

#13 A Vital Sketch of the Divine Revelation in the Books of Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers concerning God's Economy

with His Chosen and Redeemed People

(Crystallization-Study of Numbers 2) 2019/8/12-18

I . We may use four slogans to summarize certain crucial aspects of this vital sketch:

- A. God's chosen and redeemed people are purchased, redeemed, and saved from the bondage of the fall.
- B. God's chosen and redeemed people are enjoying Christ, receiving revelation, and being built up in the Triune God.
- C. God's chosen and redeemed people are formed into a priestly army to fight for God and to journey with God.
- D. God's chosen and redeemed people are possessed by God to possess the all-inclusive Christ as the good land.

II . These four slogans apply to the saints in both the Old Testament and New Testament, because the New Testament is hidden in the Old Testament, and the Old Testament is manifested in the New Testament:

Exo. 33:14 And He said, My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest. Num. 9:15 And on the day that the tabernacle was set up, the cloud covered the tabernacle...and in the evening it was like the appearance of fire over the tabernacle until morning. 22 the cloud extended its time over the tabernacle and settled above it, the children of Israel remained encamped and did not set out; but when it was taken up, they set out.

- A. The saints have been chosen, redeemed, and saved from the bondage of the fall; the saints have been saved from the usurpation of the world and from the bondage of Satan.
- B. Having been saved, we are now enjoying Christ; like the children of Israel at Mount Sinai, we have also received the divine revelation and are being built up with the processed Triune God, that is, with the Son as the embodiment of the Father and with the Spirit as the realization of the Son.
- C. Furthermore, we are being formed into a priestly army, which fights for God and journeys with God.
- D. Finally, we have been prepared by God in every way to possess the all-inclusive Christ as the good land. Mon

III . The word economy is not used in the Old Testament books, but the typology in these books (such as Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers) unveils God's economy:

Eph. 1:10 Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;

3:9 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,

- A. God's economy is His household administration to accomplish His plan for the fulfillment of the desire of His heart; this desire is to have a people not only created by Him but also regenerated, sanctified, transformed, and conformed to the image of Christ as the embodiment of the processed Triune God; eventually, this people will be brought into glory, into the corporate expression of the Triune God. B. In the Old Testament we have a picture of God's economy; in the New Testament we have a clear speaking concerning God's economy. C. The history of the children of Israel in the Old Testament is a type of the history of the believers in the New Testament.

IV . God's chosen and redeemed people need to receive the divine revelation concerning God Himself and His economy for their training and building up as His testimony; in Genesis God's people were chosen, and in Exodus they received the divine revelation concerning God and His dwelling place:

A. God's chosen people received the divine revelation after their participation in God's initial salvation, as realized in the Passover. B. God brought the people out of Egypt to the mountain of God, Mount Sinai, and there gave them a full revelation of Himself and His dwelling place; we may say that this revelation contained the "blueprint" for the building of God's dwelling place.

C. The divine revelation was through the enjoyment of the divine provisions, as tasted in the supply of the heavenly manna and the living water flowing out of the smitten rock.

D. The divine revelation was also through the experience of being an army that shared in God's fighting against His enemies, as in their fighting against the Egyptians and the Amalekites.

E. Eventually, in Exodus 19 God's chosen and redeemed people reached and arrived at the mountain of God; when God sent Moses to rescue the children of Israel out of the hand of Pharaoh, God told Moses that after he had brought the people out of Egypt, they would serve the Lord upon this mountain, and in Exodus 19 this word was fulfilled: 1. At Mount Sinai God's people received the revelation concerning God Himself so that they might be separated unto Him. 2. The law is a portrait of God, the revelation of God Himself; the law reveals that God is a God of love, light, holiness, and righteousness: Tue

a. Because the law is such a picture of God, the law was called the Testimony of God, the Ark in which the law was placed was called the Ark of the Testimony, and the tabernacle was called the Tabernacle of the Testimony. b. In the Psalms the law is often referred to as the testimony; this testimony was a portrait, a picture, of God. C. God's people received the revelation concerning God Himself so that they might be separated unto the holy God as His sanctified people; this matter is given a particular emphasis in the book of Leviticus.

3. Christ is the reality of the law as the testimony of God; the testimony of God signifies Christ, the embodiment of God, as the living portrait of what God is: Heb. 1:3 Who, being the effulgence of His glory and the impress of His substance and upholding and bearing all things by the word of His power, having made purification of sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; Psa. 119:97 Oh, how I love Your law! All day long it is my musing. 119 ... Therefore I love Your testimonies.

a. The reality of keeping the law is to live God and express God. b. Such a living, a living in the eternal economy of God, is the living of a God-man, a life of continually denying the self and being crucified to live Christ, who is God's testimony, by the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ for the enlarged and expanded expression of God. Wed

F. In addition to receiving the divine revelation concerning God Himself, the children of Israel received the divine revelation concerning God's economy so that they might be built up together with God in His Divine Trinity as His dwelling place on earth for His testimony: 1. That God's people were to be built up together with Him is indicated by the materials that were to be used for the building of the tabernacle: a. The boards of the tabernacle were made of acacia wood overlaid with gold; the boards of acacia wood are a type of God's people, and the gold overlaying the boards is a type of the divine person. Exo. 26:15 And you shall make the boards for the tabernacle of acacia wood, standing up. Psa. 84:1-4 How lovely are Your tabernacles, O Jehovah of hosts! My soul longs, indeed even faints, For the courts of Jehovah; My heart and my flesh cry out To the living

God. At Your two altars even the sparrow has found a home; And the swallow, a nest for herself, Where she may lay her young, O Jehovah of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; They will yet be praising You.

b. Thus, the boards of acacia wood overlaid with gold signify God's people being built up together with God to be His dwelling place; from this we see not only that God's people are the building materials for His dwelling place but also that God Himself is the building material. **2.** In the tabernacle we can see a picture of the Divine Trinity: **a.** The Ark, the table of the bread of the Presence, and the incense altar all signify Christ the Son. **b.** The Father is signified by the Gold, for in typology gold signifies the divine nature of God. **c.** The Spirit is signified by the oil in the seven lamps in the lampstand; if the lamps had no oil, they would be useless, and there would not be any light in the tabernacle. **d.** Also, the lampstand, which was a single entity, signifies the Triune God: **(1)**The gold signifies the Father, the form signifies the Son, and both the lamps and the oil signify the Spirit. **(2)**This is a revelation of God's people being built up with the Triune God to be His dwelling place on earth.

3. The forty-eight boards of the tabernacle correspond to the forty-eight cities given to the Levites; six of these cities were to be cities of refuge; the most striking point regarding the cities of refuge is that they were enterable:

a. Eventually, these forty-eight cities of the Levites will consummate in a unique city—the New Jerusalem; the tabernacle revealed in Exodus is a miniature of this unique city. **b.** In the New Testament, God's testimony is the church, the Body of Christ, and in eternity this testimony will consummate in the New Jerusalem, which is also called a tabernacle. **c.** In the Old Testament, the tabernacle was with the children of Israel, and in the New Testament the tabernacle is first Christ and then the church as the enlargement of Christ; in eternity there will be the ultimate, consummate tabernacle, the New Jerusalem; in each case the striking point is that the tabernacle is enterable; Hallelujah, the Triune God is enterable!

G. In the book of Leviticus, God trained His people to worship and partake of Him and to live a holy, clean, and rejoicing life.

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V. The central thought of Numbers is that Christ is the meaning of life, the testimony, the center of God's people, and the Leader, the way, and the goal of their journey and fighting:

A. The entire Bible shows us one thing—God's intention is to have a people formed into an army to take Christ as their meaning of life, testimony, center, Leader, way, and goal and to proceed on and fight for God so that He may have a people built up as His kingdom and His house, which will consummate in the New Jerusalem.

B. The book of Numbers as a whole reveals the need for God's chosen and redeemed people to be formed into an army to carry out the holy war: **1 Tim. 1:18 This charge I commit to you, my child Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you might war the good warfare, 2 Tim. 2:3-4 Suffer evil with me as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please the one who enlisted him.**

1. In order to be formed into a holy army, God's people first had to be numbered according to their maturity in life. **2.** God's chosen and redeemed people were also built up into one body. **3.** Then God's people journeyed with God:

a. In their journey with God, the children of Israel had the

presence of God, signified by the cloud in the day and by the fire in the cloud at night. **b.** As the children of Israel journeyed with God, the Angel of Jehovah took the lead; the title of the Angel of Jehovah is a particular title of Christ in the Old Testament, as revealed in Exodus 3:2-6. **C.** In their journey the children of Israel were moving, walking, and living with Jehovah, the Triune God. **d.** God's chosen and redeemed people passed through the great and terrible wilderness with all kinds of trials, sufferings, and divine care, supplies, and discipline. **e.** On their journey through the wilderness, the children of Israel passed through forty-two stations to enter into rest in the good land promised by God.

4. As a priestly army, God's chosen and redeemed people fought together with God and for God: **Fri**

a. In their fighting together with God and for God, the children of Israel defeated the king of Arad and destroyed his people; by doing this, they overcame the first enemy among the Canaanites. **b.** God's people also defeated Sihon the king of the Amorites with his people and Og the king of Bashan with his people; this means that they overcame Canaan's two "gate guards". **c.** The children of Israel also defeated the Midianites with their five kings; by defeating them, the people overcame Canaan's gate army. **d.** The kings defeated by God's chosen and redeemed people signify the spiritual powers, rulers, and authorities in the air, whom we must defeat. **Eph. 6:10-12 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil, For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.** **e.** The fighting of God's people against the kings was for the entrance into the God-promised good land that the kingdom of God might be spread and established there.

5. As the priestly army carrying out God's holy war, God's chosen and redeemed people bore with them God's dwelling, the Tabernacle of the Testimony, with the Ark of the Testimony. **6.** The key words in Exodus are redemption, leading, revelation, and building; the key words in Leviticus are fellowship, service, and holiness; and the key words in Numbers are formation, journeying, and fighting. **7.** The book of Numbers is a record of God's chosen and redeemed people being formed into a priestly army to fight for God and to journey with God so that they may be prepared by God to possess the all-inclusive Christ as the good land. **Sat**

Crucial Points(1):God's chosen and redeemed people go on the journey with God which is according to God's economy to reach the goal

OL1: These four slogans below apply to the saints in both the Old Testament and New Testament, because the New Testament is hidden in the Old Testament, and the Old Testament is manifested in the New Testament.

[In presenting] a vital sketch of the divine revelation in the books of Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers concerning God's economy with His chosen and redeemed people, we may use four slogans to summarize certain crucial aspects of this sketch: **(1)"Purchased, redeemed, and saved from the bondage of the fall"; (2)"Enjoying Christ, receiving revelation, and being built up in the Triune God"; (3)"Formed into a priestly army to fight for God and to journey with God"; and (4)"Possessed by God to possess the all-inclusive Christ as the good land."**

Exodus shows us that God took a big step in His move by

coming down to deliver Israel out of Egypt and bring them into the wilderness. Egypt typifies the world where people are occupied with making a living and where people can enjoy a life with pleasures. The world is a place of easy living and pleasure and also a place of sin and idolatry.

God delivered Israel out of Egypt and brought them into the wilderness.... It is very good to be saved by God out of the noisy world to a place where there is only the heavens and the earth and God, nothing else. But for the long run, the wilderness was not a good place. Thus, they had to be brought by a long journey through the wilderness.

God moved with them and brought them to Mount Sinai. Sinai represents God's presence.... The children of Israel remained at Sinai with God for about eleven months. God stayed with His people day and night there, so God trained them.

At Mount Sinai God gave them the law and the pattern for the tabernacle. On the one hand, God regulated them by the law, and on the other hand, He encouraged them by the tabernacle. After the decree of the law and the building up of the tabernacle at Sinai, God gave them all the chapters of Leviticus to train them to worship and partake of God and to live a holy, clean, and rejoicing life.

Application to the serving ones

As a serving one in the church, please recognize that there is a definite goal in the Christian life and the church life. With a clear goal, you would not waste your days aimlessly. You were chosen and redeemed with a clear purpose. That is to build up the Body of Christ, to bring in the new revival to prepare for the Lord's second coming. Are you not making the success in the job to live in affluence or sending your child to the distinguished university as your goals? If these are your goal, it means you are not making God's goal as the goal of your life. Such a life has no real goal and cannot receive bountiful supply from God. Because you cannot have two goals.

Matt. 6:24 No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

From the eyes of the people in the world, it seems waste to run the Christian race with God for God's goal. But if you make God's goal as the goal of your life and go on, God is with you and supply and lead you in every aspect. Hallelujah!

Phil. 3:13 Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before, 14 I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.

Prayer: " Oh Lord Jesus, I was chosen by God in the eternity past and was redeemed through Christ's redemption 2000 years ago. Thank the Lord. Now I am running the Christian race in the church life. To build up the Body of Christ, I will practice 4 great initiatives, prayer groups, gospel, home training and divide the district for everyone to function. May God operate within me and may this indwelling God become my high performance."

Crucial Points(2):God's Word has a rich supply. The Word is the bread of life and is a light to our path, giving light and imparting understanding

OL1:The law is a portrait of God, the revelation of God Himself; the law reveals that God is a God of love, light, holiness, and righteousness:

OL2:The reality of keeping the law is to live God and express God. Such a living, a living in the eternal economy of God, is

the living of a God-man, a life of continually denying the self and being crucified to live Christ, who is God's testimony, by the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ for the enlarged and expanded expression of God.

Contrary to the concept of both Jews and Christians, the law was given not for us to keep, but to reveal what kind of God our God is. As the testimony of God, the law is indeed lovable. Romans 7:12 says, "So then the law is holy, and the commandment holy and righteous and good." In Romans 7:14 Paul says that "the law is spiritual." The law is holy, righteous, good, and spiritual.

The law is God's testimony, God's expression, a revelation of God to His people.... The law of God reveals God's attributes, showing that He is jealous, holy, loving, righteous, truthful, and pure. As the word of God and the testimony, the expression, of God, the law is a type of Christ as God's Word and God's testimony, God's expression. The reality of keeping the law is to live God and express God. Such a living, a living in the eternal economy of God, is the living of a God-man, a life of continually denying the self and being crucified to live Christ, who is God's testimony, by the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ for the enlarged and expanded expression of God.

Application to the new ones, young people and college students

Please have a basic recognition about the law. The law primarily reveals what God is. Thus it is the expression of God. Secondly, to keep the law is to eat the Word of God (the law is one part of God's Word) and enjoy and receive the bountiful supply of the Spirit to live Christ. This recognition is totally different from your natural concept of "keeping the law", so you need to receive wisdom and revelation through prayer. Jer. 15:16 Your words were found and I ate them, And Your word became to me The gladness and joy of my heart, For I am called by Your name, O Jehovah, God of hosts.

Matt. 4:4 But He answered and said, It is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God."

Psa. 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

130 The opening of Your words gives light, Imparting understanding to the simple.

God's Word is the daily bread for you and it gives light, understanding in the path to reach the goal of Christian life. Please read and pray read the Word of God daily. The Word has nutrient to nourish your inner being. Also it is light in your daily little paths to reach the purpose of your Christian race. Without the Word, there is no light and you will get lost. And in Christian journey, when you face the difficulty, the Word releases the light and gives you wisdom and revelation for you to break through the difficulties.

God's Word, including the law contains demand, but at the same time it has bountiful supply to meet that demand. If you can enjoy the Spirit in the Word and live Christ, automatically you would fulfill the requirements of the Word.

In your student life, how much supply of the Word is needed! Otherwise your inner being is not nourished and there is no power and you will get filled up with study soon or have problem in the relationships. Also without light, the situation gets worse and leads you to maze. When you face tribulation, you cannot deal with it. After year of 2000, the suicide rate of young people in Japan has been the highest.

Even it shows increasing tendency. The Bible has strong effect of preventing suicide. You can read the Word and also offer the Word to your friends. Praise the Lord for the effects of the Word in the Bible.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, the words of the Bible has supply more than its demand. To participate the supply of the Word, I will eat and enjoy the Word every day. Nourish and transform my inward being. The Word is also the light in the daily paths of Christian journey. Without light, I will get lost. And the Word gives understanding to the foolish. By this understanding, I can break through the difficulties. Hallelujah, thank and praise the Lord for the effects of the Word. Amen!"

CrucialPoints(3): Fighting together with God and for God

OL1: As a priestly army, God's chosen and redeemed people fought together with God and for God. [Num. 21:1](#) And when the Canaanite, the king of Arad, who dwelt in the Negev, heard that Israel was coming by the way of Atharim, he fought against Israel and took some of them captive. [2](#) And Israel made a vow to Jehovah and said, If You will indeed deliver this people into my hand, then I will utterly destroy their cities. [3](#) And Jehovah listened to this voice of Israel and delivered up the Canaanites, and they utterly destroyed them and their cities. Thus the name of the place was called Hormah.

FN(1) "Canaanite": In the typology of the Old Testament, Canaan has two aspects: on the positive side, Canaan, a land of riches, typifies the all-inclusive Christ with His unsearchable riches, and on the negative side, it signifies the aerial part, the heavenly part, of the dark kingdom of Satan. ...The fighting of the children of Israel against the Canaanites that they might possess and enjoy the good land typifies the spiritual warfare of the church as a whole, including all the members, against "the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies" that the saints may enjoy Christ as the all-inclusive land. The church must be such a corporate warrior, fighting against Satan's aerial forces so that God's people may gain more of Christ for the building up of the Body of Christ, establishing and spreading the kingdom of God so that Christ can come back to inherit the earth.

FN(2) "the king of Arad": The kings of Arad, of the Amorites, and of Bashan were the "gate guards" on the east of the Jordan, guarding the land of Canaan, the kingdom of darkness, for Satan. In order for the children of Israel to enter into the good land, they had to pass through the territory controlled by these kings and had to fight against them, destroy them, and take over their territory.

As the priestly army carrying out the holy war, God's chosen and redeemed people bore with them God's dwelling, the Tabernacle of the Testimony with the Ark of the Testimony. This indicates that in the church life today we are bearing God's testimony with God Himself...

The tabernacle with the Ark was the testimony borne by God's chosen and redeemed people. During the years in the wilderness, the children of Israel...did not engage in commerce or work to make a living. God cared for their living by sending them manna and by giving them water from the rock. For a period of forty years, God's people, with the Angel of Jehovah taking the lead, camped and journeyed in the wilderness. In the eyes of the nations, the children of Israel were wasting their time. Likewise, in the eyes of the worldly people, we in the church life who have given ourselves to bear and to care for the testimony of God are also wasting our time. In the sight of God, however, it is actually the

worldly people who are idle and who are wasting their time.

Numbers is a record of God's chosen and redeemed people being formed into a priestly army to fight for God and to journey with God so that they may be prepared by God to possess the all-inclusive Christ as the good land. The second generation did not pass through as much as the first generation did, but they received the benefit of what the first generation experienced. I believe that the older generation told the younger generation about all they experienced, enjoyed, and suffered. This speaking was part of the raising up, or the building up, of the second generation. What the first generation experienced was not experienced in vain, for it was passed on to the second generation.

Application to the young working saints and graduate students

As a young working person or a graduate student, you receive tough request from your boss or professor. You must not think that because it is very tough to meet those requests, you have no time or no room for attending the prayer meeting or the Lord's day meeting. Israelites were not able to enter into the good land of Canaan without fighting against the ruler of the authority of the air typified as Canaanites. You should, by faith, stand and fight against the ruler of authority of the air.

You are ordered to fight by God to reach the goal of God's economy. Therefore, this fight is a fight with God, so God supplies you everything you need to win this fight. What is important is that you follow the Lord, the fighting General, and fight against enemy with the church and in the church. You must not become unbelieving by thinking that if you go to the prayer meeting, you may become left alone and isolated in your office and so you feel defeated by your colleagues. You cannot fight if you don't have Christ and the church, so God also requires you to do so. But you are one of God's people who are chosen, redeemed, and saved from bondage of Satan and robbery by the world. If you fight together with Christ and the church by faith, your victory is already decided. You should not look at your circumstances nor yourself, but you should stare at the Lord and step forward with brothers and sisters. Joshua and Caleb are wonderful models of an overcomer in the spiritual warfare. When seeing the same thing, whether you have faith or not will generate totally different responses.

[Num. 13:32](#) And they brought to the children of Israel and evil report of the land which they had spied out, saying, The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that eats up its inhabitants; and all the people that we saw in it are men of great size. [33](#) And there we saw the Nephilim (the descendants of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.

[14:9](#) Only do not rebel against Jehovah, nor should you fear the people of the land, for they are our bread. Their protection has been removed from them, and Jehovah is with us; do not fear them.

Prayer: "O Lord Jesus, in order to reach at the goal of God's economy, building of the Body of Christ, we maintain our life of prayer, attend the prayer meeting, preach gospel, and shepherd six kinds of new ones. When I try to practice these, I often experience opposition from the rulers of the authority of the air, Satan's army. With the Lord's mighty power, please strengthen me into the inner man. I fight by faith with other brothers and sisters in one spirit with one accord. This fighting is God's fighting, in which Christ is our captain, so brothers and sisters and I must be able to win against the enemy."