

2017 5/15-5/21

God's Sovereignty, the Divine History within the Human History, and the World Situation and God's Move to Spread His Recovery (Hymn 438)

<p>I. It is crucial that we see a vision of God's sovereignty and have a clear view and proper understanding of God's sovereignty:</p> <p><u>Romans9:19</u> You will say to me then, Why does He still find fault? For who withstands His will? <u>20</u> But rather, O man, who are you who answer back to God? Shall the thing molded say to him who molded it, Why did you make me thus? <u>21</u> Or does not the potter have authority over the clay to make out of the same lump one vessel unto honor and another unto dishonor? <u>22</u> And what if God, wishing to demonstrate His wrath and make His power known, endured with much long-suffering vessels of wrath fitted for destruction, <u>23</u> In order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He had before prepared unto glory,</p> <p><u>Daniel4:1</u> Nebuchadnezzar the king to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in the whole earth: May your peace abound! <u>2</u> It pleases me to declare the signs and wonders that God the Most High has done for me. <u>3</u> How great are His signs, And how mighty are His wonders! His kingdom is an eternal kingdom, And His dominion is from generation to generation. <u>34</u> And at the end of those days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted up my eyes to heaven, and reason returned to me; and I blessed the Most High, and I praised and honored the ever-living One; For His dominion is an eternal dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation; <u>35</u> And all the inhabitants of earth are considered as nothing, But He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth; And there is no one who can resist His hand Or say to Him, What are You doing?</p>	<p>A. Sovereignty refers to God's absolute and unlimited right, authority, power, and position.</p> <p>B. As the sovereign One, God is above everything, behind everything, and in everything.</p> <p>C. God has the full capacity to carry out what He wants according to the desire of His heart and according to His eternal economy.</p> <p>D. Like Jeremiah, we need to change our position and angle from ourselves to God and recognize God's eternal being and His eternal and unchanging government.</p> <p><u>Lamentations5:19</u> You, O Jehovah, abide forever; Your throne is from generation to generation.</p> <p>E. The book of Revelation is a book of God's administration, unveiling the throne of God for the divine administration throughout the universe. <u>Revelation 4:2</u> Immediately I was in spirit; and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and upon the throne there was One sitting; <u>5:1</u> And I saw on the right hand of Him who sits upon the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed up with seven seals.</p> <p>F. Romans 9:19-23 refers to God's sovereignty:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We need to realize that we are God's creatures, and He is our Creator; as His creatures, we should not resist His purpose or answer back to Him, the Creator. 2. Romans 9:22-23 reveals that God sovereignly created us to be His vessels, His containers, according to His predestination. <u>2 Timothy2:20</u> But in a great house there are not only gold and silver vessels but also wooden and earthen; and some are unto honor, and some unto dishonor. 3. In His sovereignty God has the authority to make the ones whom He has selected and called vessels of mercy to contain Him in order that His glory might be manifested.
<p>II. The Bible reveals the universal history according to God's economy—the divine history within the human history:</p> <p><u>Micah5:2</u> (But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, So little to be among the thousands of Judah, From you there will come forth to Me He who is to be Ruler in Israel; And His goings forth are from ancient times, From the days of eternity.) <u>Daniel2:31</u> But as for me, this mystery has not been revealed to me because of some wisdom that is in me more than in any other living person, but so that the interpretation may be made known to the king and that you may understand the thoughts of your heart. <u>32</u> Concerning this image, its head was of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its abdomen and its thighs of bronze, <u>33</u> Its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. <u>34</u> You were watching until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the image at its feet of iron and clay and crushed them. <u>35</u> Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at once, and they became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. <u>36</u> This is the dream; and we will tell its interpretation before the king. <u>37</u> You, O king, are king of kings, to whom the God of the heavens has given kingship, power, and strength and glory. <u>38</u> ...You are the head of gold. <u>39</u> And after you another kingdom will arise, inferior to you; and there will be another kingdom, a third one, of bronze, which will rule over all the earth. <u>40</u> And there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron,</p>	<p>A. In this universe there are two histories: the history of man, the human history, and the history of God, the divine history; the former is like an outward shell, and the latter, like the kernel within the shell.</p> <p>B. God's move among men is wrapped up with the course of human history.</p> <p>C. In the Minor Prophets the human history is defined and signified by the four kinds of locusts in Joel 1:4, and the divine history is with Christ and His mighty ones, the overcomers. <u>Joel1:4</u> What the cutting locust has left, the swarming locust has eaten; And what the swarming locust has left, the licking locust has eaten; And what the licking locust has left, the consuming locust has eaten. <u>3:11</u> Hurry and come, All you surrounding nations, And be gathered. There cause Your mighty ones to descend, O Jehovah!</p> <p>D. The divine history within the human history is revealed in the Bible in considerable detail.</p> <p>E. The divine history, the history of God in man, was from Christ's incarnation through His ascension to become the life-giving Spirit and then continues with His indwelling us through God's organic salvation to make us the bride of Christ. <u>Revelation22:17</u> And the Spirit and the bride say, Come! And let him who hears say, Come! And let him who is thirsty come; let him who wills take the water of life freely.</p> <p>F. We were born in the human history, but we have been reborn, regenerated, in the divine</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If our living is in the world, we are living merely in the human history.

<p>inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters everything; and like iron that smashes all these, it will crush and smash. <u>41</u> And in that you saw the feet and the toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom will be a confused mass; but there will be some of the firmness of iron in it, for you saw the iron mixed with the earthy clay. <u>42</u> And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be fragile. <u>43</u> And in that you saw the iron mixed with the earthy clay, they will be mixed together through the seed of men, but they will not cleave to one another, even as iron does not mix with clay. <u>44</u> And in the days of those kings the God of the heavens will raise up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and its reign will not be left to another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms; and it will stand forever. <u>45</u> Inasmuch as you saw that out of the mountain a stone was cut without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will happen afterward; and the dream is certain, and its interpretation trustworthy.</p>	<p>history; now we need to consider whether we are living in the divine history or living merely in the human history: <u>John3:3</u> Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God. <u>1:12</u> But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name, <u>13</u> Who were begotten not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.</p>	<p>2. If we are living in the church, we are living in the divine history, for in the church life God's history is our history, and thus we and God have one history, the divine history. <u>Romans6:6</u> Knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves.</p>
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<p>III. The events of world history have been sovereignly arranged by God for Him to carry out His purpose: <u>Acts17:26</u> And He made from one every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, determining beforehand their appointed seasons and the boundaries of their dwelling, <u>Romans 8:28</u> And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. <u>2 Timothy 1:9</u> Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the times of the ages.</p>	<p>A. We all need a clear view from which to consider the world situation.</p>	
	<p>B. The world situation is under God's sovereign arrangement; God determined the appointed seasons and boundaries.</p>	
	<p>C. For God to carry out His purpose, He has arranged the world situation; history is meaningful when we realize this. <u>Ephesians 3:9</u> And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things, <u>Daniel2:20</u> Daniel answered and said, Let the name of God Be blessed from eternity to eternity, For wisdom and might are His. <u>21</u> And it is He who changes the times and seasons; He deposes kings and causes kings to ascend. He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding.</p>	
	<p>D. All the major events in human history match God's move on earth. <u>Daniel 4:17</u> This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the decision is a command of the holy ones, to the intent that the living may know that the Most High is the Ruler over the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever He wills and sets up over it the lowliest of men.</p>	
	<p>E. Since the church comes out of mankind, we as God's chosen ones need to have this view of history; in order to have the proper church life, we must therefore know the world situation.</p>	
	<p>F. Whether we speak of God's becoming flesh through incarnation, or of the spreading of the gospel, or of the raising up of the church life, or of the preparation of the bride, all these aspects of God's move require the proper environment as far as the world situation in concerned:</p>	<p>1. For Christ's ministry to be carried out, there was the need for the Roman Empire to be established to provide a situation in which redemption could be accomplished and the gospel could be spread.</p>
	<p>2. The Roman Empire was for the gospel; Germany was for the Reformation; Great Britain was for the spreading of the gospel and of the truth; and now the United States has become the center for the recovery, from which it can spread to all the continents.</p>	<p>3. God will use the United States to spread His recovery so that the Lord may return. <u>Revelation 11:15</u> And the seventh angel trumpeted; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever. <u>19:7</u> 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.</p>
	<p>G. If we keep up to date with what is happening today on earth, we will realize that God is controlling the entire world situation under the leadership of the United States for the spreading of His recovery. <u>Matthew 24:14</u> And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole inhabited earth for a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come. <u>28:18</u> And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <u>19</u> Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <u>20</u> Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you all the days until the consummation of the age.</p>	
<p>H. We need to be more aware of God's sovereign arrangement of the world situation, more concerned about the crucial time in which we live, and more burdened for God's move in the present world situation. <u>Matthew 6:33</u> But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.</p>		

Experience: ① Due to God's sovereignty and mercy, we are led unto the glory as precious vessels

In Romans 9:22 Paul continues, "What if God, wishing to demonstrate His wrath and make His power known, endured with much long-suffering vessels of wrath fitted for destruction?" What should we say about this? We have nothing to say. God is the Potter, and He has the authority. Human beings are simply clay.

Paul goes on to say, "...That He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He had before prepared unto glory, even us, whom He has also called, not only from among the Jews but also from among the Gentiles?" [vv. 23-24]. This depends on God's sovereignty. God has the authority to make the ones He has selected and called, not only from among the Jews but also from among the Gentiles, vessels of mercy to contain Him in order that His glory might be manifested. According to His sovereign authority, He has prepared us unto this glory. We were predestinated by His sovereignty to be His containers. This is the climax of our usefulness to God. This is the goal of God's selection according to His sovereignty.

If we are indifferent toward the Lord, we are in danger of not fulfilling our responsibility. But if we are zealous in pursuing the Lord, we must be careful not to boast of our spiritual seeking. If we allow something negative to develop toward the Lord, there will be a serious issue. God may not change this result. Rather, He may allow it to continue, just as He did not show mercy to Pharaoh, but let him stand by himself in order to show forth His power in him.

Junior high/senior high students' model:

You were made to be a precious vessel unto glory for having received mercy. You must never be proud of this. The reason is that it depends entirely on God's sovereignty and mercy, and not because of your goodness. Since you have become a vessel chosen for the will of God, you need to fulfill your responsibility in order to carry out God's will.

- a. Every morning, call on the Lord's name, pray-read the word, enjoy the Lord and be filled with the Lord
- b. Sustain joy in various kinds of school activities and express Christ in a magnifying way
- c. Come to the meetings, enjoy Christ with the saints and encourage each other
- d. Have burden on children and gospel friends of the church, pray, invite and care for them in the church life
- e. Since the duty of a student is to study, experience Christ in your study, raise your grades up gradually and set a good foundation for the college entrance exams and your future employment
- f. As mentioned above, being a precious vessel, you do not escape from the responsibility, you need to grow even in the fulfilling of your responsibility by relying on grace. By doing this, you can reach the utmost usability to God.
- g. Now, if you become negative, and escape from your responsibility with unbelief, serious consequences will be brought unto you. You need to know that "today's training is always easier than tomorrow's training".

Hebrew 3:7 Therefore, even as the Holy Spirit says, "Today if you hear His voice, **8** Do not harden your hearts as in the provocation, in the day of trial in the wilderness, **12** Beware, brothers, lest perhaps there be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief in falling away from the living God. **13** But exhort one another each day, as long as it is called "today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

② Recognize the world situation is under the divine sovereignty and burden with the actions of God

On the American continent over two hundred years ago the Lord used a group of men to form a democratic and constitutional country, where people would have the full freedom to speak what they believe. Do you not believe that the Lord has sovereignly raised up and preserved this country where we can speak so freely what we see from the Bible? As long as we are law-abiding citizens, this freedom is ours. Hallelujah for such a country!

Surely the position and condition of the United States are not an accident. Acts 17:26 says that God determined "beforehand their appointed seasons and the boundaries of their dwelling." The time was appointed by our God; the boundaries were drawn by Him. As He prepared the Roman Empire, Germany, and Great Britain in times gone by, so He has prepared the United States. For what purpose?...We must preach the gospel adequately. We must teach the Bible and seek to bring others to the full knowledge of the truth; for this we need to respect and know God's Word. We must also come together according to the Bible to have a proper church life.

These three things, however, are not sufficient. We must be for the central vision of God's economy. We must live Christ, be filled with Him, and have Him as our daily living and as the practical, actual contents of the church life so that we may be His living Body to express Him. Then every local church will be a golden lampstand, and the bride will be prepared for the Bridegroom.

The working young saints' model:

In the past, because of the Roman Empire, which enabled safe travelling extensively, and this was helpful for the spreading of Paul's gospel work. Germany was also used for the reformation and the British Empire was used to spread the gospel and truth to the whole world. Now, the United States as the only superpower, the Lord uses the United States to spread recovery to the whole world.

The Lord uses the world situation to drive forward God's economy. Since Japan is an island nation, it has a closed culture. Following the Meiji Restoration, as the relationship with other nations were drastically increased, it continued to develop and became a developed nation. However, the number of foreigners who reside in Japan was quite small before the 21st Century; it was a unique country that cannot be seen in other developed nations where the majority of people who live in Japan are Japanese. When the 21st Century came, the government has promoted the acceptance of foreigners, especially educated foreigners, as one policy measures to the decrease in population. Due to the policy transition, currently in urban areas, not only we can see Chinese, Koreans, Africans but also people from various countries. Many Japanese companies also employ foreigners as their employees to promote diversity and educate Japanese employees to accept their cultures. Such a transition in policy by the Japanese government is helpful for the development of the local churches in Japan. Because church is the new man, there is no distinction between Japanese, Chinese, Korean, African, or Westerners, Christ is all the members and in all of them.

As a working young saint, you need to understand that the practice of new man in church life can extend your capacity, helpful in promoting diversity in your company, and contribute to your business success. It is because as a believer of Christ, you become a strong and resurrected witness in business life that is helpful for that building up of the church.

BSG: The milestone in Chapter 4 of the Gospel of John: by Kobe U. BSG OB/OG

4:3 He left Judea and went away again into Galilee. 4 And He had to pass through Samaria. 5 So He came to a city of Samaria called Sychar... 6 ...Jesus therefore, being wearied from the journey, sat thus by the well; it was about the sixth hour. 7 There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, Give Me something to drink. 8 For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.

9 The Samaritan woman then said to Him, How is it that You, being a Jew, ask for a drink from me, who am a Samaritan woman? (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered and said to her, If you knew the gift of God and who it is who says to you, Give Me a drink, you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.

11 The woman said to Him, Sir, You have no bucket, and the well is deep; where then do You get this living water?

13 Jesus answered and said to her, Everyone who drinks of this water shall thirst again, 14 But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water gushing up into eternal life.

15 The woman said to Him, Sir, give me this water so that I will not thirst nor come here to draw. 16 He said to her, Go, call your husband and come here. 17 The woman answered and said, I do not have a husband. Jesus said to her, You have well said, I do not have a husband, 18 For you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly.

19 The woman said to Him, Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.

20 Our fathers worshipped in this mountain, yet you say that in Jerusalem is the place where men must worship. 21 Jesus said to her, Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 23 But an hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truthfulness, for the Father also seeks such to worship Him.

24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.

This water in verse 13 represents the enjoyment of material things and the enjoyment gained from the amusement of the world. They cannot heal the thirst deep within a person. No matter how much people drink this material and worldly "water", they will be thirsty again. The more you drink of this "water", the thirstier you will become.

For college student, go drinking, go to the movies, go on traveling, and go to the USJ for pleasure is the drinking of this water. Although these kinds of entertainments are not necessarily bad, not only they cannot stop your thirst but your thirst will only increase more. For example, one college student goes to drink and hope to have a good time with his friends and seniors, and is thinking of dealing with his stress. However, going out for drinks will actually not relieve much stress, in many cases, you will become more stressful due to the topics you do not like, or subjects that are not interesting. This is not because it happened by chance, but because of "those who drink this water will be thirsty again."

The word of the Lord Jesus in verse 16, speaks of the immoral background of a Samaritan woman, which touched her conscience and for the repentance of her sins. The way to drink the living water is to confess your sins. Some sins may be hidden in the people, but the Lord knows all. When the Lord Jesus touches your conscience, you will have no excuses but simply to confess your sins. It is for you to get rid of the obstacles and to drink the living water and be satisfied.

In verse 18, the Samaritan woman tried her first husband and drank that "water", but she was not satisfied. Then she tried the second, third, fourth and fifth husband. She was not satisfied with any of these, so she tried one more person. This proved that by changing her husbands, even though she drank from "this water", she was still thirsty. "Everyone who drinks this water gets thirsty." This word of the Lord is so true!

The question from the woman in verse 20 was whether or not (Yes or No) question. But the Lord answered neither yes nor no, and she was directed to her spirit (verses 21 - 24). Whether or not belongs to the knowledge of good and bad, but man returns to the spirit that belongs to life. The Gospel of John reveals that life meets the needs of various kinds of people.

In Chapter 4, it reveals that only life is the true satisfaction for man. You should not think that people will come together by presenting your knowledge. Rather, you should first return to your spirit, call on the name of the Lord, confess your sins, and drink the water of life. Then call on the name of the Lord, and while utilizing your spirit, consider the situation together with the Lord. This water will not only heal your thirst, but it will become a spring inside you, spring up, moisten the people around and can bring people together. People will be gladly gathered at where the water is.

1. I've chosen the Lord Jesus, My very world to be;
His love is so abundant, He fills my every needs.
I am your vessel which only You can fill;
All Sychar's wells exhausting, I'm thirsty still.
© Oh Jesus Christ! He is the One for me!
My heart's abiding at the source of every sweetest thing.
Oh Jesus Christ! He all my heart doth fill;
With Him, I have no other plea, In Him my heart is still.

2. I've chosen the Lord Jesus,
My very joy to be,
With Him my heart, though aching,
Has still a song to sing.
With Him, I need no reason
To shout exultantly,
For all my jubilation
From Him does spring.