

## The Rainbow – the Consummation of the Experience of the Christian Life and the Church Life

The rainbow is a great matter. The Bible begins with the **wind** and the **cloud**—with the Spirit of **God coming** and **brooding over** the dead situation... At the end of the Bible, we see the holy [city's] wall is set upon twelve foundations of precious stone, which include all the **colors of the rainbow** of God. Therefore, we can say that the holy city is the city of the rainbow, the rainbow city. Thus, Ezekiel 1 is a snapshot—a condensed view—of the entire Scriptures, unfolding to us God's entire economy from the wind and the cloud to the rainbow.

The rainbow at the end of Ezekiel 1 signifies the **consummation** of the experience of the Christian life and the church life. The Christian life and the church life that we enjoy and live out have a consummation,...which is this rainbow city. If our Christian life does not have this city in view and if our church life does not have this rainbow in view, they are rather meaningless. We need to consider: *"Is the Christian life that we are living today for the rainbow city? Will the church life that we are enjoying consummate in the rainbow?"* These are very serious questions. In this message we need to see how we can become the rainbow. This is the main point and burden of this message.

The Lord Jesus died on the cross to satisfy the requirements of God's **righteousness**, **holiness**, and **glory**, and now, in resurrection, He is our righteousness, holiness, and glory (1 Cor. 1:30). Hebrews 12:2 says, *"Jesus, the Author and Perfector of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down on the right hand of the throne of God."* According to what we have seen in this message, we may say that **the joy set before the Lord was the rainbow** and, in particular, **the rainbow city**—New Jerusalem... By His death on the cross, He satisfied all the requirements of God's righteousness, holiness, and glory.

Now in resurrection, He is our righteousness, holiness, and glory. This is the gospel, the good news. Not only were God's requirements according to His divine attributes fulfilled by the Lord's vicarious death, His death has enabled us to participate in His organic salvation. Through receiving Him as our life and our everything, He has become *"wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption"* (1 Cor. 1:30). How marvelous it is that the three divine attributes that kept us far away from God are now being constituted into us to such an extent that we are becoming these very attributes!

**Righteousness** issues from God for His administration; now, in Christ, we are becoming the righteousness of God. We became the righteousness of God in Christ as the Spirit through faith. Now we are in the process of becoming the righteousness of God **subjectively**. *Second Corinthians 5:21 says, "Him who did not know sin He made sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."* We are becoming the righteousness of God through the process of **His organic salvation**. God's organic salvation will result in a rainbow; His organic salvation is **a rainbow-producing salvation**.

We become holy, even as God is holy, by having God in us; we become more holy by being in God; and we become the holiest by being mingled, permeated, and saturated with God. This is what the Christian life and church life are all about. Day by day we are being mingled, permeated, and saturated with God. We are daily being made holy as God is holy. Therefore, **we are becoming the rainbow day by day**. Christ dwells in us as the hope of glory, and we are being transformed into His image from glory to glory. We are in the process of becoming a rainbow by being transformed from glory to glory.

Although this rainbow will be manifested in eternity, the spiritual reality of this bright rainbow should be manifest **in the church today**. In the church life we need to allow God to work in us and we need to **receive grace** to the extent that everything becomes pure, just, and holy. This means that God's holy fire must burn away everything that does not match God so that God's nature is manifested as bright gold in and through the humanity of the brothers and

sisters. Then the church will be filled with God's **righteousness, holiness, and glory**. These three characteristics will combine and reflect one another to form a bright rainbow expressing God and testifying for Him.

**Once again I say that this should not be merely a teaching to us.** Rather, the reality of this rainbow must be wrought into us so that, as God's spared ones, we will bear the appearance of a rainbow, bearing God's testimony and declaring God's faithfulness to the entire universe. This means that we will bear God's righteousness, holiness, and glory.

Ezekiel said that what he saw was the appearance of the glory of the Lord. *"When I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spoke"* (Ezek. 1:28b). If we want to hear the word of the Lord in the following chapters of Ezekiel, we all need to come to the same point—**under a clear sky in front of the throne with a man sitting on it and bearing the shining and reflecting rainbow**. This is the place where we can hear the voice from above. Being here positions us to hear the voice speaking from the heavens. I hope that every one of us will come to this point, and I also hope that all the local churches will also be here. Then the Lord will have a way to speak to us. *(Life-Study of Ezekiel, Chapter 12, p. 154)*

### The Process of God's Organic Salvation

Not only are the attributes of God expressed in man by a rainbow, but also **the process of God's organic salvation** can be illustrated by a rainbow. The rainbow we see in the sky is an optical phenomenon. When sunlight hits the surface of millions of water droplets in the sky, part of the sunlight is reflected away, but some sunlight enters into the droplets. To the human eye, sunlight is apparently colorless and invisible until it is reflected or refracted by an object or substance. When sunlight penetrates into a water droplet, it is refracted, and due to the different velocities within the light waves, the different colors begin to separate. From this first refraction, light disperses into blue and red colors. This refracted light with these two visible colors of red and blue then reaches the back of the droplet and is reflected and refracted again. The light that is reflected from the back of the droplet disperses into the spectrum of colors according to their various wavelengths. When the reflected light hits the front of the droplet, some of it is refracted yet again as it passes out of the droplet with greater dispersion of colors, resulting in all the colors of the rainbow.

There is **much revelation** even in this physical illustration of a rainbow. Every believer may be represented by a droplet of water. When God in the person of Christ as the Spirit enters into us, He comes with His righteousness and holiness. These divine attributes are refracted when they reach the "back" of the droplet, which is our spirit. This causes not only a reflection but also a dispersion of the multicolored God in all His rich and bountiful attributes. The more we experience and are saturated, permeated, and filled with these divine attributes, that is, the more Christ makes His home in our hearts, the more His attributes are reflected and dispersed through our heart and our soul. What will then be manifested for men to see is not the invisible light of God but the aromatic human virtues filled with the rich and bountiful divine attributes of God. Furthermore, a rainbow cannot be formed by one droplet. It requires a multitude of raindrops. This shows that we cannot express the Lord individually as a rainbow; we can only express Him as a rainbow corporately.

A rainbow is a sign that **God will never again destroy His living creatures** by water; it is a sign of God as the covenanting God, the God of **faithfulness**. He is faithful to keep His everlasting covenant. That the foundations of the New Jerusalem have the appearance of a rainbow reminds us that we have **eternal security**. The only safety and security in this world is in the rainbow and in the holy city. There God is reminded that it is not lawful or righteous for Him to destroy all living things. It is not righteous because **He is bound** by His everlasting covenant. The New Jerusalem with such foundations is eternally indestructible. Not only the enemy but also God Himself will be unable to destroy it. *(Excerpt from the Ministry of the Word: Crystallization-Study of Ezekiel (1), 233-256)*