

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

We need to see God's sovereignty; all the events of the world history have been sovereignly arranged by God to carry out His economy. **Everything we see that occurs in this world**, whether big or small events, world events or local events, and even the events in our personal life, all have been sovereignly arranged by God. As God's chosen ones, we need to see the world history from God's point of view, realizing that God's move among man is wrapped up in the world history, and God sovereignly arranges everything for Him to carry out His economy. Whether we speak of God becoming man, His death and resurrection, the spread of the gospel, the raising up of the church life, or the preparation of the bride, all these require a proper arrangement, a proper environment. We need to be brought up to the heaven by turning to our spirit, and we will see a throne set up in heaven, and on the throne One sitting; this One is sovereign, and He arranges the world situation in a sovereign way.

On our side, we need to be the Lord's loving seekers, standing on the position of having an intimate and personal fellowship with God so that we may be concerned not only for our things or outward things but **be quiet in our heart and focus on heart on the Lord**. We need to silently listen to the Lord in His word, so that He may have a way to open the heavens to us. We need to be those on earth who are like the Lord Jesus, matching His heart, so that we may see God's sovereignty. We need to be in our mingled spirit, in a trance, outside of our self, refusing to see things from our human perspective and human point of view – but seeing things from God's point of view. We need to have an ear to hear what God is speaking, and we will see a vision of God's sovereignty.

Our seeing of God's sovereignty is a matter of degree... **What is the degree of our knowing of God's sovereignty?** We may know His kingdom, His power, and even His life, but we need to be brought to a point that we are fully humbled, realizing that the heavens rule, and the rise and fall of kings are a result of the heavens ruling.

Two Histories

In this universe there are two histories: the **history of man** (the human history) and the **history of God** (the divine history). The history of man is what we see, read about, and are taught about – it is like an outward shell; the divine history is hidden and can be seen only with spiritual eyes, being like the kernel within the shell.

The history of man is easily seen, but it is **not so easy** to see the divine history within the human history; we need to realize that the move of God among men is wrapped up with the course of human history. God's move among men is wrapped up with the course of history. Whether we speak of His becoming flesh through the incarnation or of the spread of the gospel or of the raising up of the church life or of the preparation of the bride, all these aspects of His move **require the proper environment**, as far as the world situation is concerned. We need to realize that throughout the Bible, the divine history within the human history is revealed in considerable detail; on the one hand we see the outward human history (which can be wonderful or pitiful) and on the other, the divine history within the human history.

Living in the Divine History within the Human History by Living in the Church Life

We all were born in the human history of our human parents, and we live outwardly in this human history; through regeneration, we were reborn in the divine history, and we entered into the history of God with man. However, do we **live daily in the divine history**, or do we live merely in the human history? Do we merely live in the world, just like everyone else, participating at worldly events, making more money, enjoying worldly entertainment, and being anxious like the others in the world, or do we live in the church life today?

The World Situation and God's Move

Brother Watchman Nee had a clear view of the divine history, but he also was aware of the events of **world history**; when the tide began to change in China and the Communist Party came into power in China, he sent brother Witness Lee out to Taiwan to preserve the Lord's testimony, and through this the Lord's move continued. We need to consider the world situation from the perspective of God's purpose, realizing that all the events are sovereignly arranged by God for Him to fulfill His purpose. Since God made man in His image and He made all peoples out of one, He surely took interest in the territories the various nations would occupy, and He surely was interested in the seasons when nations would rise and fall.

In order for God to carry out His purpose, **He has arranged the world situation**; history becomes meaningful to us when we realize this, and we will praise God for His sovereign arrangement in the world history for the carrying out of His purpose. For example, God arranged for the British Navy in 1588 to defeat a better equipped Spanish Navy, and as a result, **Britain prevailed and gained dominance on the sea**, becoming an empire in which the sun doesn't set.

We may consider **the spread of the Roman Empire** into the Middle East as being their desire for expansion and then later retreating from there; but the Roman Empire was greatly used by God to create the environment for His move. For example, both Mary and Joseph were from Nazareth, so God used the Roman Caesar to make a **census in Israel**, so these both had to go to Bethlehem, so that the prophecy concerning the birth of the Lord may be fulfilled (He was to be born in Bethlehem). Then, the Lord used crucifixion – the **Roman method of capital punishment** for the lowest class of criminals and for slaves who were guilty of rebellion – to accomplish the Lord's death on the **cross** for our redemption. Furthermore, the common language, the single rule, the good means of transportation and the roads, and the domestic order that the Roman Empire established were all used by God for the spread of the gospel. The Roman Empire was appointed by God to provide the situation in which Christ's redemption could be accomplished and then the gospel would be spread.

Furthermore, God used crucifixion – the capital punishment of the Roman Empire – for the Lord Jesus to die (as prophesied), and He used the order and roads and common language for the spread of the gospel. Throughout the ages God used other countries for His move. For example, God used **Germany** for the **Reformation** and the translation of the Bible and the development of free thought. Then God greatly used **Great Britain** to preach and **spread the gospel** to all the inhabited earth, including India, China, the USA, and everywhere the **English missionaries** went.

God's wisdom is to make **this age an age of gospel-preaching** – from Christ's ascension to His second coming, this age is the age of preaching the gospel. All the inventions, all things in heaven and on earth, including the invention of printing, the development in the car industry and transportation, and even nuclear technology, all are for the preaching of the gospel. Yes, they all bring in a lot of wars, famine, and death, but at the same time the gospel is preached! May the Lord gain us so that we may be more aware, more concerned, and more burdened to see the world situation and respond to the Lord's move today!

Lord Jesus, gain us so that we may be more aware of God's sovereign arrangement in the world situation, we would be more concerned about the crucial time in which we live, and we would be more burdened for God's move in the present world situation! Amen! Open our eyes to be aware of what You are doing today, be concerned about this crucial time we live in, and be more burdened for Your present move in this situation! Lord, we want to be one with You for Your move on earth today, so that the high and complete gospel may be preached and the end would come! (Excerpt from the Ministry of the Word: Special Fellowship Concerning the World Situation)