 11:13, 40).

2. Hades — a place to detain souls

Death came upon men after they rebelled and sinned against God. When death comes, Hades also exists. Hades is a place to detain the souls of the ungodly, the unrighteous, and those who do not follow the truth. This place is not the lake of fire,

but there are still flames. Luke 16 mentions how the rich man was being tormented in Hades. He raised his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. He cried and said, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame" (Luke 16:24).

The span of human life on earth is but a few decades. Once a man's breath ceases, he has to return to his dust. But where does the soul go? Those who have obeyed the truth shall be taken to Paradise, and they shall be raised and caught up when the Lord comes back. But the ungodly and the unrighteous, who have not followed the truth, shall be tormented in Hades after death. In Hades, they shall await the great judgment on the last day.

3. The Lord preached to the spirits in prison

When the Lord was buried in the tomb after His crucifixion, by the Spirit, He went to Hades where He preached to the dead. "By whom [the Spirit] also He went and preached to the spirits in prison" (1 Pet. 3:19). "For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit" (1 Pet. 4:6). These souls refer to the souls of the dead in the Old Testament era. They had never heard of the gospel because the Lord Jesus had yet to accomplish the salvation on the cross.

In the New Testament era, the gospel is preached to the living. Some presume that since the gospel was preached to the dead, it won't be too late for them to accept the salvation after death in Hades. They are wrong. By the Spirit, the Lord preached

to the dead in Hades, once for all. In the New Testament, the salvation of a person depends on his decision while he is still alive. He will have no opportunity after death.

4. The Lord terminated Paradise under the earth

Before the Lord's resurrection, Paradise was still under the earth. After His resurrection, the righteous men in Paradise were taken up to the third heaven. By the Spirit, the Lord Jesus went to Hades, and He had with Him the keys of Hades and of Death (see Rev. 1:18). He did not only preach to the spirits in prison, but more importantly, He delivered the righteous souls who had been for generations in Paradise under the earth. Abraham and the other saints for ages had been waiting for this day — the day to be delivered from the Paradise under the earth to the Paradise in heaven. On that day, the saints of the Old Testament received the Lord's salvation together and entered Paradise in heaven. From then on, the Paradise under the earth existed no more.

Paradise in the Third Heaven

1. Stephen's experience

After the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, He ascended on high and sat at the right hand of God. He gained all the power in heaven and on earth. "But he [Stephen], being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and said, 'Look! I see

the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” (Acts 7:55–56). It is extremely unusual for the heavens to open with the Lord standing there to receive the soul of this great martyr. This great martyr testified to all men that Jesus Christ had been exalted by God, and he was standing at the right hand of the Most High God.

Jesus Christ is our Mediator who intercedes for us at the right hand of God. He shall battle for us and lead us into Paradise in heaven to enjoy rest.

2. Paul's experience

Paul the apostle was taken up to Paradise in the third heaven where he heard inexpressible words. “I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago — whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows — such a one was caught up to the third heaven... how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter” (2 Cor. 12:2,4).

The third heaven is a place of rest and joy for the souls of the overcomers. “To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God” (Rev. 2:7). The fruit of life which mankind lost in the Garden of Eden will be regained in the heavenly Paradise. But this promise can only be inherited by the overcomers.

3. The Saints' experiences

I heard many Christians testify about having the experience of Paradise. When they saw Paradise, they did not know whether

they were in or out of their bodies. I thank God for them! When I was shepherding the Church of Bangkok, there was an old sister, Sis. Fang of Lachebori, whom I respected in the Lord. Before she was received by the Lord, she saw visions on two occasions. The first vision was similar to that of Cornelius, the centurion mentioned in Acts 10.

In the second vision, she was brought by an angel to visit Paradise in heaven which was of surpassing beauty. She saw many angels and saints dressed in clean, white robes. The angel also promised her a white robe. This elderly sister was very happy and peaceful when she related her experience to us. She said, "I don't want anything from this world. I just want to wait for the Lord to come and receive me." Not long afterwards, she was received by the Lord. This elderly sister loved God with a pure heart in the New Testament Church. She had always been faithful in keeping the teaching of the apostles. It is good beyond compare that she is in Paradise. Her children are also being blessed through her testimony.

The apostle Paul said, "Having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better" (Phil. 1:23). He said this because he had seen the glory of Paradise with his own eyes. Let us strive to accomplish the will of God before we leave this world and be with Christ. Then we shall not be ashamed when we meet Him.

4. The souls in Paradise shall come with the Lord

According to a study, one in every twenty-five verses in the New Testament Scripture is related to Christ's second coming. When the Lord Jesus comes, "... God will bring with Him those

who sleep in Jesus” (1 Thess. 4:14). These saints who sleep in Jesus are the overcomers who are temporarily resting in the heavenly Paradise. When the Lord returns, they shall rise first and come with Him before entering the millennium. According to God’s eternal plan, He will gradually bring us into the holy and glorious good land which He has prepared for us.

The Millennium

1. What is the Millennium?

The Millennium is the thousand-year reign of Christ on earth. In this millennial kingdom, victorious Christians shall reign as kings with Him for a thousand years. “Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years” (Rev. 20:6).

There are several Old Testament prophecies about the Millennium. In the Book of Daniel, there is a prophecy: “And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever” (Dan. 2:44).

The Book of Isaiah also prophesies the glory of the millennial kingdom: “... and He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears; but with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; ... The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf

and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious" (Isa. 11:3–10).

The Millennium is a completely righteous, upright, and truthful reign. It is a nation of peace, rest, harmony and love. At that time, the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD. Christ will be glorified and all nations shall worship Him.

2. The Great Tribulation before the Millennium

How will the Millennium be ushered in? First, the Lord Jesus Christ will come back to receive the church in the air. "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord" (1 Thess. 4:16–17).

When the church is caught up, woe shall come upon the people on earth. "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be

shortened” (Matt. 24:21–22).

On the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to the Lord Jesus privately, saying, “What will be the sign of your coming, and of the end of the age?” Jesus answered, “For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places... Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold... And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come” (Matt. 24:7–14).

Brothers and sisters, look at the state of world affairs. Isn't it fulfilling these prophecies? Large scale attacks between nations and kingdoms have started during World War I and II. Famines and earthquakes are more destructive than ever. These are the beginning of sorrows.

In the following verses, the Lord clearly tells us that His coming is imminent. “Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near — at the doors” (Matt. 24:32–33).

All Christians know that the budding of the fig tree represents the restoration of Israel. The prophecies of the restoration are recorded in many parts of the Scripture. This restoration of Israel was fulfilled in 1948, not long after World War II. God's words never fail. Not many Christians know the other meaning of the budding fig tree: the rebuilding of the New Testament Church. This prophecy of rebuilding the church was fulfilled on July 21, 1963 when the first rebuilt church was es-

tablished in Hong Kong. The Inspiration of 7.21 is spread from the East to the West. All these indicate that the feet of the Lord are at the door.

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 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” (Matt. 24:29–31).

When the tribulation is over, the Lord shall descend from heaven with thousands upon thousands of saints and angels to establish the millennial kingdom on earth. At that time, all Israel shall be saved. The Lord shall call them from four corners of the earth and they shall see the King of glory with their own eyes. He Himself shall rule over all nations. “All the ends of the world shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before You. For the kingdom is the LORD’s, and He rules over the nations” (Ps. 22:27–28).

When the Lord reigns on earth, Zion shall be the capital of the Millennium. “Then the moon will be disgraced and the sun ashamed; for the LORD of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem” (Isa. 24:23). The victorious Christians shall be kings with the Lord for a thousand years. Brothers and sisters, may this glorious vision of His kingdom attract us all our life. Nothing else, nothing on earth, is worth our desire.

3. The Lord is coming soon

“Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation’” (2 Pet. 3:3–4). “The Lord is coming soon” has been said for almost two thousand years but He is still not here. “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet. 3:9). Now it is truly the end of the world.

From the Old Testament signs and prophecies, we can see that the coming of the Lord and the millennial kingdom are imminent. God wanted the Israelites to keep the sabbath day, sabbath year and jubilee year. Through the sabbath day, sabbath year and jubilee year we learn about the coming of the Millennium.

For in six days, God made the heavens and earth, and all things in them, and *rested on the seventh day*. “Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made” (Gen. 2:3). God also wanted the Israelites to rest on the seventh day — to keep the sabbath day. He commanded them through, “‘See! For the LORD has given you the Sabbath: therefore He gives you on the sixth day bread for two days. Let every man remain in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day.’ So the people rested on the seventh day” (Exod. 16:29–30).

Both God and His people worked in six days and rested on the seventh day. In Leviticus, God wanted the Israelites to work

in six years and enjoy rest on the seventh year. No work should be done in that year. “And the LORD spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying, ‘Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: “When you come into the land which I give you, then the land shall keep a sabbath to the LORD. Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather in its fruit; but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a sabbath to the LORD. You shall neither sow your field nor prune your vineyard”’” (Lev. 25:1–4).

The *seventh* day is the sabbath day; the *seventh* year is the sabbath year and after the *seventh* sabbath year is the jubilee. From the Old Testament pattern we know that the Millennium will start on the seventh thousand year. In this one thousand years, God and man shall enjoy rest. Victorious Christians shall reign as kings with the Lord for a thousand years on earth.

How long do we have to wait before this millennial kingdom start? From Adam to Abraham it was approximately 2,000 years, from the time of Abraham to the birth of Jesus Christ it was roughly another 2,000 years, and from the birth of Jesus Christ until today it is about 2,000 years. Therefore, from the beginning, when God created the world, until now, it was about 6,000 years. The seventh thousand year is near. So there is very little time left. “He who is coming will come and will not tarry” (Heb. 10:37).

We are indeed a blessed generation because we will see the second coming of the Lord — an opportunity that occurs only once in six thousand years. We are going to see what the saints of the past have not seen. We must be extremely alert! “Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what

hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not expect” (Matt. 24:42–44).

It is definitely not the time to take life easy: eat, drink and be merry, or carry on business and make money. It is the time for all the overcomers to prepare themselves for the second coming of the Lord.

4. After the Millennium

During the Millennium, all the people on earth will know God and fear Him. Under the rule of Christ, they will be loyal to God for a thousand years. But surprisingly, when Satan is released after the thousand-year kingdom, numerous people, whose number is like the sand of the sea, will follow Satan to rise in a great rebellion. “Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them” (Rev. 20:7–9). This rebellion is Satan’s last struggle before death. It is also the last time foolish mankind will be used by Satan. But all these events only serve to fulfill the eternal plan of God.

The malicious Satan and the foolish people shall face the same consequence — eternal punishment. “And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil, who

deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever” (Rev. 20:9–10). This is end of Satan (the wicked archangel, the fallen angel) in God’s eternal plan.

After the Millennium, there is another event to be fulfilled according to the eternal plan of God, that is, the judgment of the great white throne. All the dead, whether they are the Israelites in the Old Testament era (e.g. the rich man in Luke 16), the merely saved Christians in the New Testament era or the unbelievers, shall be delivered up from the sea, Death and Hades. They will be judged according to their works. The saved, whose names are found written in the Book of Life, shall not be cast into the lake of fire. But the ungodly, unrighteous and unbelieving whose names are found written in the books (not in the Book of Life), shall be cast into the lake of fire, which is the second death (see Rev. 20:11–15).

Only the righteous ones of the Old Testament era and the victorious Christians of the New Testament era who are in Paradise will not face the judgment of the great white throne. The truth preached by the New Testament Church leads all saints onto the path of the overcomers. May all Christians leave the elementary principles of Christ, and go on to perfection, and strive to be overcomers.

New Jerusalem

- 1. The tabernacle of God is with men — the ultimate objective of God’s plan**

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 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. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son."

(Rev. 21:1–7)

From Genesis to Revelation, God has been doing one thing: preparing a holy Bride for His Son Jesus Christ. For this purpose, He has done many magnificent works to bring all those who fear Him and do His will (the overcomers) to inherit the holy city New Jerusalem, fulfilling His beautiful and eternal plan — God dwells with men.

2. The exceeding glory of New Jerusalem

Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious

stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates. . . . The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal. . . . The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones. . . . The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. . . . And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. . . . But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

(Rev. 21:11–27)

Abraham, all the righteous throughout the ages, and all the saints are waiting for this city with foundations, whose builder and maker is God. This city is prepared for those who long for His appearing. Brothers and sisters, our dwelling on earth is temporal. This world is not our home. May God give us the spirit of wisdom and revelation, that we may know Him better, and see this glorious vision. Let us realize all the falsehoods on earth, and all the glory in heaven. Let us put away all our earthly ideas and offer ourselves anew to Him. Also, may we co-work with God's special chosen vessel all the days of our life to accomplish the entrustment of God in this last generation.

3. Reign with Christ forever

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. . . There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever. Then he said to me, "These words are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place. "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

(Rev. 22:3–7)

Brothers and sisters, may all of us realize the glorious and honorable position we shall hold in the future. Victorious Christians shall reign as kings with the Lord forever. Since we have seen this glory, let us clean ourselves from all impurities to become honorable vessels in God's hands. And according to the will of God, let's build up the spiritual house — the New Testament Church, to hasten the coming of the Lord's kingdom. God's ultimate plan will be accomplished and His heart satisfied.

