

#2 Crucial Aspects of Living in the Good Land after Returning from Captivity in Babylon

Bird's-eye view 2/27-3/5

I The history of the people of Israel is a type, typifying the New Testament believers and therefore typifying the church. [1 Cor. 10:11](#) Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our admonition, unto whom the ends of the ages have come.

II Judah was carried away captive to Babylon because of unfaithfulness; thus, those who returned from captivity were to be faithful to God: [2 Tim. 2:13](#) If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself. [1 Cor. 4:2](#) Here, furthermore, it is sought in stewards that one be found faithful.

A God is faithful in His economy and in leading us into His economy. B As the faithful God, God cannot deny Himself; He cannot deny, go against, His own being. C

When He, with His attribute of faithfulness, is wrought into us, He becomes us, and we become Him in His attribute of faithfulness: [1](#) Just as God cannot deny His own being, we, having been constituted with Him, cannot deny our own being. [2](#) It is this way that we can, and will, become faithful as stewards of the mysteries of God. D

For us to be faithful, trustworthy, means to fulfill the stewardship that the Lord has apportioned to us. E When the Lord comes for the battle at Armageddon, He will be the Lord of lords and the King of kings, and the overcomers who are with Him will be "the called and chosen and faithful". III

All those who returned to the good land from captivity in Babylon were commanded to know, obey, and worship Jehovah. [1 Chron. 16:8](#) Give thanks to Jehovah; call upon His name; / Make known His deeds among the peoples.

A God implies God's power and His relationship with creatures; Jehovah God denotes God having a relationship with man. B Jehovah God is not only the One who is powerful but also the One who draws near to man. C Jehovah means "I am who I am," indicating that Jehovah is the self-existing and ever-existing eternal One, the One who was in the past, who is in the present, and who will be in the future forever. [Exo. 3:14](#) And God said to Moses, I AM WHO I AM. And He said, Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, I AM has sent me to you. D

Jehovah is the only One who is. E Jehovah is God's name for existence and fulfillment. F Because Jehovah exists eternally and because He is the reality of the verb to be, He will fulfill whatever He has spoken. G

In the

Lord's recovery today, we are in the stage of fulfillment; we are experiencing God as Jehovah, the great I Am. IV

The returning of the children of Israel to the good land signifies the returning of Christians from division to the ground of the church, the ground of oneness: [2 Chron. 36:23](#) ...Jehovah ...has charged me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all His people, may Jehovah his God be with him, and let him go up!

[Duet. 12:5](#) ... Jehovah your God will choose out of all your tribes to put His name, to His habitation, shall you seek, and there shall you go. A

The local ground of the church is basically the unique oneness of the Body of Christ practiced in the local churches. B

According to the divine revelation in the New Testament, the ground of the church is constituted of three crucial elements: [1](#) The first element of the constitution of the church ground is the unique oneness of the universal Body of Christ, which is called "the oneness of the Spirit"—the oneness for which the Lord prayed in John 17. [2](#) The second element of the church ground is the unique ground of the locality in which a local church is established and exists. [3](#) The third element of the church ground is the reality of the Spirit of oneness, that is, the reality of the Spirit, who is the living reality of the Divine Trinity. C

The ground of the church is intrinsically related to life. V

The children of Israel who returned to the good land were told to remember the covenant that God made with Abraham: [1 Chron. 16:16-18](#) The covenant that He made with Abraham, / And His oath unto Isaac. And He confirmed it unto Jacob as a statute, / Unto Israel as an eternal covenant, saying, To you I will give the land of Canaan, / The portion of your inheritance; A

Abraham believed God for His promise concerning the seed, but he lacked the faith to believe God for the promise of the good land. B

In order to strengthen Abraham's faith, God was compelled to confirm His promise to Abraham by making a covenant with Him: [1](#) The covenant God made with Abraham was a covenant of promise that would be fulfilled through God's power in His grace. [2](#) The new testament is a constitution of this covenant. C

God made His covenant with Abraham through the crucified and resurrected Christ: [1](#) The three kinds of slain cattle signify Christ in His humanity being crucified for us, and the two living birds signify Christ in His divinity being the living, resurrected One. [2](#) The heifer was for a peace offering, the female goat was for a sin offering,

and the ram was for a burnt offering. **3** In typology, the turtledove signifies a suffering life, and the young pigeon signifies a believing life, a life of faith; these are two characteristics of the Lord's life on earth. **4** Since two is the number of testimony, the two living birds bear testimony of Christ as the One living in us and for us. **VI** As believers in Christ, we need to have prayers that express God's will and our desire to have our personal spiritual border to be enlarged: **A** In the universe there are three wills: the divine will, the satanic will, and the human will; God wants man's will to be joined to Him and wants man to be one with Him so that man may express and echo His will back to Him in prayer for His good pleasure: [Matt. 6:10](#) Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth. **1** The real meaning of prayer consists of four steps: **a** God intends to do something according to His will. **b** He reveals His will to us through the Spirit for us to know His will. **c** We return and echo His will back to Him through prayer. [John 15:7](#) If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. **d** God accomplishes His work according to His will. **2** Only prayers that are initiated by God and echo what He has initiated have any spiritual value; we must learn to pray this kind of prayer. **B** Jabez called on God to enlarge his border; the enlarging of the border of the good land in his prayer signifies the enlarging of the border of gaining Christ and the enjoyment of Christ, who is the reality of the good land. **VII** From [2 Chronicles 20:15-22](#) we can learn to engage in spiritual warfare by praising the Lord: **A** In [2 Chron. 20:15](#) Jehovah said to King Jehoshaphat, "Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's," and in verse 17a, "It is not for you to fight in this battle". [2 Chron. 20:22](#) And when they began to shout in song and to praise, Jehovah set ambushes for the children of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who were coming out against Judah; and they were struck. **B** Praise is the highest work carried out by God's children. **C** In the church life and in our personal life, we need to offer consummate praise to God. **D** Through the Christ whom we have experienced and enjoyed, we need to offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually. **E** "I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart; / And I will glorify Your name forever". (Psa. 86:12)

神戸に在る召会交わりと報告事項

1. 親子ジョイフルタイム:

2/26(主)13:30-14:30@六甲

3/5(主)13:30-14:30@本山

2. 2/27(月)-28(火)大学生卒業BLD

今年、大学を卒業する隆一B、新司B、雨欣Sの大学卒業祝いとして、道後温泉にブレンディングに行きます。若者たちの前途が祝福されますように。

このブレンディングに余力BS、海花S、佳穂S、夏美Sが同行します。また、聖力君、澄恵ちゃん、勝治君も行きます。また、余力Bの姉の川崎夫婦も一緒にホテルに泊まります。

3. 奉仕者の移動について:

3月から新城昇Bは本山Gから六甲地区、武富夏美Sは六甲地区からYPGに移動します。

4. 本山学生福音センターが、3/18(土)に完成して、引き渡しになります。これに合わせて、林純正B、林純安S、余力聖美S、ルーカス君が神戸にブレンディングに来ます。この本山学生福音センターの活用とこのブレンディングが祝福されるように兄弟姉妹お祈りください。

5. 3月福音集会担当按配:

3/5 本山G

3/12 夙川

3/19 YP

3/26 六甲

6. 土曜8:30-9:00預言準備集会担当:

3/4 夙川

3/11 六甲

3/18 魚崎・六アイ

3/25 本山

CP1 We in the Lord's recovery experience that Jehovah is the name of God for existence and fulfillment of promises

III All those who returned to the good land from captivity in Babylon were commanded to know, obey, and worship Jehovah. [1 Chron. 16:8](#) Give thanks to Jehovah; call upon His name; / Make known His deeds among the peoples. D Jehovah is the only One who is.

1 This unique One who has being is the great "To Be"; the verb to be can be applied only to God and not to us. 2 God is the universal To Be, the genuine being; only God is I Am; only He has being. E Jehovah is God's name for existence and fulfillment.

In this universe He alone is the self-existing One. As the One who promised, He is El Shaddai; but as the One who fulfills what He has promised, He is Jehovah, the One who is. God's existence is not dependent on anything apart from Himself. ... Approximately four thousand years ago, God made a promise to Abraham concerning the good land. God's promise has not yet been fulfilled to Abraham himself, because Abraham has not been resurrected... Because God is and always will be, He cannot fail to fulfill His promise. In this universe there is One who is, and this One is the fulfilling God. Whatever He says will come to pass. Jehovah will fulfill His word. In the Lord's recovery today... we are in the stage of fulfillment. The stage of fulfillment includes the fulfillment of the promises made both in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. One New Testament promise is the Lord's word, "I will build My church" ([Matt. 16:18](#)). This word is being fulfilled among us today.

Young people, my burden in this message is especially for you. I am grateful to the Lord for your faithfulness to His recovery. But I realize that there is a long journey ahead of you and that many trials and tests await you. I want to testify to you that the very God whom you are serving is not only El Shaddai, but also Jehovah... I may not be able to keep my word because I may cease to be. But because Jehovah exists eternally and because He is the reality of the verb to be, He will fulfill whatever He has spoken. When you encounter tests, trials, and difficulties, you should say, "Lord, You are. My problems will end, but You, Lord, will be forever."

[Application to young people, college students, new ones](#)

Testimony 1 I lost my mother to cancer in December 2011. She was a single mother, so I had to live on my own after she passed away. Through my mother's death, I realized how fragile and weak we are in the

face of death. For about two years after that, I did not have the energy to live, and the thought that my mother had died because of me haunted me and caused me to become depressed. But thank the Lord. In September 2013 I heard and accepted the word of the Lord at the gospel preaching on a street and became Christian. When I called on the name of the Lord "Oh Lord Jesus", the riches of the Lord filled my inner being. The Lord is invisible, but when I called on His name, I realized that God was there. As I lived church life, I regained my zest for life and was able to find a job and work as a member of society. Also, I am so happy to be able to marry a brother who loves the Lord in February 2020. Thank the Lord.

Testimony 2 I had not thought about studying in Taiwan at all. However, I had many opportunities to hear about the rich church life in Taiwan and felt the need for Chinese language in my service, so I opened to the Lord and prayed often about studying in Taiwan. I had a feeling inside in prayer and fellowshiped with the brothers and sisters and decided to study in Taiwan for 6 months to learn Chinese and blending with the saints in Taiwan. It took a lot of time and effort to prepare my passport and visa, but inside I was filled with a sense that my going to Taiwan was not my own wish, but God's leading, and I had no worries or anxieties whatsoever.

When I actually went there, the language barrier was obviously high, and there were times when I could not communicate with anyone for a day. This made me anxious at times, but I followed my inner senses and exercised my spirit to pray, "I believe that this study abroad will surely be led by the Lord. Lord, I will follow all your leading. I entrust everything to You." When I pray in this way, I am filled with inner peace and have a sense that the Lord is at work in all things, because He is the One who always fulfills His promises. Eventually, I was able to speak Chinese well enough to enjoy the meetings and blending in Taiwan and was very blessed in life. I am thankful that I was able to experience from a young age that God alone is the One who "is" and who will surely fulfill His promises. Prayer Oh Lord Jesus, You are the only One who exists by Yourself and is eternal, the reality of the verb "is." The meaning of the name Jesus is Jehovah the Savior. Whenever I encounter trials and difficulties, I exercise my spirit to pray, "You are the One who exists forever. I am not, but Your words and promises will be fulfilled". By faith, I touch You, hear You speak to me, obey You, and worship You.

CP2 If we give up spiritual warfare, we will become Satan's prey. We praise the Lord, engage in spiritual warfare and overcome

VII From 2 Chronicles 20:15-22 we can learn to engage in spiritual warfare by praising the Lord:

A2 When they began to shout in song and to praise, Jehovah set ambushes for the enemies, and they were struck. 20:15 And he said, Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat. Thus says Jehovah to you, Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's. 16 Tomorrow go down against them. They are coming up at the ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the river valley before the wilderness of Jeruel. 17 It is not for you to fight in this battle. Station yourselves; stand and see the salvation of Jehovah among you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid nor dismayed. Tomorrow go out to meet them, for Jehovah is with you. 18 And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before Jehovah to worship Jehovah. 19 And the Levites, of the children of the Kohathites and of the children of the Korahites, rose up to praise Jehovah the God of Israel with an exceedingly loud voice. 20 And they rose up early in the morning and went out to the wilderness of Tekoa. And as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood up and said, Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem. Believe in Jehovah your God, and you will be established; believe in His prophets, and you will succeed. 21 And when he had taken counsel with the people, he appointed them to sing to Jehovah and give thanks in holy array as they went out before the army and say, Give thanks to Jehovah, for His lovingkindness endures forever. 22 And when they began to shout in song and to praise, Jehovah set ambushes for the children of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who were coming out against Judah; and they were struck.

The nation of Judah was coming to an end at the time of Jehoshaphat's rule. It was very weak; everything was in a state of shambles...Judah was completely in despair; they felt that defeat was certain....In 2 Chronicles 20...on one side was the army, and on the other side was the singing of hymns. These ones either had great faith in God, or they were crazy. Thank God, we are not crazy people. We are those who have faith in God...The more a man is tested, the more he tends to look at himself or his environment. But for those who know God, the more they are tested, the more they put their trust in the Lord. The more they are tested, the

more they learn to praise. Therefore, we must learn not to set our eyes on ourselves. We must learn to set our eyes on the Lord. We should lift up our heads and tell the Lord, "You are above everything; I praise You!" ...Let your loftiest praises burst forth to God, and you will surely withstand and overcome.

Application to business persons, graduate students
Testimony When I first started working, I didn't feel the need to fight because I didn't understand that the attacks coming from people on the surface were actually from Satan. As a result, in the workplace I was caught up in the chaos and exhausted. For example, I wasted a lot of time because I couldn't refuse invitations to socialize after work for fear of ruining the relationship. I was also exhausted because I could not refuse to work overtime for no reason (pretending to work overtime when there was no work was the most torturous thing of all). After changing jobs, I remembered and prayed for my past failures and the chaos and exhaustion of consequences. At that time, the Lord showed me that "Satan was working behind the scenes, reducing the time when I could enjoy the Lord and serve the gospel and shepherding" and that "socializing like drinking and working overtime was almost unnecessary in my work." I prayed, "Oh Lord Jesus, I have found that Satan is attacking me to reduce my enjoyment and service in the church life. I was a prey of Satan because I did not engage in spiritual warfare. I stand firm in the Lord and fight against Satan."

After that, Satan continued to attack me from different aspects, trying to weaken me. When I had made great strides in my performance as an executive with the Lord's blessing in my company, I was attacked a lot by all the executives, obviously out of jealousy. When I was praying together with the leading brothers and sisters for the battle, I had a clear peace inside me. So I fellowshipped, "I have peace inside me, so I will surely win this battle. From now on, please praise the Lord for His victory." The more we praised, the more we were lifted up. After about a year and a half of that prayer and praise, all the board members who opposed me were fired and I was the only one kept in line. After that, I was able to further dedicate my time to the church life.

Pray Oh Lord Jesus, Satan uses various opportunities to try to steal my time to enjoy and serve the Lord, so spiritual warfare is necessary. If I don't fight, I will become Satan's prey. I look up to the Lord in the midst of trials and praise Him for His victory. We move forward from victory to victory in praise.