

**HWMR: AN OVERVIEW OF THE CENTRAL BURDEN AND PRESENT TRUTH OF THE LORD'S RECOVERY BEFORE HIS APPEARING, (Week 3)**

*Scripture Reading: 2 Sam. 7:12-14a; 1 Cor. 3:9; Eph. 3:14-21; Matt. 13:3-9, 19-23; Rev. 21:3, 22*

**God Building Himself in Christ into Our Being**

2 Samuel 7:12	When your days are fulfilled and you sleep with your fathers, I will raise up your seed after you, which will come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.
2 Samuel 7:13	It is he who will build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.
2 Samuel 7:14	I will be his Father, and he will be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the stripes of the sons of men;
1 Corinthians 3:9	For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's cultivated land, God's building.
Ephesians 3:14	For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father,
Ephesians 3:15	Of whom every family in the heavens and on earth is named,
Ephesians 3:16	That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through 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.
Matthew 13:3	And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, Behold, the sower went out to sow.
Matthew 13:4	And as he sowed, some seeds fell beside the way, and the birds came and devoured them.
Matthew 13:5	And others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much earth, and immediately they sprang up because they had no depth of earth.
Matthew 13:6	But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered.
Matthew 13:7	And others fell on the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them.
Matthew 13:8	But others fell on the good earth and yielded fruit, one a hundredfold, and one sixtyfold, and one thirtyfold.
Matthew 13:9	He who has ears to hear, let him hear.
Matthew 13:19	When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand, the evil one comes and snatches away that which has been sown in his heart. This is the one sown beside the way.
Matthew 13:20	And the one sown on the rocky places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;
Matthew 13:21	Yet he does not have root in himself but lasts only for a time, and when affliction or persecution occurs because of the word, immediately he is stumbled.
Matthew 13:22	And the one sown in the thorns, this is he who hears the word, and the anxiety of the age and the deceitfulness of riches utterly choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

Matthew 13:23	But the one sown on the good earth, this is he who hears the word and understands, who by all means bears fruit and produces, one a hundredfold, and one sixtyfold, and one thirtyfold.
Revelation 21:3	And I heard a loud voice out of the throne, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will tabernacle with them, and they will be His peoples, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.
Revelation 21:22	And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

### Day 1

*2 Samuel 7:12-14 - When your days are fulfilled and you sleep with your fathers, I will raise up your seed after you, which will come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. It is he who will build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he will be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the stripes of the sons of men;*

#### **I. Second Samuel 7:12-14a is the unveiling of a prophecy through typology showing us that we need God to build up Christ into our intrinsic constitution so that our **entire being will be reconstituted with Christ**—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 3:17:**

- A. The organic building up of the church as the Body of Christ through the process of **spiritual metabolism** is actually what Jehovah prophesied to David in the way of typology in 2 Samuel 7:12-14a; it is only through this process that human beings can be **transformed** into sons of God and that something human—the human seed—can become something divine—the sons of God.
- B. In order for God’s building to take place, we need to **receive**, **digest**, and **assimilate** the organic, pneumatic Christ, who is the life-giving Spirit, as our spiritual food, drink, and breath—John 6:51, 57; 7:37-39; 20:22:
  1. When we **enjoy** the “now” Christ by **eating**, **drinking**, and **breathing** Him, a metabolic process takes place within us, and Christ is constituted into our being—Gal. 2:20; 2 Cor. 2:15; Phil. 1:20-21.
  2. God’s economy is to work Himself into us that we may experience a metabolic process of spiritual digestion and assimilation that produces a **gradual and intrinsic change** in life—2 Cor. 3:18.
  3. This metabolic process is transformation, and transformation is the **building**—cf. Rev. 21:18; 4:3.

In 2 Samuel 7 David wanted to build God’s house, but in this chapter God wanted David to realize that he needed God to **build Christ into him**. Thus, 2 Samuel 7 is the unveiling of a prophecy through typology showing us there is no need for us to build something for God. We simply are not able to do this. We cannot build something for God with ourselves or with our knowledge of the Bible and theology. We need God to build up Christ into our intrinsic constitution so that **our entire being will be reconstituted with Christ**. As a result, we are not only changed, but we are transformed from one kind of person into another. Perhaps now we can see that 2 Samuel 7 simply indicates that God does not need us to build anything for Him. We are nothing, we have nothing, and we can do nothing. Therefore, **we need Christ to be wrought into our being**.

At this point we need to consider once again what God’s economy is. God’s economy is to **work Himself into us** in Christ as His embodiment. Through death and resurrection Christ has become the life-giving Spirit. Now we need to let God work Christ as the Spirit into every part of our being. The more God does this, the more we will be able to declare, “To me, to live is Christ,” and “I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me” (Phil. 1:21; Gal. 2:20). (*Life-Study of First and Second Samuel, chapter 24*)

## Day 2

*1 Corinthians 3:12* - But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, stubble,

*Matthew 13:23* - But the one sown on the good earth, this is he who hears the word and understands, who by all means bears fruit and produces, one a hundredfold, and one sixtyfold, and one thirtyfold.

### II. The believers, who have been regenerated in Christ with God's life, are **God's cultivated land**, a farm in God's new creation to grow Christ that **precious materials** may be produced for God's building—1 Cor. 3:9:

- A. According to the Bible, **growth equals building**; this takes place by the growth of the divine seed of life within us—1 John 3:9; Col. 2:19; Eph. 4:15-16.
- B. Ephesians 3:17 reveals that the Triune God has come into us to do a building work with **Himself as the element** and also with something from us as the material.
- C. This is illustrated by the parable of the sower in Matthew 13:
  1. The Lord **sows Himself as the seed of life** into men's hearts, the soil, that He might grow and live in them and be expressed from within them—v. 3.
  2. The seed is sown into the soil to grow with the nutrients of the soil; as a result, the produce is a composition of **elements from both the seed and the soil**—v. 23.
  3. We have within us **certain nutrients created by God** as a preparation for His coming into us to grow in us; God has created the human spirit with the human nutrients along with the human heart as the soil for the divine seed—cf. 1 Pet. 3:4.
  4. The rate at which we grow in life depends not on the divine seed but on **how many nutrients we afford this seed**; the more nutrients we supply, the faster the seed will grow and the more it will flourish—Psa. 78:8; Matt. 5:3, 8:
    - a. If we remain in our soul, in our natural man, there will not be any nutrients for the growth of the divine seed, but if we are strengthened into our inner man and if we pay attention to our spirit and **exercise our spirit**, the nutrients will be **supplied**, and Christ will make His home in our hearts—Eph. 3:16-17; Rom. 8:6; 1 Tim. 4:7; cf. Jude 19.
    - b. If we are going to have the Lord as the seed of life grow within us to be our full enjoyment, we have to **open to the Lord** absolutely and **cooperate** with Him to deal thoroughly with our heart—Matt. 13:3-9, 19-23.
  5. On the one hand, **God strengthens us** with Himself as the element, and on the other hand, we **afford the nutrients**; through these two God in Christ carries out His intrinsic building—the building of His home—in our entire being.

**Eating** the Lord has much to do with being **transfused** with Him. Actually, to eat the Lord Jesus is to **allow** Him to get into us by the way of transfusion. This is clearly revealed in the New Testament. According to the New Testament, our relationship with the Lord is altogether a matter of spiritual life. Because it is a spiritual thing, human language cannot describe it adequately. For this reason, Paul uses metaphors. In 1 Corinthians 3 the words feeding, milk, drinking, and solid food are metaphors. The Lord Jesus also used metaphors and parables in His teaching, for example, when He said, "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35). The Lord went on to say that the bread which He gives is His flesh. The Jews "contended with one another, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" (v. 52). To eat the Lord Jesus is to receive Him into us and allow Him to add Himself to us. Eating is not once for all; it must be **repeated day by day**. We have been eating various foodstuffs for years, but we still need to eat today. Each time we take food into us, transfusion occurs within us. By eating and by transfusion Christ is added into our being.

Eating is related to **transformation**. When food is eaten, digested, and assimilated, a new substance is added into our being to replace and discharge the old substance. This is the metabolic process of transformation. The significance of eating is that a **new substance is added into us to discharge the old substance in order to produce a metabolic transformation**. This crucial matter is very much neglected by Christians today. (*Life-Study of 1 Corinthians, chapter 31*)

### Day 3

*Ephesians 3:14* - For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father,

*Ephesians 3:16-17* - That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man, That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

*Ephesians 3:19* - And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.

### III. The apostle's prayer in Ephesians 3 reveals that for the fulfillment of God's eternal economy, **we need the Father**, according to the riches of His glory, to **strengthen** us with power through His Spirit into the inner man, that Christ may **build** Himself into our hearts, occupying our entire being, that we might be **filled** unto all the fullness of God—vv. 14-19:

- A. To say that we need to be strengthened with power into the inner man indicates that we are not in the inner man, that **we live mostly in the outer man**—v. 16; 1:19-22; 3:20.
- B. Christ has the desire to **occupy every room** of our heart:
  1. The phrase **make His home** is only one word in the Greek, *katoikeo*, which basically means to settle down in a dwelling, to make a dwelling place, and the prefix of this word, *kata*, means “down”—v. 17a.
  2. As Christ makes His home deep down in our hearts, we are being **rooted in love** for God's farm and grounded in love for God's building—v. 17b.
  3. As Christ makes His home in our hearts, **we become strong to apprehend** with all the saints the immeasurable Christ, whose dimensions are the dimensions of the universe—v. 18:
    - a. Our experience of Christ in the church must be **three-dimensional**, like a cube (the breadth, length, height, and depth), and must not be one-dimensional, like a line.
    - b. Both in the tabernacle and the temple, the Holy of Holies was a cube—Exo. 26:2-8; 1 Kings 6:20.
    - c. Eventually, the New Jerusalem, God's building, will be an eternal cube, the Holy of Holies, twelve thousand stadia in three dimensions—Rev. 21:16.
  4. Christ making His home in our hearts causes us to know the **knowledge-surpassing love of Christ**, that we may be filled unto all the fullness of the Triune God for His corporate expression, His glorification—Eph. 3:19-21; cf. Gen. 24:47, 53, 61-67.

### Day 4

*Ephesians 3:17* - That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

*1 Corinthians 3:12* - But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, stubble,

### IV. If we realize that God desires to work Himself into His chosen people, then the goal of our work will be to **minister the building and builded God into others** so that the Triune God may build Himself into their being—Eph. 3:17a:

- A. The crucial matter in our work in the Lord's recovery is to **minister the building and builded God**—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2:21-22; 3:17a.
- B. We should reconsider the work we are doing for the Lord and ask **how much of Christ** as the embodiment of the Triune God has been wrought into those whom we have brought to the Lord—Gal. 4:19; Col. 1:28.

- C. We need to practice one thing—to **minister the processed and consummated Triune God** into others so that He may build Himself into their inner man; we need to pray that the Lord will teach us to work in this way—2 Cor. 13:14; 1 Cor. 3:9a, 10, 12.
- D. When we build the church with the processed and consummated Triune God, it is not actually we who are building; rather, **God is building through us**, using us as a means to dispense and transmit Himself into others—Acts 9:15; 1 Cor. 14:4b; 2 Cor. 3:3-6.

In our experience of Christ, we firstly experience the **breadth of what He is**, and then we experience the **length**. This is horizontal. When we advance in Christ, we experience the **height and depth of His riches**. This is vertical. Firstly we experience Christ spreading as the breadth and the length. Later we experience Him rising up as the height and finally descending as the depth. As we shall see, our experience of Christ must eventually become three-dimensional, like a cube.

If we have only the length of Christ, without any breadth, our experience will be a “line,” that is, an experience that is **long and narrow** to an extreme. Our experience of Christ, however, should not have only one dimension, like a line, but it should have two dimensions, like a square, and then **three dimensions, like a cube**. It is of great importance that we all have a two-dimensional, or a “square,” experience of Christ. If we have only a “line” experience of Him, this “line” will eventually continue until it reaches an extreme. All extremists are “one-liners,” those whose experience of Christ is on a single “line.” If you experience Christ properly and normally as the breadth and the length, you will be kept from going to an extreme. Do not go too far out on the “line” of a narrow and long experience of Christ. Rather, experience Him in a “square” way as the breadth and as the length. By experiencing Christ continually as the breadth and length, our experience will be like a solidly woven “carpet,” not a long, single “thread.”

For a number of years, I listened to a certain great Bible teacher. He was extremely knowledgeable in the Scriptures. Although he spent very little time in prayer, he was constantly reading the Word and writing notes in his Bible. After talking about the Bible for a period of time, he would excuse himself in order to smoke his pipe. Then he would resume his discussion of the Scriptures. With him there was a “line” of only one dimension—an extreme emphasis on studying the Bible—but there was not the normal spreading of Christ in two dimensions as a “square” in his experience. (Life-Study of Ephesians, chapter 33)

## Day 5

**2 Samuel 7:14** - *I will be his Father, and he will be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the stripes of the sons of men;*

**Romans 1:3-4** - *Concerning His Son, who came out of the seed of David according to the flesh, Who was designated the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord;*

- E. As we work for God today, we should **participate in God’s building**—the constitution of the divine element into the human element and of the human element into the divine element—John 14:20; 15:4a; 1 John 4:15.
- F. As the divine element is constituted into our humanity, **we become God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead**, and as the human element is constituted into God, God becomes man; this is the building revealed in the New Testament—Eph. 2:21; 4:16.
- G. In the Lord’s recovery our work must be part of this **mutual constitution**:
  1. If our work is **not related** to this mutual constitution, then in the eyes of God our work is like **wood, grass, and stubble**—1 Cor. 3:12.
  2. If our work **is part** of this mutual constitution, God will regard our work as **gold, silver, and precious stones**, which will consummate in the New Jerusalem—Rev. 21:2,10-11, 18-

- H. As we endeavor to carry out the God-ordained way in the four steps of begetting, nourishing, perfecting, and building, our work must be **based upon the processed and consummated Triune God**, who is building Himself into His chosen people and building them into Him.
- I. If we minister the building and build God to others for their growth in the divine life, we are **building up the Body of Christ**, which will consummate the New Jerusalem—Col. 2:19; Eph. 4:15-16; Rev. 21:10.

After we experience the breadth and length of Christ, we begin to experience the **height of Christ and then the depth**. Do not think that we firstly experience the depth of Christ. No, firstly we **ascend** and then we **descend**. Before we can have the depth, we must have the height. The spiritual experiences of the depth of Christ come from the experiences of the height of Christ. This means that firstly we grow upward and then we are **rooted**. Therefore, the proper understanding of the experience of the height and depth of Christ is contrary to our natural concept, which places depth before height.

In our experience of Christ, we should go on from the two dimensions to three, from a “square” to a “cube.” A cube is solid. Both in the tabernacle and in the temple the Holy of Holies was a cube. The dimensions of this cube in the tabernacle and temple respectively were ten cubits and twenty cubits. The New Jerusalem will be an eternal cube, twelve thousand stadia in three dimensions. The **church life today must also be a “cube.”** Furthermore, our **experience of Christ** in the church must be “cubical,” three-dimensional, with many lines going back and forth in all three directions. When we experience Christ in such a three-dimensional way, we are **solid**. In our experience of Christ we are firstly a “square” and then a “cube.” When we become a cube, we **cannot fall**, and we **cannot be broken**. Christ is the universal cube, and the church life today is also a “cube,” not a “line” nor even a “carpet.” What about our experience of Christ? May the Lord open our eyes to see that our experience of Him must be a “cube.” As we go back and forth and up and down in our experience of Christ, we eventually have a solid “cube.” (Life-Study of Ephesians, chapter 33)

### Day 6

- Revelation 21:2* - And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- Revelation 21:18-19* - And the building work of its wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every precious stone: the first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald;

### V. Eventually, the Triune God and redeemed humanity will be **mingled, blended, and built up as one entity—the New Jerusalem—vv. 2, 10:**

- A. The New Jerusalem is built by God’s constituting of Himself into man to make man the same as God in life, in nature, and in constitution so that God and man may become a **corporate entity**—vv. 18-21.
- B. The New Jerusalem is a composition of divinity and humanity **blended and mingled together** as one entity; all the components have the **same life, nature, and constitution** and thus are a corporate person—vv. 3, 22:
  - 1. “God in man and man in God / Mutual dwelling thus possess; / God the content is to man, / And the man doth God express”—*Hymns*, #972, stanza 9.
  - 2. God and man, man and God, are **built up together and blended and mingled together**; this is the consummation of God’s building.
- C. The New Jerusalem is a constitution of God and man and man and God, who are **constituted into one**—Rev. 22:17a; 21:3, 22:
  - 1. This is divinity expressed in humanity and humanity glorified in divinity, with the divine glory shining forth radiantly in humanity—v. 11.



2. The two—divinity and humanity—become a **mutual dwelling place**:
  - a. The One who is God yet man dwells in the one who is man yet God.
  - b. The one who is man yet God dwells in the One who is God yet man.
- D. The mutual abode produced by the constitution of the divine element into the human element and of the human element into the divine element is the **center and reality of the universe**—vv. 1-2, 22; cf. Eccl. 1:2.
- E. “The processed and consummated Triune God, according to the good pleasure of His desire and for the highest intention in His economy, is building Himself into His chosen people and His chosen people into Himself, that He may have a constitution in Christ as a mingling of divinity and humanity to be His organism and the Body of Christ, as His eternal expression and the mutual abode for the redeeming God and the redeemed man. The ultimate consummation of this miraculous structure of treasure will be the New Jerusalem for eternity”—Inscription on Witness Lee’s tomb.

Genesis 2 reveals the tree of life with a river and precious materials of gold, bdellium, and onyx stone. These materials are for **building**, for after this, God built a woman, Eve. This corresponds to the entire Bible. Christ came into us as the Spirit to be life to us. On the one hand, **He is working within us to transform us** into precious stones; on the other hand, **He is building with Himself** (divinity) **and with us** (humanity) **to produce a home**, a dwelling place. Eventually, this dwelling place, which is a **mutual abode**, will issue in the New Jerusalem.

This view of God’s building in the Bible indicates that God’s economy and goal according to His heart’s desire are just to **build Himself into man and to build man into Him**. We have seen that Athanasius said, “He [Christ] was made man that we might be made God.” This means that as God’s children, we are “baby gods,” having the life and nature of God but not the Godhead. However, not even this is God’s goal. God in Christ is within us to build Himself into our being and to build us into His being. He builds His divinity into our humanity and builds our humanity into His divinity in order to **mingle** and **blend** His divinity with our humanity **into one entity**. This is like the meal offering: fine flour mingled with oil for the satisfaction of both God and man.

In this mingling God and man, man and God, are **blended together into one entity**. This entity is God’s building, which is a **mutual abode for God and man**. This entity, possessing both the divine nature and the human nature, also is the wife of the redeeming Christ. This entity, the New Jerusalem, will remain forever and will be the centrality and universality of the new heaven and new earth. This is the entire and complete revelation of the Bible.

The Bible begins with the tree of life, the flowing river, the precious materials of gold, bdellium, and onyx stone, and a builded wife. At the end of the Bible, we see again the tree of life with the flow of the living water, three kinds of material—gold, pearls, and precious stones—and a builded wife, the New Jerusalem. The beginning of the Bible shows God’s goal, and the end shows God’s achievement and attainment. This is God’s goal, and both God and we are heading toward it. With this revelation as our “road map,” we can know where we are and where we will be for eternity. (*Life-Study of First and Second Samuel, chapter 28*)