

Crystallization-Study of Jeremiah and Lamentations

#8 God's Economy with His Dispensing

in the Book of Jeremiah

10/26-11/1

OL Summary:

I. Jeremiah 17:7-8 says, "Blessed is the man who trusts in Jehovah / And whose trust Jehovah is. / And he will be like a tree transplanted beside water, / Which sends out its roots by a stream, / And will not be afraid when heat comes; / For its leaves remain flourishing, / And it will not be anxious in the year of drought / And will not cease to bear fruit":

A. These verses can be understood in two different ways—according to the natural understanding or according to God's economy; these verses are not concerned with a shallow matter of trusting in God to receive material blessings; actually, these verses refer to God's economy carried out by His dispensing: The one who trusts in God is like a tree transplanted beside water, signifying God as the fountain of living waters; we not only trust in God, but also God Himself is our trust in Him. **B.** The thought here is the same as that in 1 Corinthians 3:6, where Paul says, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth"; the watering is for the tree's absorbing, and the absorbing is the receiving of God's dispensing: Where the growth in life is lacking, the believers' Christian life will be a mess, the church life will be damaged, and the Body life will be destroyed. /We need to absorb God by taking root downward and bearing fruit upward; this means that we need to have hidden times of fellowship with God; the empowering, enlightening, enjoying of rest, rejoicing, believing, solving of problems, overcoming of trials, temptations, and hardships, and comforting for a Christian all depend upon his secret fellowship with God through prayer and God's word.

II. In Jeremiah 17:19-27 we have a word about keeping God's Sabbath; the way to keep God's Sabbath is to enjoy Him, to rest in Him, and to be satisfied in Him as the fountain of living waters:

A. In Exodus 31:12-17, after a long record concerning the building up of God's dwelling place, there is a repetition of the commandment to keep the Sabbath; according to Colossians 2:16-17 and Matthew 11:28-30, Christ is the reality of the Sabbath rest: God rested on the seventh day because He had finished His work and was satisfied; God's glory was manifested because man and His image, and His authority was about to be exercised for the subduing of His enemy, Satan; as long as man expresses God and deals with God's enemy, God is satisfied and can rest. /Man was created not to work first but to be satisfied with God and rest with God; with God it is a matter of working and resting, but with man it is a matter of resting and working. /On the day of Pentecost the disciples were filled with the Spirit, which means that they were filled with the enjoyment of Christ as the heavenly wine. **B.** As God's people, we must bear a sign that we rest with God, enjoy God, and are filled up with God first; then we work with the very One who fills us; furthermore, we not only work with God but also work by being one with God, having Him as our strength to work and our energy to labor. **C.** In the church life we may do many things without first enjoying the Lord and without serving the Lord by being one with the Lord; that kind of

service results in spiritual death and the loss of the fellowship in the Body. **D.** The work of the Lord to build up the church should begin with the enjoyment of God.

III. The book of Jeremiah is an abstract of the entire Bible; Jeremiah's prophecy indicates that only Christ can fulfill God's economy and only Christ is the answer to God's requirements in His economy; the picture portrayed by Jeremiah show that we are nothing and that Christ is everything to us: **A.** Jeremiah speaks of Christ, in the fulfilling of God's economy, being our righteousness and our redemption, of God being the fountain of living water, of Christ being our food, and of Christ as the reality of the new covenant with all its blessings: One the one hand, we may say that the new covenant is synonymous with God's economy, being the contents and substance of God's economy. /On the other hand, we may say that the new covenant is the way that God fulfills, or accomplishes, His economy. **B.** Christ is the reality of the new testament, the new covenant, the reality of all that God is and of all that God has given to us; therefore, Christ is the new covenant: The bequests are many, but all these many bequests are actually one person—the pneumatic Christ. /We need to take the ancient paths of our forefathers by walking in the way of the new covenant focused on the economy of God, the way that leads to life; the bypaths are the paths of Satan's schemes according to his devious stratagems that lead to destruction; to take the bypaths is to go downward, but to take the ancient paths, a way that is cast up, is to go upward. /In the new covenant, the eternal covenant, God gives us one heart and one way; the one heart is a heart to love God, to seek God, to live God, and to be constituted with God so that we may be His expression; the one way is the Triune God Himself as the inner law of life with its divine capacity; this one heart and one way are the one accord. **C.** As the ascended One sitting on the throne in the heavens, Christ is now executing the new covenant, which He has bequeathed to us as a testament, interceding for us and ministering to us that we may realize, experience, and enjoy all the bequests contained in the new testament: The new testament, the new covenant, the will, has been validated by Christ's death and is being executed and enforced by Christ in His resurrection and ascension. **D.** If we would receive the application of all the blessings in the new covenant, we need to be those who respond to Christ's heavenly ministry: For centuries Christ has tried without adequate success to gain a group of people to respond to His ministry in the heavens. /By the Lord's mercy and grace, there is on earth today a group of people in the Lord's recovery responding to the heavenly ministry of Christ. /The Father promised everything, and the Lord Jesus accomplished everything; now all the accomplished facts have been itemized in the will as our bequests. /If we have the heavenly view of the new testament, the new covenant, our concept will be changed, we will be radically revolutionized, and we will be beside ourselves with praise to the Lord. **E.** In this new covenant in Jeremiah 31:31-34, we see we have the church, the kingdom of God, God's household, the house of God as God's dwelling place in our spirit, the new man, and the Body of Christ as the fullness of the processed and consummated Triune God.

CP1: To let the inner life to grow, **1** go to the meetings of the church and exercise your spirit, **2** have a personal and intimate fellowship with the Lord **3** work for the Lord in oneness with Him

OL1: "Blessed is the man who trusts in Jehovah / And whose trust Jehovah is. / And he will be like a tree transplanted beside water, / Which sends out its roots by a stream, / And will not be afraid when heat comes; / For its leaves remain flourishing, / And it will not be anxious in the year of drought / And will not cease to bear fruit" (Jer. 17:7-8).

OL2: In order to grow in life for the building up of the Body of Christ, we need to absorb God by taking root downward and bearing fruit upward; this means that we need to have hidden times of fellowship with God; the empowering, enlightening, enjoying of rest, rejoicing, believing, solving of problems, overcoming of trials, temptations, and hardships, and comforting for a Christian all depend upon his secret fellowship with God through prayer and God's word.

OL3: Man was created not to work first but to be satisfied with God and rest with God; with God it is a matter of working and resting, but with man it is a matter of resting and working. 21-22 ... Take heed to your souls and bear no burden on the Sabbath day, nor bring anything through the gates of Jerusalem. And do not bring out any burden from your houses on the Sabbath day, nor do any work; but sanctify the Sabbath day, as I commanded your fathers. **OL4:** On the day of Pentecost the disciples were filled with the Spirit, which means that they were filled with the enjoyment of Christ as the heavenly wine.

If the saints in a particular locality are short of the growth of life, they cannot have the proper church life. Actually, the reality of the church does not exist among them. Yes, they are a local church in name, but they do not have the reality of the church. The church exists as a gathering of saved people, but it cannot be considered a reality in the growth of life and in the experience and enjoyment of Christ. Furthermore, where the growth of life is lacking, the believers' Christian life will be a mess, the church life will be damaged, and the Body life will be destroyed. ... Because they did not have the normal growth in life, they did not have the proper Christian life, church life, and Body life.

If we do not know how to have enjoyment with God and how to enjoy God Himself, we shall not know how to work with Him. ... We do emphasize the matter of working with God and not working for God by our own strength. Yes, we should work with God and even by God. But ... it is not even sufficient merely to work with God. We need to be one with God in His work. This requires that we enjoy Him.

Application: New ones and Youth/College students

God's economy is that God dispenses Himself into man to become his enjoyment, satisfaction, joy, and rest, and then work with God in oneness with Him.

To grow in the life of the Lord within, you should **1** come to the meeting of the church and exercise your spirit. **2** have a hidden, personal fellowship with the Lord. **3** work for the Lord in oneness with Him. These are three important secrets for your growth in God's economy.

1 come to the meeting and exercise your spirit: Psa.73:16

When I considered this in order to understand it, It was a troublesome task in my sight, 17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I perceived their end. FN "sanctuary": The solution to the psalmist's perplexity concerning the prosperity of the wicked was obtained in God's sanctuary. First, God's sanctuary, His habitation, is in our spirit and, second, it is the church. Thus, to go into the sanctuary of God, we need to turn to our spirit and go to the meetings of the church. Once we are in the sanctuary—in the spirit and in the church—we will have another view, a particular perception, of the situation concerning the wicked. In our spirit and in the church, we receive divine revelation and obtain the explanation to all our problems.

For example, you may wonder, "How is it that I've got Christ inside and my grades are low, but unbelievers have better grades than I do? When you come to the church meeting, there is light there and there will be an answer to this question. The growth of life takes place gradually. Likewise, your grade cannot be improved suddenly. However, if you work on your studies with patience in the Lord, you will surely be able to improve your grades gradually. You should not be in a hurry or think that you will not have time to study if you go to meetings, please sing aloud and enjoy the hymnals. And when you are studying, be diligent and concentrate and work hard with the Lord.

2 have a hidden, personal fellowship with the Lord:

For example, you are filled with problems of relationship with friends. At these moments, please open up honestly, fellowship with the Lord personally and pray "Lord, I am troubled. But I cannot continue to remain in the darkness. Please save me from darkness. I cast this anxiety to the Lord," Then the Lord can enlighten you and encourage you. If you are enlightened, please confess your sins; and if you are encouraged, please trust in the Lord to move forward in strength.

3 work for the Lord in oneness with Him:

If we do not know how to enjoy God Himself and how to be filled with Him, then we do not know how to work with Him and be one with Him in His divine work. Man enjoys what God has fulfilled in His work.

When carrying out framework for gospel in church life, we must spend half an hour (at least 15 minutes) to pray-read the Word or outlines, etc., enjoy the Lord and be filled with the Holy Spirit before going out for the gospel. Otherwise, we cannot be one with the Lord and work for Him.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, God's economy is that God dispenses Himself into man, to make Him enjoyment, satisfaction, joy and rest. I come to the church meeting and enjoy the Lord by exercising my spirit with brothers and sisters. And personally, I call upon the name of the Lord, have intimate fellowship with the Lord, take root in hidden places, and absorb the Lord. After enjoying the Lord to the fullest, let me be one with the Lord to study and gradually improve my grades for His testimony. Amen!"

CP2: Rest with God, enjoy God, be filled with God, be one with God and then work for God by making God as energy

OL1: As God's people, we must bear a sign that we rest with God, enjoy God, and are filled up with God first; then we work with the very One who fills us; furthermore, we not only work with God but also work by being one with God, having Him as our strength to work and our energy to labor. **Exo. 31:13** ...You shall surely keep My Sabbaths; for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am Jehovah who sanctifies you. **OL2:** We need to take the ancient paths of our forefathers by walking in the way of the new covenant focused on the economy of God, the way that leads to life; the bypaths are the paths of Satan's schemes according to his devious stratagems that lead to destruction; to take the bypaths is to go downward, but to take the ancient paths, a way that is cast up, is to go upward.

Jer. 18:15 But My people have forgotten Me; They burn incense to vanity, And they have been stumbled in their ways From the ancient paths To walk on bypaths, On a way which is not cast up,

It seems as if God were saying, "Do not forget My Sabbath....Even in doing My divine work, the work of building the tabernacle, you must still bear a sign to indicate that you are My people and you need Me. Therefore you need to enjoy Me first. Then you will be able to work not only for Me, but also with Me and by being one with Me. I will be your strength to work and your energy to labor. But if you work in yourself and by yourself, that will be an insult to Me. You must do the work of building My dwelling place with Me, by Me, and in oneness with Me. I shall be very happy if you work in this way....You are My people, and you should bear a sign that you need Me to be your enjoyment, strength, and energy. You need Me to be your everything so that you may be able to work for Me. By working in this way, you honor Me and glorify Me. This is to bear a sign indicating that you are My people."

I can testify that every time I stand up to minister the Word, my unique prayer is that I would be one with the Lord in my speaking. I pray repeatedly, "Lord, in my speaking I want to practice being one spirit with You so that my speaking will be Your speaking. Lord, it must be that You speak in my speaking. If You are not one with me, I will not speak anything. I would never speak in my empty self. That would be a blasphemy to You, an insult to You. Lord, I would speak not only with You, but also by being one with You...."

Application to the serving ones

You as the minister of the New Testament are also a prophet. Prophets are those who treasure, seek and speak the word of God. "And if you bring out the precious from the worthless, You will be as My mouth." (Jeremiah 15:19). **To take, to receive, and to keep the word of God as the expression of His thought, His will, His heart's desire, and**

His good pleasure, we must be absolutely one with God, trusting in Him, relying on Him, and not having any opinion that comes from the self. We must treasure the Lord's words more than all earthly riches so that we can speak oracles of God to dispense the unsearchable riches of Christ as the varied grace of God to all the saints.

In the prophesying at the Lord's day meeting every week, please train yourself to speak the word of God. As the training and learning are needed for Japanese to speak English, you need training and learning to speak the word of God. If you practice, you will gradually improve but if you don't practice, no possibility of progress. You should check the points you enjoyed every day and review them on Saturday and on the Lord's day add the instant inspiration to it and prophesy it in the sense of oneness with God by exercising your spirit. Hope you would faithfully practice this training and learning every week.

I Cor. 14:23 If therefore the whole church comes together in one place,...**24**...all prophesy and some unbeliever ...enters, he is convicted by all, he is examined by all;**31**For you can all prophesy one by one that all may learn and all may be encouraged.

Also, you are a laboring priest of the gospel. **Rom15:16** That I might be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, a laboring priest of the gospel of God, in order that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, having been sanctified in the Holy Spirit. Don't take an easy way that goes down. For example, the praying and going out (including online contact) for the gospel and shepherding are labors. But only by labors, you can bear the remaining fruit. If you practice gospel and shepherding faithfully, you will happen to meet the backsliding saints, finding seeking Christians or suffering gospel friends and seize the chance of bearing remaining fruit.

The church in Kobe set up the revised 20% upward goal. **The goal for the Lord's day meeting: goal/base, 187/156, Motoyama 40/30, Motoyama young people 24.5/21.5, Uozaki30/25, Syukugawa27/26, Rokko 31.5/27.5, Sannomiya 19/12, Kobe 15/14.** Please break down the goal to each vital group and set up the goal for each group. Then to attain the goals of the church as a whole, the district and vital groups, pray and act in one accord by making God our enjoyment, strength and energy. **Prayer:** "Oh Lord Jesus, let me rest with God, enjoy God, be filled with God. So that I can bear a sign as the people of God. But if I work in myself and by myself, that will be the insult to God. I will learn to rest in the Lord, be one with the Lord and speak the word of God to supply the new ones. Let me pray and act toward the goal of my district and vital group by coordinating with the saints and make God my enjoyment, strength and energy. Amen!"

CP3: Take the blood of the Lord, use the Spirit of faith, come forward to the throne of grace, enjoy mercy and find grace for timely help

OL1: In the new covenant, the eternal covenant, God gives us one heart and one way; the one heart is a heart to love God, to seek God, to live God, and to be constituted with God so that we may be His expression; the one way is the Triune God Himself as the inner law of life with its divine capacity; this one heart and one way are the one accord.

Jer. 31:33-34 But this is the covenant...: I will put My law in their inward parts and write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they will be My people....All of them will know Me, from the little one among them even to the great one among them, declares Jehovah, for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more. **OL2:**

As the ascended One sitting on the throne in the heavens, Christ is now executing the new covenant, which He has bequeathed to us as a testament, interceding for us and ministering to us that we may realize, experience, and enjoy all the bequests contained in the new testament.

OL3: The new testament, the new covenant, the will, has been validated by Christ's death and is being executed and enforced by Christ in His resurrection and ascension. **OL4:**

If we would receive the application of all the blessings in the new covenant, we need to be those who respond to Christ's heavenly ministry. **OL5:** For centuries Christ has tried without adequate success to gain a group of people to respond to His ministry in the heavens. By the Lord's mercy and grace, there is on earth today a group of people in the Lord's recovery responding to the heavenly ministry of Christ.

In Jeremiah 31, Jeremiah laid the foundation of the new covenant, prophesying that God will put His law within us; that He will write His law into our mind that we may know God; that God will be our God and we will be His people; that we will not need anyone to teach us, because we will all have a teaching life within us; and that God will forgive our iniquity and remember our sins no longer. In the new covenant we enjoy the inner law of life. This law of life brings us God's person and also the divine capacity of the divine life, which can accomplish everything for God to fulfill His economy. By the inner law of life we have the capacity to know God, to live God, and even to be constituted with God in His life and nature so that we may be His corporate expression.

Our spirit is joined to the heavenly Holy of Holies. When we turn to our spirit and exercise it, we enter within the veil. Here we participate in the heavenly ministry of the heavenly Christ. Here we are saturated and permeated with all the divine riches that make us the corporate reproduction of the firstborn Son of God for His expression. Here we receive grace and are strengthened to go outside the camp and follow Him on the pathway of the cross.

Application to Business person/Graduate students

Business people are in very difficult situations because they may be involved in a competition with colleagues or their bosses may set strict goals. This oppressive situation is actually a good opportunity to experience the bequests of the New Testament.

Heb. 4:16 Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.

7:25 Hence also He is able to save to the uttermost those who come forward to God through Him, since He lives always to intercede for them.

For example, business requires insight, inner realization concerning things, determination, and execution. Although people want these abilities, but they do not have these abilities. Even when they actually have to make a decision, it's hard to make a decision. That's because they lack the inner realization concerning things, so they don't get the big picture. But Hallelujah, praise the Lord. The Lord Jesus Himself is the reality of these abilities. You must use the spirit of faith to come forward to the throne of grace. Then the Lord will give you the grace for timely help. This grace includes all of the above abilities. Apply the blood of the Lord, come forward with boldness and enjoy the grace for timely help. Then the Lord can save you to the uttermost.

Heb.10:19 Having therefore, brothers, boldness for entering the Holy of Holies in the blood of Jesus,

If you have a heavenly view of a new will, your ideas will be changed, you will have a radical transformation, you will forget yourself and praise the Lord. May the Lord have mercy on you, and you can see the wonderful blessings of the new covenant.

Moreover, you should care not only for your business, but also for God's needs. When the coronavirus is epidemic around the world (pale horse runs), local churches should carry out God's will to accelerate the white horse of the Gospel. In response to Christ's heavenly ministry, local churches need to pray for the gospel and carry out the gospel.

The three most important things for local churches are **1** having one accord, **2** everyone growing, **3** everyone functioning. **Eph. 4:15** But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ, **16** Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

If you enjoy the bequest of the new covenant, you can have one accord, grow into the Head, Christ, and function to build up the Body of Christ.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, the resurrected and ascended Christ is interceding for us to execute the new covenant bequeathed to us. Therefore, I can now realize, experience and enjoy all the bequests contained in the new will. The insights, inner realization concerning things, determination, and execution that are necessary for business are all included in the grace of this bequest. When coming forward to the throne of grace, I will participate in the grace for timely help."