

A TIMELY WORD CONCERNING THE WORLD SITUATION AND THE LORD'S RECOVERY, Week 3

The Universal History according to God's Economy— the Divine History within the Human History

Scripture Reading: Joel 1:4; 2:28-32; 3:11-21; Eph. 3:16-21; 4:15-16; Rev. 19:7-9; 22:17a

- Joel 1:4 What the **cutting locust** has left, the **swarming locust** has eaten; And what the swarming locust has left, the **licking locust** has eaten; And what the licking locust has left, the **consuming locust** has eaten.
- Joel 2:28 And afterward **I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh**, And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy; Your old men shall dream dreams; Your young men shall see visions.
- Joel 2:29 Indeed even upon the male and female slaves In those days **I will pour out My Spirit**.
- Joel 2:30 And I will show wonders in the heavens and on earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke.
- Joel 2:31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the great and terrible Day of Jehovah comes.
- Joel 2:32 And everyone who calls on the name of Jehovah shall be saved; For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem will be an escape, As Jehovah has said, Even for the remnant Whom Jehovah calls.
- Joel 3:11 Hurry and come, All you surrounding nations, And be gathered. **There cause Your mighty ones to descend, O Jehovah!**
- Joel 3:12 Let the nations rouse themselves and come up To the valley of Jehoshaphat For there I will sit to judge All the surrounding nations.
- Joel 3:13 Send forth the sickle, For the harvest is ripe; Come, tread, For the winepress is full; The wine vats overflow, For their evil is great.
- Joel 3:14 Multitudes, multitudes, In the valley of decision; For the day of Jehovah has drawn near In the valley of decision.
- Joel 3:15 The sun and the moon grow dark, And the stars withdraw their shining.
- Joel 3:16 And Jehovah will roar from Zion, And from Jerusalem He will utter His voice, And the heavens and the earth will shake. But Jehovah will be a shelter to His people And a stronghold to the children of Israel.
- Joel 3:17 Thus you will know that I am Jehovah your God, Dwelling in Zion, My holy mountain. And Jerusalem will be holy, And strangers will pass through her no longer.
- Joel 3:18 And in that day The mountains will drop down afresh wine, And the hills will flow with milk; And all the waterways of Judah Will flow with water, And a fountain will go forth from the house of Jehovah, And it will water the valley of Shittim.
- Joel 3:19 Egypt will be a desolation, And Edom will be a desolate wilderness, Because of the violence against the children of Judah, In that they have shed innocent blood in their land.
- Joel 3:20 But Judah will abide forever, And Jerusalem, from generation to generation;
- Joel 3:21 And I will acquit them of their bloodshed that I had not acquitted them of, For Jehovah dwells in Zion.
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- Ephesians 3:16 That **He would grant you**, according to the riches of His glory to be strengthened with power though **His Spirit** into the inner man,
- Ephesians 3:17 That **Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith**, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
- Ephesians 3:18 May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are
- Ephesians 3:19 And to know the **knowledge-surpassing love of Christ**, that you may be filled unto all the **fullness of God**.
- Ephesians 3:20 But to Him who is able to do superabundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power which operates in us,
- Ephesians 3:21 To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen.
- Ephesians 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,
- Ephesians 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
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- Revelation 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and **His wife has made herself ready**.
- Revelation 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.
- Revelation 19:9 And he said to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God.
- Revelation 22:17 **And the Spirit and the bride say, Come!** And let him who hears say, Come! And let him who is thirsty come; let him who wills take the water of life freely.

In this universe there are two histories: the **history of man**, the human history, and the **history of God**, the divine history. In the divine history what is being recovered today is **God's economy**, which is focused on the central work of God—to **work Himself in Christ into His chosen and redeemed people**, making Himself one with them for His expression. God's intention in His economy is this to have a **corporate entity**, composed of God and man, to be His expression for eternity. This divine history began with the eternal God and His economy.

(Life-Study of Joel, p.34)

Day 1

I. In this universe there are two histories: the **history of man, the human history, and the **history of God**, the divine history; the former is like an **outward shell**, and the latter, like the **kernel** within the shell:**

A. We need to have a clear view of the divine history **within** the human history—Joel 1:4; 2:28-32; 3:11-21:

1. The **history of man**, the history of the world, the physical, human history, is **outward**; the **divine history**, the history of God with man and in man, is **inward**; it is a matter of the mystery of the Triune God in humanity—1 Tim. 3:15-16:

Day 2

- a. **Before** Christ's incarnation God moved **with** men and **among** men; this was not His direct move to carry out His eternal economy for Christ and the church but His indirect move in His old creation for the preparation of His direct move in His new creation for His eternal economy.
- b. God's history is of two portions—the history of **God with man**, found in the Old Testament, and the history of **God in man**, found in the New Testament.
- c. God's history in man began with the incarnation and continued with His processes of **incarnation**, **human living**, **crucifixion**, **resurrection**, and **ascension**; Hosea 11:4 says that these are the cords of a man, the bands of love.
2. The **divine history**, the history of God in man, was from **Christ's incarnation** through His **ascension** to become the life-giving Spirit and then continues with His indwelling us through God's organic salvation of regeneration, sanctification, renewing, transformation, conformation, and glorification to make us the glorious bride of Christ—Rom. 5:10; Eph. 5:27; Rev. 19:7-9.
3. This culminates in **Christ as the Spirit**, the processed and consummated Triune God, marrying the church as the bride, the processed and transformed tripartite man—22:17a.
4. At the time of the Lord's coming back, there will be a meeting of two figures—**Antichrist**, a figure in the outward, human history, and **Christ**, the Figure in the intrinsic, divine history—2 Thes. 2:2-8:
 - a. Christ will come back, descending with His overcomers as His army (Joel 3:11), to defeat Antichrist and his army (Rev. 19:11-21).
 - b. After the Figure in the divine history **defeats** the figure in the human history, the thousand-year kingdom will come, and this kingdom will consummate in the New Jerusalem—the ultimate and consummate step of the divine history—20:4, 6; 21:10.

The Incarnation Accomplishing Two Things

Bringing God into Man

Regarding the history of God in man, the incarnation of Christ accomplished two things. First, the **incarnation brought God into man**. Before the incarnation, as the Old Testament reveals, God was merely **with** man; He was outside of man. But by **incarnation God entered into man**, and from that time onward the history of God was different. Whereas in the past God was with man, and His history was a history with man, now God was **in** man, and His history began to be a **history in man**.

Making God One with Man

Second, the **incarnation** made **God one with man**. As a result of the incarnation, there was a wonderful person—a person who is the mingling of God with man. This person, Jesus, is not only God, and He is not merely a man. He is the **complete God** and the **perfect man**. Further, He is not only God in man—He is God mingled with man.

From this we see that the incarnation was an unprecedented event. Prior to the incarnation, there was not such a person, a person who is both God and man. But now, as a result of the incarnation, there is a wonderful person who is the **mingling of God with man**.

Our Involvement with the God-man

As believers, we all have become **involved** with this wonderful person, this One who is both God and man. A verse which speaks of this involvement is **Revelation 22:17a**, which says, "*The Spirit and the bride say, Come!*" The Spirit is the consummated Triune God, and the **bride** is the transformed **tripartite man**. As this verse reveals, these two, the Spirit and the bride, will be married, joined to become **one entity**, **one corporate person**. This is a strong indication that, in the New Testament, God is in man and is one with man. The New Jerusalem is a marvelous sign demonstrating how God is in man and is one with man.

(Life-Study of the Minor Prophets, chapter 16, section 1)

Day 3

- B. We need to consider whether we are living merely in the **human history** or living also in the **divine history**—1:11, 20; 12:11; 14:4b; 19:7:
 1. We all were **born** in the human history, but we have been **reborn**, **regenerated**, in the divine history—John 3:6.
 2. If our living is in the **world**, we are living merely in the **outward**, **human history**—Rom. 12:1-2; 1 John 2:15-17.
 3. If our living is in the **church**, we are living in the **inward**, **divine history**—1 Cor. 1:2.
 4. As the enlargement of the manifestation of Christ, the church is part of the divine history within the outward, human history—1 Tim. 3:15-16:
 - a. In the church life **God's history is our history**; God and we have one history, the divine history; our God has a marvelous history that includes us; God's history has become our history because He is in union with us—1 Cor. 6:17.
 - b. Whatever God **has** done, whatever He **is** doing, and whatever He **will** do in His history are all **for our Christian life and church life**.

Day 4

- C. “Our living, our daily walk, our schooling, our job, and our business **must be a part of God’s history** in His marvelous and excellent move on the earth today... We need to be **one with God** in His history, moving and energizing in His loving overcomers; that is, we need to be one with God **in life, in living, and in our entire doing** today on this earth! We need to write God’s today’s history!” (Life-study of Joshua, p. 3).

II. In the divine history what is being recovered today is God’s economy, which is focused on the central work of God—to work Himself in Christ into His chosen and redeemed people, making Himself one with them for His expression—Eph. 3:16-17a; 4:4-6:

- A. **God’s ultimate move** in His recovery to carry out His economy is to **work Himself**—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—**into us** and to become our life so that we may live Him out and express Him as His Body, the church—3:16-21; 4:4-6, 15-16.
- B. **God’s economy** is to make Christ **everything**, to make Christ the **centrality** and the **universality**, for the producing of God’s increase, His enlargement, which is the church; the increase, the enlargement, of God is the fullness of God for **His expression**—Col. 1:18; 2:19; 3:10-11; Eph. 3:19.
- C. In His economy God wants to **work Himself into man** to be one with us, to be our life, life supply, and everything, and to have us as **His expression**; thus, God’s intention in His economy is to have a **corporate entity**, composed of God and man, to be His expression for eternity—4:4-6.

THE ULTIMATE CONSUMMATION OF THE REVELATION IN THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH

The New Jerusalem is the consummation of God’s **new creation**. In the book of Jeremiah, the new creation is indicated by the new covenant in chapter thirty-one. The new covenant produces something new, and this new thing is the **new creation**. God’s new creation is His **increase**, His **enlargement**, becoming His **fullness**.

We use the word **fullness** here to denote not the riches of God but the **expression of God**. This word denotes not the riches of what God is but the expression of these riches, the full expression of the rich being of God. We may use a glass of water as an illustration. A glass that is full of water is rich in water. But when a glass of water is so full that it overflows with water, we have not only the riches of water but also the outflow of water as the fullness, the expression, of the water. God’s fullness, therefore, is His expression **in full**. The New Jerusalem, the consummation of the Bible, will be the fullness, the expression, of God.

Eventually, according to the new covenant, Israel will be **redeemed, saved, and renewed** so that God will be their God and they will be God’s people to participate in the enjoyment of the riches of the Triune God. This participation will be in the millennium in the coming age of restoration and will ultimately consummate in the New Jerusalem in the new heaven and new earth for eternity.

(Life-Study of Jeremiah and Lamentations, chapter 2, section 4)

Day 5

- D. According to His economy, God will rule over the world, produce a situation for Israel to be His elect, **gain the church** as His mysterious people, and have the nations to be the peoples in the eternal kingdom of God; if we **see** this, we will **know** where we are, and we will **know** the meaning of our human life—2 Tim. 1:9; Rom. 8:28-30.
- E. We need to have a **clear vision** of God’s economy and be **governed, controlled, directed, preserved, and protected** by this vision; today in the Lord’s recovery we must be **strong** and **unshakable** in the vision of God’s economy—Acts 26:19; Prov. 29:18a.

Day 6

- F. **God’s ultimate move** is to have Christ, the mystery of God, **enter into us** as our life so that we may become His living members and **form His Body**, which is the fullness of the One who fills all in all—Col. 2:2; 1:27; 3:4; 2:19; Eph. 1:22-23:
- Those who **live Christ**, who **live in the spirit**, are the actual Body of Christ corporately; they are also the one new man in actuality, a new creation with a new living to express the Triune God—4:16, 24.
 - Eventually, the **Body life** will reach the reality of Romans 12, and this will be the preparation of the bride for the Lord’s coming back—Rev. 19:7.
 - “Be **burdened** with God’s ultimate move. Then you will **see** God’s oneness with you, and there will be no problem with your living” (The World Situation and God’s Move, p. 43).
 - “**Rise up** and **stand** for the Lord’s recovery. This is the ultimate time for God to accomplish His purpose to bring the Lord back” (p. 58).

THE PREPARATION OF THE BRIDE

Revelation 19:7 says: “Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” This is the last step, the **ultimate move for God’s desire**. It is not just to have good gospel preaching, good Bible teaching, and good scriptural meetings. It is rather that we have the reality of the two mysteries, Christ as the mystery of God (Col. 2:2) and the church as the mystery of Christ (Eph. 3:4).

You should not be here just to make a living. That is too low. Be **burdened** with God’s ultimate move. Then you will **see God’s oneness with you**, and there will be no problem with your living. I do not use the Old Testament term, that you will have God’s blessing. I say that you will see God’s oneness with you, because you are one with Him.

The time is short; the end is close. If you know world history and the trend of history, you will realize that it is unlikely God would prepare another country to be a power in this world for Him to take yet another step. I believe that America is the last power God will use for His final move. This fourth step, His **final move**, is the carrying out of His eternal intention to have a number of His seekers, His lovers, live Christ and be the lampstand in their locality, that He may **prepare His bride**.

(The World Situation and God’s Move, chapter 4, section 4)