

# A TIMELY WORD CONCERNING THE WORLD SITUATION AND THE LORD'S RECOVERY:

## #6: The Preparation of the Bride (8/24-30)

### Outline Summary:

**I.** The marriage of the Lamb is the issue of the completion of God's New Testament economy, which is to obtain for Christ a bride, the church, through His judicial redemption and by His organic salvation in His divine life.

**II.** The Lord's recovery is for the preparation of the bride of Christ, who is composed of all His overcomers: **A.** All the overcomers will be the New Jerusalem as the bride of Christ for one thousand years in its initial and fresh stage. **B.** Eventually, all the believers will join the overcomers to consummate and complete the New Jerusalem in full as the wife of Christ in the new heaven and new earth for eternity.

**III.** The readiness of the corporate bride depends on the maturity in life of the overcomers: **A.** In the New Testament the word perfect is used to refer to the believers' being full-grown, mature, and perfected in the life of God, indicating that we need to grow and mature unto perfection in the divine life. **B.** We need to continue to grow until we are matured in the divine life to become a full-grown man, arriving at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. **C.** In order for the bride to be mature, her faith and love need to be fully developed: Faith and love are two inseparable, excellent virtues of the believers in Christ. /Through faith we receive the Lord, and through love we enjoy the Lord whom we have received. /Faith is given to us by God that by it we may receive Christ, the embodiment of the Triune God, and thereby enter into the Triune God and be joined to Him as one, having Him as our life, life supply, and everything. /Love issues out of faith and enables us to live out all the riches of the Triune God with those who have believed into Christ with us in order that the Triune God may have a glorious corporate expression.

**IV.** In addition to being mature in life, the bride must be built up as a corporate person: **A.** God's building is the desire of God's heart and the goal of God's salvation. **B.** God intends to have a building in which God and man, man and God, can be a mutual abode to each other. **C.** The principle of God's building is that God builds Himself into man and builds man into Himself: /God's mingling Himself with man is God's building Himself into man. /Man's mingling with God is man's being built into God. **D.** To be built up with fellow believers is the Lord's supreme and highest requirement of His faithful seekers. **E.** Being built up with the fellow partakers of the divine life is the highest virtue of one who pursues Christ in God's eternal economy.

**V.** The bride's wedding garment is of "fine linen, bright and clean": **A.** Clean refers to the nature, and bright refers to the expression. **B.** The fine linen with which the bride is clothed is "the righteousnesses of the saints": Christ is the righteousness by which we have been justified by God so that we may be reborn in our spirit to receive the divine life: As our objective righteousness, Christ is the One in whom we are justified by God. /As our subjective righteousness, Christ is the One dwelling in us to live for us a life that can be justified by God and that is always acceptable by God. /If we are to be found in Christ, we must fulfill the condition of not having our own righteousness but instead having a righteousness which is not our own—a righteousness which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith. /The righteousness we received for our salvation is objective and enables us to meet the requirement of the righteous of God, whereas the righteousnesses of the overcoming saints are subjective and

enable them to meet the requirement of the overcoming Christ. /The wedding garment in Matthew 22 : 11-13 signifies the Christ whom we live out and who is expressed through us in our daily living as our surpassing righteousness.

**VI.** For the presentation of the bride to the Bridegroom, the bride needs beauty: **A.** In Song of Songs the lover and the Beloved both have beauty, and they appreciate the beauty in each other. **B.** Ephesians 5:27 speaks of the beauty of the bride, revealing that Christ will "present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish." **C.** The beauty of the bride comes from the Christ who is wrought into the church and who is then expressed through the church. **D.** Our only beauty is the shining out of Christ from within us; what Christ appreciates in us is the expression of Himself. **E.** "Your eyes will see the King in His beauty" (Isa. 33:17); "the King will desire your beauty" (Psa. 45:11). **F.** "You are as beautiful, my love, as Tirzah, / As lovely as Jerusalem, / As terrible as an army with banners" (S.S. 6:4).

**VII.** The bride must also be a warrior for the defeating of God's enemy: **A.** In Ephesians 5:25-27 and 6:10-20 we see the church as the bride and the warrior; in Revelation 19 we also have these two aspects of the church. **B.** On the day of His wedding, Christ will marry those who have been fighting the battle against God's enemy for years; that is, Christ will marry the overcomers, who have already overcome the evil one. **C.** Christ will come as a fighting General with His bride as His army to fight against Antichrist at Armageddon: /When Christ comes with His army, He will come as the Son of Man. /As the Son of Man, He will need a counterpart to match and complete Him; this counterpart will be His bride. /Because the Lord is the Word, His fighting will be the speaking of the word of God. /As the Lord fights, He speaks for God and expresses God. /The Lord's fighting at Armageddon will be a powerful speaking. /The wedding garment—Christ lived out of us as our daily righteousness—qualifies us not only to attend the wedding but also to join the army to fight with Christ against Antichrist in the war at Armageddon.

**VIII.** The corporate Christ, Christ with His overcoming bride, will come as a stone to crush the aggregate of human government to bring in God's kingdom: **A.** Whereas Daniel 2 speaks of Christ coming as a stone cut out without hands, Revelation 19 speaks of Christ coming as the One who has His bride as His army. **B.** Before Christ descends to earth to deal with Antichrist and the totality of human government, He will have a wedding, uniting His overcomers to Himself as one entity. **C.** After His wedding, the Lord will come with His newly married bride to destroy Antichrist, who with his army will fight against God directly: The Lord Jesus, the Word of God, will slay Antichrist, the man of lawlessness, by the breath of His mouth. **D.** After crushing the human government, God will have cleared up the entire universe; then the corporate Christ, Christ with His overcomers, will become a great mountain to fill the whole earth, making the whole earth God's kingdom.

### Church announcement and fellowship

**September's Special Conference:** This year will be held at each local church. The schedule for Kobe is as follows. Watch Brother Ed's messages through video.

**9/19 (Sat)** M1 10:00-12:00, M2 13:15-15:15 @ Motoyama/Uozaki/Rokko, **9/20(LD)** M3 13:00-15:00 @ Motoyama/Uozaki/Rokko/ Sannomiya, **9/21(Mon)** M4 10:30-12:30 @Mt. Rokko Rejoice Garden, 12:30-13:30 Lunch, 13:30-15:30 Gospel blending, **9/22(Tue)** 9:30-11:00 Prayer Meeting@ Motoyama/Uozaki/ Rokko, after that gospel/shepherding for each vital group.

**CP1: The Lord's recovery is for the preparation of the bride of Christ, bringing the Lord's return and turning the age**

**Rev. 19:7** Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come...and His wife has made herself ready. **9** And he said to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God.

**Eph. 4:13** Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

**OL1:** The marriage of the Lamb is the issue of the completion of God's New Testament economy, which is to obtain for Christ a bride, the church, through His judicial redemption and by His organic salvation in His divine life. **OL2:** The Lord's recovery is for the preparation of the bride of Christ, who is composed of all His overcomers. **OL3:** The readiness of the corporate bride depends on the maturity in life of the overcomers. In order for the bride to be mature, her faith and love need to be fully developed. **OL4:** In addition to being mature in life, the bride must be built up as a corporate person. **OL5:** To be built up with fellow believers is the Lord's supreme and highest requirement of His faithful seekers.

Some may say that the work of preparing the bride is among the spiritual ones in Catholicism, the denominations, and the independent groups. According to this view, Christ will gather together all these spiritual ones and form them into His bride at the time of His coming. However, this is not the Lord's way. He is not coming to collect those who will constitute the bride; He is coming to present to Himself the bride who has already been prepared. This preparation, I believe, involves the work of building corporately. Those who make up the bride must not only be mature in life; they must also be built together as the one bride. Therefore, I firmly believe that the Lord is preparing His bride among those in His recovery.

I am burdened that we would all realize that the Lord's recovery is not another Christian movement or an ordinary Christian work. The work in the recovery is the Lord's genuine work to prepare His bride. I believe that in the years to come, more of those who seek the Lord faithfully will turn to the way of His recovery. They will realize that nowhere else do they have the inward confirmation. When we turned to the way of the Lord's recovery, we had the sense deep within that the Lord had put His seal on the way we are taking. The primary work of the Lord in His recovery is not to preach the gospel throughout the earth; it is to prepare His bride.

Do you have the assurance that you will be included as part of the bride?... I do not believe that anyone who is merely a Sunday-goer can be part of the Lord's bride. When the time comes for the Lord to take His bride, will you be ready? Will you be qualified and matured?... We all need to grow and mature so that we may be qualified at the Lord's coming to be included as part of His bride.

**Application to Business person/Graduate student**

The purpose of the Lord's recovery is to build the corporate Body of Christ and prepare the corporate bride of Christ. You should be open to the divine dispensing, experiencing God being built into man and man being built into God, and be transformed and built up with others. In other words, the purpose of the Lord's recovery is not to have many individual spiritual persons. You must serve in coordination with the brothers and sisters arranged for you.

**Testimony of a brother:** During the last six months of my full-time training in Taiwan (FTTT, 1986-1988), my team member, a relatively older sister from the Netherlands, said to me for I was a team leader, "You have been baptizing a lot of people, but I can hardly baptize anyone. (you're a leader) Why don't you help me?" I was angry in my heart and said, "Isn't it your fault that you can't baptize anyone? Why don't you do what I'm saying?" But the Holy Spirit spoke her words in my heart many times and enlightened my individualism within. After that, I was so bothered that I read a lot of messages about the building, which had been released by brothers Witness Lee in Taiwan in the 1960s. With the help of these messages about the building, I was able to learn especially "serving in coordination with fellow believers" and "leadership," and actually was able to help that sister. Hallelujah! In order to prepare the corporate bride, my individualism needs to be dealt with and I need the coordination with others. With this experience, I learned the secrets of taking leadership in a company and bringing the organization together to move forward.

Moreover, the bride of Christ is constituted by the overcomers. As a business person, you should have the ambition to become an overcomer and experience Christ at work for the testimony of the Lord, that is with faith and love, limit overtime for the church life and the gospel, and support the church financially and work diligently. In that way, you can be blessed because your business life is connected to God's economy and becomes an overcomer who is a part of the bride.

**Prayer:** "Oh! Lord Jesus, what the Lord needs is not many individual spiritual ones, but the corporate bride that is coordinated and built up in life. Lord, deal with my individualism for the building. May I experience Christ in the workplace for the testimony of the Lord, consecrate myself to the church life, and be part of the bride, with the ambition to be an overcomer. The bride brings in Lord's return and turns the age. Amen"

**CP2: Thirst for righteousness, put on wedding garment by living out subjective righteousness and express the beauty of the bride**

**Rev. 19:8** And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints. **Phil. 3:9** And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith.

[Eph. 5:27](#) That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.

**OL1:**The bride's wedding garment is of "fine linen, bright and clean". **OL2:**Christ is the righteousness by which we have been justified by God so that we may be reborn in our spirit to receive the divine life. **OL3:**As our subjective righteousness, Christ is the One dwelling in us to live for us a life that can be justified by God and that is always acceptable to God. **OL4:**The wedding garment signifies the Christ whom we live out and who is expressed through us in our daily living as our surpassing righteousness. **OL5:**For the presentation of the bride to the Bridegroom, the bride needs beauty. The beauty of the bride comes from the Christ who is wrought into the church and who is then expressed through the church. "You are as beautiful, my love, as Tirzah, / As lovely as Jerusalem, / As terrible as an army with banners"—S. S. 6:4.

According to the revelation of the whole Bible, we, the saved ones, need two garments—one for our salvation and one for our reward. For our salvation we need a robe to cover us. This robe is the robe put on the prodigal son in Luke 15. Upon his return, the prodigal son...thought himself unworthy to be in the presence of the father. But the father said to his servants, "Bring out quickly the best robe and put it on him" (Luke 15:22). This robe is Christ as our righteousness. It is for us to be justified by God in His presence.

However, we also need the second garment, which is the wedding garment in Matthew 22:11 and 12. This garment is not for our salvation; rather, it is for our reward, qualifying us to attend the wedding feast of the Son of God. The first garment qualifies us to meet God for our salvation. The second garment qualifies us to meet Christ for our reward. The second garment is the work of the Holy Spirit within us. It is actually the very Christ by whom we live and whom we live out. It is the Christ expressed through us in our daily living. This is the righteousnesses of the saints in Revelation 19:8.

First, Christ must come into us and then be assimilated by us. Then He will be able to shine out of us. This shining is the glory of the bride, the manifestation of divinity through humanity. Real beauty is the expression of the divine attributes through humanity. Nothing in the universe is as beautiful as this expression. Therefore, the beauty of the bride is Christ shining out of us....Through our humanity there is an expression of the divine color, the divine appearance, the divine flavor, the divine nature, and the divine character. Hallelujah for such a beauty!

**Application: to new ones, Youth/College students**

[Matt. 5:6](#) Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. FN"Thirst for righteousness": Righteousness here denotes our being right in our behavior. We need to hunger and thirst for this righteousness, to seek after such righteousness, that we may enter into the kingdom of the heavens.

[20](#) For I say to you that unless your righteousness

surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall by no means enter into the kingdom of the heavens.

The standard of Justice of the degraded man is very low. Many Japanese think they are righteous if they are not involved in any sin like bullying. People pretend that they are not seeing it because if you help those getting bullied, you also might be the target of bullying. According to Japanese righteousness, this is not unrighteous. But unless your righteousness surpasses the human righteousness that is lowered by the individualism etc. you are not living out the subjective righteousness as the second garment and you cannot be an overcomer.

When you are practicing the righteousness, the idea of "practicing the righteousness is difficult because I need to take heed that I would not be involved in it" comes from Satan. The Bible admonishes us to thirst for righteousness. Please reject Satan's proposal and thirst for righteousness according to the Bible and also the Spirit and practice righteousness. For example if there is anyone being bullied, you should support that person and show the people around that you are against bullying. When you practice righteousness, put the idea of "is it for my benefit or not" onto the cross. Otherwise you would never be a person who thirsts for righteousness. Actually by practicing righteousness, you would not suffer loss but God blesses you.

**Sister's testimony:** When I bought something at a store, after I went back home, I noticed that there was an item that I didn't pay. Because owning this item is unrighteous, I explained situation and returned the item. That store was touched by my act and they offered me their gift certificate. [John 8:44](#) You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks the lie, he speaks it out of his own possessions; for he is a liar and the father of it. \_

When you practice righteousness, you need to thoroughly deal with lying. If you think "it is all right just to tell a little lie" and consider your own benefit, that idea is clearly from devil.

**Prayer:** "Oh Lord Jesus, I thirst for righteousness to become an overcomer. Not following the human righteousness which is low in standard, I would live out Christ as the life of righteousness and practice righteousness. I confess my sins of individualism, counting my own interest, pretending, lying within me. Forgive my sins. Let me express Christ and become an overcomer who wears the second garment. Amen! "

**CP3:** Becoming a corporate bridal army, speaking the word of God every day, fight against Satan, and keep fighting. Eventually in the Battle of Armageddon, defeat the Antichrist with God's Word and bring in the Kingdom of God.

[Eph. 6:10](#) Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the

might of His strength. [Rev. 19:13](#) And He is clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and His name is called the Word of God. [14](#) And the armies which are in heaven followed Him on white horses, dressed in fine linen, white and clean. [15](#) And out of His mouth proceeds a sharp sword, that with it He might smite the nations...

[OL1](#): The bride must also be a warrior for the defeating of God's enemy. [OL2](#): The corporate Christ, Christ with His overcoming bride, will come as a stone to crush the aggregate of human government to bring in God's kingdom.

The wedding garment of "fine linen, bright and clean" [\[Rev. 19:8\]](#) will be the armor for fighting. The overcomers who are the heavenly armies are those who constitute the bride of Christ. In other words, it will be the bride of Christ who will follow Him as His army to fight and destroy Antichrist and his army. Those who have overcome every obstacle will be Christ's co-fighters in the final battle against Antichrist. These are His bride. They have become His co-fighters by His ministering the rich life supply to them.

Just as in Ephesians 5 and 6 we see the church as the bride and as the warrior, in Revelation 19 we also have these two aspects of the church. As the church, we are the bride and the warrior. In God's economy there is one army constituted of a corporate warrior. This means that the warrior in Ephesians 6 is a corporate entity. Only as a corporate entity, the Body, can we put on the whole armor of God. This is contrary to the concept held by many Christians that an individual believer is able to wear the entire armor. The armor in Ephesians 6 is not for Christians as individuals; it is for the church corporately as the Body, ...a corporate army. According to 6:17 and 18, we receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit by means of all prayer and petition.... Among the various items of the armor, only the sword is for offensive warfare; that is, it is the only item of God's armor used for attacking the enemy.... Satan is not only the enemy outside of us; he is also the adversary within us.... Because the enemy's elements are within us, we need the killing power of the word to be applied to our being subjectively. Pray-reading the Word of God is the way to kill the adversary within us. Every day and in every kind of situation, we should pray-read.

In Revelation 19, as the Word of God, Christ speaks for God by executing God's judgment upon the rebellious people....The fighting of Christ is the speaking of the Word of God. God is righteous and sovereign. He is also a God of order, and as such He cannot tolerate disorder and rebellion. As Christ fights against the enemy, He will speak that God is sovereign, righteous, and orderly. He will declare that God is the God over everyone and that He does not tolerate rebellion against His authority. Hence, the Warrior is the Word. His fighting is the speaking of God's Word.

#### [Application to the serving ones](#)

The wedding garment (Christ, lived out from us as our daily righteousness) not only qualifies us to participate in the

wedding but also qualifies us to join the army with Christ in the battle of Armageddon to fight against the Antichrist. The overcomers are the bridal army. Satan is not only the enemy outside of you; he is also enemy who lives within your flesh. So when you put your mind on the flesh, you would talk to Satan and speak unbelieving words. The result is death. [Rom. 8:6](#) For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

For example, before you serve, you think "I will be praised by brothers and sisters for this service." This is setting the mind on the flesh. You need to confess the sins of accepting the words from Satan, murmuring in your heart, and be cleansed with the blood of the Son, Jesus. Never serve with a dirty mind. God is not mocked. [Gal. 6:7](#) Do not be deceived: God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. [8](#) For he who sows unto his own flesh will reap corruption of the flesh, but he who sows unto the Spirit will of the Spirit reap eternal life.

The way to deal with the dirty thoughts on the flesh is to pray-read the word of the Lord. The Lord Jesus kills the Antichrist by the word of God. Similarly, killing Satan's wicked whispers inside of you is by praying the word of God. Actually, such Satan's whispers and accusations are repeated many times during a day, so you must constantly pray in the spirit and proclaim the Word. Only by His Word can you resist Satan's accusation. Also, only by the Word can you confess your sins by noticing your own filthiness. As a serving one, you have to pray-read the Word every morning to be recovered, ruminating the Word all day long, and pray in the Spirit using the Word. If you are a person who continues to fight all day long, you will be an overcomer who will fight with Christ in the Battle of Armageddon against the Antichrist.

[A Testimony of a Brother's Failure](#): When I was in my fourth year of college in December, a brother who is in charge of the church, said to me, "I want you to save another student before you move on to graduate school." I prayed to the Lord and brought a junior university student to salvation about a week later. At this time Satan whispered to me, "Look back and recall. During the second to fourth years of college, about 40 people were saved. You passed the graduate school, and now saved another one. Wouldn't it be nice for you to pay attention to your strength and be a little proud of it?" After accepting these whispers, I fell into the darkness, became a slave of Satan, and the painful days lasted for about 3 months before moving. Accepting Satan's whispers is terrifying.

[Prayer](#): "Oh Lord Jesus, Satan is the inner enemy who lives in my flesh. When I set my mind on the flesh and talk to Satan, the result is death. Forgive my sins and cleanse me. Every morning I pray-read the Word in spirit, be recovered, pray using the Word, and keep fighting against Satan, who accuses me day and night. Make me a part of the corporate bridal army who defeats the enemy of God. Amen!"