

**HWMR - CRYSTALLIZATION STUDY OF DEUTORONOMY, Week 6****Life in the Land and the Issue of the Land—the Church as the Temple, the Dwelling Place of God, and as the City, the Kingdom of God**

Scripture Reading: Deut. 12:11; 14:22-23; 16:15-17; 1 Cor. 14:26; Eph. 3:8, 18; 1:22-23; 2:21-22; 2 Cor. 2:10; Exo. 33:14; Psa. 27:4; 46:4-5

- Deuteronomy 12:11 Then to the place where Jehovah your God **will choose to cause His name to dwell**, there you shall bring all that I am commanding you, your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and the heave offering of your hand and all your choice vows which you vow to Jehovah.
- Deuteronomy 14:22 You must give a tenth of all the produce of your seed, which the field brings forth, year by year.
- Deuteronomy 14:23 And you shall **eat before Jehovah your God**, in the place where He will choose to cause His name to dwell, the tithe of your grain, of your new wine, and of your fresh oil and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear Jehovah your God always.
- Deuteronomy 16:15 You shall keep the feast to Jehovah your God for seven days in the place which Jehovah will choose, for Jehovah your **God will bless you in all your produce and in all your undertakings**; therefore you shall be nothing but joyful.
- Deuteronomy 16:16 Three times a year all your males shall appear before Jehovah your God in the place which He will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles. And they shall not appear before Jehovah empty-handed;
- Deuteronomy 16:17 **Each man shall give as he is able to give, according to the blessing of Jehovah your God, which He has given you.**
- 1 Corinthians 14:26 What then, brothers? Whenever you come together, each one has a **psalm**, has a **teaching**, has a **revelation**, has a **tongue**, has an **interpretation**. Let all things be done for **building up**.
- Ephesians 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the **church**,
- Ephesians 1:23 Which is **His Body**, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
- Ephesians 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is **growing into a holy temple in the Lord**;
- Ephesians 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a **dwelling place of God in spirit**.
- Ephesians 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel
- Ephesians 3:18 May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are
- 2 Corinthians 2:10 But whom you forgive anything, I also forgive; for also what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, it is for your sake in the person of Christ;
- Exodus 33:14 And He said, My **presence** shall go with you, and I will give you rest.
- Psalms 27:4 One thing I have asked from Jehovah; / That do I seek: / To dwell in the house of Jehovah / All the days of my life, / To behold the beauty of Jehovah, / And to inquire **in His temple**.
- Psalms 46:4 There is a river whose streams gladden **the city of God**, / The holy place of the tabernacles of the Most High.
- Psalms 46:5 **God is in the midst of her**; she will not be moved; / God helps her at the dawn of the morning.

**Day 1**

- I. We need to see **how to live a life in the eyes of God** that will enable us to enjoy the all-inclusive Christ typified by the good land—Col. 1:12; 2:6-7a.**
- II. We need to live **a life of laboring** upon Christ, **a life of enjoying** Christ personally so that we may enjoy Him together collectively for the building up of the Body of Christ as the temple, the house, of the living God—1 Cor. 3:16; 1 Tim. 3:15:**
- A. God's will is for us to **enjoy Christ**—Heb. 10:5-10; 1 Cor. 1:9.
- B. We must **seek** to enjoy Christ and experience Him **in every situation**—Phil. 3:7-14.
- C. Whenever we come to the meetings to worship the Lord, we should not come with our hands empty; **we must come with our hands full of the produce of Christ**—Deut. 16:15-17:
- We must produce enough of Him so that there will be a surplus remaining for the poor and the needy**, for the priests and the Levites, and with the best for the Lord Himself—15:11; 18:3-4; 12:11.
  - To worship God with Christ is to worship Him **collectively** with all the children of God by **enjoying Christ with one another and with God**—1 Cor. 14:26.

**Day 2****III. If we want to be overcomers, we need to **labor** on Christ as our good land, to **gain** Christ as our enjoyment:**

- A. Every morning we must **consecrate ourselves sincerely** to the Lord for the simple purpose of enjoying and experiencing Him—cf. Phil. 3:13-14.
- B. Every day we need to spend time to be with the Lord **privately and secretly** to have **intimate** fellowship with Him—Matt. 14:22-23; 6:6; Exo. 33:11a.

- C. We need to enjoy the Lord in the Word **every day early in the morning to have a new start of each day**—Psa. 119:147-148.
- D. We need to **deal with sins thoroughly** so that there is nothing between us and the Lord—1 John 1:7, 9; cf. Ezek. 1:22, 26.
- E. We need to maintain our fellowship with the Lord moment by moment, **living a life of prayer**—2 Cor. 13:14; Phil. 4:6-7; Lam. 3:55-56; cf. Matt. 11:25-26.
- F. We need to **redeem our time** and spend our energy to be **saturated and soaked with God's holy Word**—2 Tim. 3:16-17; Col. 3:16.
- G. We should **redeem the time** to be filled in spirit by **rejoicing always, praying unceasingly, and giving thanks in everything**—Eph. 5:18; 1 Thes. 5:16-19.

## HOW TO LABOR ON CHRIST

We have seen briefly our need to work on Christ and make Christ our industry. I believe we are clear regarding this matter, but I am afraid it may be merely a doctrine to many. How can we apply it in a practical way? What must we do to work on Christ daily?

Let me illustrate. Every morning you need to pray, "Lord, I consecrate myself once more to You, not to work for You but to enjoy You." You must **consecrate yourself sincerely to the Lord for the simple purpose of enjoying and experiencing Him—nothing more**. From the moment you awake in the morning, you need to say, "Lord, here I am. I give myself to enjoy You. Grant me through the entire day, from this moment on, to experience and apply You in every situation. I am not asking for anything tomorrow. I am asking for grace to enjoy You today. Show me how to till the ground, sow the seed, and water the plants of the Lord." Moment by moment through the whole day you will **maintain your communion with the Lord**. You will live practically in the Lord, laboring on Him, applying Him, and enjoying Him. If you do this, consider how fruitful and how beautiful your "farm" will be. **The farm of Christ in your daily life will be full of produce**. When the Lord's Day comes, and you go to worship the Lord with the saints, you will be able to say, "I am going now to see my God; I am going to worship my Lord. I will not go with empty hands but with **hands full of Christ**. I have a surplus, and in my right hand is the best part reserved for my dear Lord." When you come to the meeting, a brother may approach you, saying, "I am having a certain problem. Could you help me?" You can have a little fellowship with him and pass on some of your **surplus of Christ**. You can give him a little of the produce from the Christ upon whom you have been laboring, the Christ whom you have been enjoying day by day. **You have been abundantly satisfied with Him, and you have something over to share with the brothers and sisters**. When the meeting begins, you are well prepared to offer your prayers and praises to the Lord from your reserve for Him. This is the best of your surplus, and with the saints you joyfully render it to the Lord for His enjoyment and satisfaction. You have reaped enough of Christ for yourself, for the needy ones, and for the Lord. You have furthermore put aside a considerable portion that will stand you in good stead in future days.

If we are rich with Christ, we must necessarily be rich with work, rich with industry. In Christ we cannot be lazy. We must let God enjoy Christ with us and at the same time with others. If **you do this, I do this, and we all do this, how wonderful the meetings will be when we come together to worship the Lord**. I will share with you, and you will share with me. You will give me something of the Lord, and I will give you something in exchange. There will be every kind of sharing and mutual enjoyment. And the Lord will have His full portion.

*(The All-Inclusive Christ, chapter 15, section 2)*

### Day 3

#### IV. We meet together to have an exhibition of the Christ upon whom we have **labored**, the Christ whom we have **enjoyed and experienced**—Deut. 14:22-23:

- A. The true worship of God by His people is when everyone is **full** of Christ, **radiant** with Christ, and **exhibiting** the Christ upon whom they have labored.
- B. We should **always have something to speak** in all the meetings as a freewill offering to God and to the attendants—1 Cor. 14:26:
  - 1. Before coming to the meeting, we should **prepare ourselves** for the meeting with something of the Lord, either through our **experience** of Him or through our **enjoyment** of His word and our **fellowship** with Him in prayer—cf. Rev. 1:20.
  - 2. After coming into the meeting, **we need not wait, and should not wait, for inspiration**; we should **exercise our spirit** and use our trained mind to function in presenting what we have prepared to the Lord for His glory and satisfaction and to the attendants for their **benefit**—their **enlightenment, nourishment, and building up**—1 Cor. 14:31-32.

#### V. **Day by day and hour by hour** we need to **enjoy** the marvelous, wonderful, immeasurable, unlimited, and all-inclusive riches of **Christ as the good land**—Eph. 3:8:

- A. In 2 Corinthians the good land flowing with milk and honey is Christ Himself as the embodiment of the processed Triune God, given to us as the divine grace for our enjoyment—1 Cor. 5:7; 10:3-4; 2:14-15; 3:1; cf. 2 Cor. 1:12; 12:9; 13:14:
  - 1. In order to experience the riches of Christ as the good land, we must be **dominated, governed, directed, moved, and led** by our spirit—2:13.
  - 2. In order to experience the riches of Christ as the good land, we must **live in the person**, the **presence**, the **face**, of Christ—v. 10; 4:6-7; 3:16-18; 12:2a:
    - a. In order to possess Christ as the all-inclusive land, **we must be governed by His person, His presence**—Exo. 33:14.
    - b. Because Paul lived in the person of Christ, he experienced Christ as **changelessness** (2 Cor. 1:17-20), as **meekness** and **gentleness** (10:1), as **truthfulness** (11:10), as **power** (12:10; 13:4), as **grace** (v. 14), and as the **One speaking in him** (v. 3; cf. 2:17).
  - 3. We receive Christ as grace, the reality of the good land, through the **breaking and constituting work of the Holy Spirit**, whereby our **inner being is rebuilt with the Divine Trinity**—12:7-10; 13:14.

## Day 4

- B. At the stage of our experience in which we are enjoying Christ as the all-inclusive land, **Christ is unlimitedly great to us**; He is a good and spacious land, whose dimensions are the breadth, the length, the height, and the depth—Exo. 3:8; Eph. 3:18:
1. Christ's dimensions are the dimensions of the universe— cf. Col. 1:16-17.
  2. To apprehend the dimensions of Christ, **we need all the saints**.
  3. Our experience of Christ must become **three-dimensional**, like a cube:
    - a. In our experience of Christ **we must go back and forth and up and down** so that eventually our experience of Him may be a solid "cube"; when our experience is like this, we cannot fall or be broken.
    - b. Both in the tabernacle and in the temple, the Holy of Holies was a cube of ten and twenty cubits respectively— Exo. 26:2-8; 1 Kings 6:20.
    - c. Christ is the universal cube, and the church life today is also a cube.
    - d. Eventually, the entire New Jerusalem will be the Holy of Holies as an eternal cube, twelve thousand stadia in three dimensions— Rev. 21:16.

## Day 5

**VI. The issue of our enjoyment of the all-inclusive riches of Christ as the good land is the **church as the temple**, the **dwelling place of God**, and as the city, the kingdom of God— Eph. 2:21-22:**

- A. The **land** with its **temple and city** is the center of God's plan:
1. The **land is Christ Himself**, and the temple and the city are the **fullness of Christ**, the **church**, which is **His Body**—1:22-23; 2:21-22.
  2. The **temple** is for the **expression of God**, and the **city** is for the **dominion of God**; this fulfills God's eternal purpose—Gen. 1:26.
- B. When we **enjoy Christ personally in our daily life for our collective enjoyment** of Him in our meeting life, **God is among us**, and we are His dwelling place and His kingdom:
1. When we enjoy Christ to such an extent, the church **meeting will be filled with God**, and all its activities will **convey and transmit God to people that they may be infused with God**— 1 Cor. 14:25.
  2. When we enjoy Christ to such an extent, **we will submit to one another**, and the authority of Christ will be among us— Eph. 5:18, 21; 1 Pet. 5:5.

## Day 6

- C. The main aspects of **God's house**, His dwelling place for His expression, speak of **God's presence** (God's house signifies Christ, the church, the New Jerusalem, and our spirit):
1. God's house is the place of God's presence, which is **God's glory** (Psa. 26:8; 29:9), **God's beauty** (27:4, 8), and **God's riches** (36:8-9).
  2. God's house is the place of **revelation and God's answer**— 73:16-17; 3:4; 18:6.
  3. God's house is **our hiding place**—27:5; cf. 31:20; 84:3.
  4. God's house is the place **where we may be planted, flourish, and bear fruit**—92:13-14.
  5. God's house is the place of **springs**—87:7.
  6. God's house is the place **where we are strengthened**—68:35; 96:6.
  7. God's house is the place **where we are mingled with God**— 92:10.
  8. God's house is the place **where God is our portion**—73:26.
- D. The main aspects of **God's city, His kingdom** for His dominion, **speak of God's authority**:
1. God's city is a **strong city**, the city of the great King—31:21; 48:2.
  2. There is a **river with gladdening streams** in God's city—46:4-5.
  3. God is known **in her** and is a **high retreat in her**—48:3.
  4. She is a **terror to the enemy**—vv. 3-6; 76:2-3.
  5. She is the **perfection of beauty**—50:2.
  6. She is the **goal of God's good pleasure**—51:18.
  7. The **thrones of judgment** are set in God's city—122:5.
  8. The Lord **blesses others out of her** and **is blessed out of her**— 134:3; 135:21.
- E. The **ultimate issue of our enjoyment of Christ as the land** is the **divine-human incorporation of the processed Triune God** with His **regenerated, transformed, and glorified** tripartite people as the **eternal dwelling place and kingdom of God**—Rev. 21:3, 22; 22:5.

## THE CITY

But this temple of God needs enlargement. How can it be enlarged? It is enlarged by Christ as the authority of God. We not only need Christ as our enjoyment but also **Christ as the authority of God**. This is exceedingly real. When you and I enjoy Christ together in the way that we have shown, the reality of the authority of Christ is among us. In such an enjoyment and out of such an enjoyment, we **will be very submissive to God and to one another**. We will be full of submission. Can you believe that after enjoying Christ in such a way we could quarrel with each other? Can you believe that in such an enjoyment we could hate one another? It is impossible. Is it possible for us to be formed as an army to fight the enemy and yet within the army to be fighting with each other? It is possible if this is not an army. If we are a group of bandits or gangsters, it is possible. **Without submission there is no army**. When we enjoy Christ to such an extent, every one of us will be submissive to each other. We cannot do otherwise. True love is in submission. When we submit one to another, we are really loving one another. True love does not exist in my taste, my choice, or my desire but in my submission. If there is submission among us, the authority of Christ is among us. It is the authority of Christ that enlarges the habitation of God, the temple of God.

What is the enlargement of the temple of God? It is the city of God. By the authority of Christ the church is not only God's home but also **His city**. Not only is the presence of God there but also the **kingdom of God** and the **authority of God**. When people come in, they will sense God's presence, and they will also sense God's authority. They will say that this is not only the house of God but the kingdom of God. Then there will be the city with the temple. **The city and the temple are where there is a group of people who experience and enjoy Christ to such an extent that they are mingled and blended with Him in every way**. When they come together, they enjoy Christ before God and with God. Everything with them is Christ. If we are in such a situation, praise the Lord, we have the house of God and we have the city of God. We are in God's home, and we are in God's kingdom. All who come into our midst will sense the presence of God as well as the authority of God. They will say, "God is not only dwelling here, but God is ruling here."

Brothers and sisters, this is what God is seeking today. **He is looking for such a situation on this earth, in the very place where you are living**. If you are living in Louisville, God is seeking this in Louisville. If you are living in Sacramento, God is seeking this very reality in Sacramento. **Wherever we are living, God is seeking His house and His kingdom, His temple and His city, among us**. But we must experience Christ. Starting with the passover lamb and passing through so many experiences, we must come together with the saints into the land, the all-inclusive Christ. Then we must labor diligently on the land to produce the abundant riches of Christ. We must become "Christ Incorporated," the group of Christians who produce Christ, enjoy Christ, share Christ, and offer Christ to God in worship. **Everything with us must be Christ**. This is the real expression of the Body of Christ. Here is the house of God and the kingdom of God. If we have such a reality, we have the land, we have the temple, and we have the city.

This is what God is seeking today. May we be faithful to Him and learn by His grace how to enjoy Christ, how to experience Christ, and how to apply Christ to our daily lives. **Then we will continually grow in our experience and enjoyment of Him until that time when with the saints we enter the good land, labor on it, and the temple and the city come into being**.

*(The All-Inclusive Christ, chapter 16, section 3)*