

The Plague of Sardis (2) by Jeremiah

Today, I would like to continue looking at the plague of Sardis.

<Sardis is the red one>

Like I said last time, let us know clearly that the word Sardis has the meaning of “the red one.” The bible was written through the knowledge of God, so we must know that each word has a deep meaning that He has given.

If God has given the name meaning “the red one” to Sardis which foreshadows the Protestants, this is not a coincidence. We must understand correctly that God has given a prophecy and message concerning the future of this church.

Sardis (the red one) is related to Esau and Edom, and this is the name of a profane person who sold his own birthright. This is a prophecy of Sardis, or the Protestants to sell their own right to inherit the kingdom.

<Edom is the cursed nation>

The red one, Edom (Esau's other name) is written as a prophecy that they are the cursed people in Isaiah 34:5-15.

From this verse, we can see the future of the Protestants which is said to be the present day Edom or the red one.

Isaiah 34:5 “For my sword shall be bathed in heaven: behold, it shall come down upon Idumea, and upon the people of my curse, to judgment.” (King James Version)

The Lord has called the Edom “the people of my curse.” This means that they will be destroyed. Therefore, this is a prophecy that Sardis, the red one, which signifies the Protestants will be destroyed in the near future.

34:6 “The sword of the Lord is filled with blood, it is made fat with fatness, and with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams: for the Lord hath a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughter in the land of Idumea.”

34:7 “And the unicorns shall come down with them, and the bullocks with the bulls; and their land shall be soaked with blood, and their dust made fat with fatness.”

The sword is a symbol of words and teachings. It is written the sword of the Lord, in other words God's words. Therefore, Edom the red one, profane Christians will fall down because of the sword of the Lord or a plague concerning false teachings. They will believe that false teachings such as once one becomes a Christian, they will not be judged. Such beliefs will cause them to the destruction of the Protestants.

34:8 “For it is the day of the Lord's vengeance, and the year of recompenses for the controversy of Zion.”

The reason that Edom, or the profane Protestants will be judged is written for “the recompenses for they controversy of Zion.” What does this mean?

In detail, it means that the Protestants will become even more profane, and finally, they will persecute against Zion, which symbolized the people who follow His words correctly. Being against homosexuality and the union with Catholics, they are called “Cult Christians”, and they will be attacked and given death sentences by secularized Edomic Christians.

“A brother who attacks his own brother will lead him to death” is a word that will become true among the Protestants. The most active persecution will be done by Edom, the secularized Protestants.

The correct people will be the victims of such persecutions and many may get martyred. However, the Lord will not look over such acts, and he said there will be a revenge, a “recompense for the controversy of Zion.”

34:9 “And the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch.”

As it is written “He that believeth on me...out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water”, the river is related the holy spirit. Originally, there is the river of life, the river of the holy spirit flowing in the church. However, in Edom, the red one, “the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone”.

Both the pitch and brimstone are far from the water of life and is not something one can drink. Likely, spirits in the profane church, the Edom-like Protestant church is not something one can accept, and rather there will be evil spirits working in the church.

This is actually happening in some Protestant churches, and the bowl of evil spirits of Benny Hinn and Rodney Howard are working actively in meetings.

34:10 “It shall not be quenched night nor day; the smoke thereof shall go up for ever: from generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it for ever and ever.”

34:11 “But the cormorant and the bittern shall possess it; the owl also and the raven shall dwell in it: and he shall stretch out upon it the line of confusion, and the stones of emptiness.”

The owl and birds are symbols of spiritual matters, and here, Edom, the Protestant church is illustrated as the house of evil spirits. As a result, voodoo like prayers and prayer of Jabez becomes used.

34:15 “There shall the great owl make her nest, and lay, and hatch, and gather under her shadow: there shall the vultures also be gathered, every one with her mate.”

In the garden of Eden, the snake made Eve doubt God's words and fooled her. Also, this connects to the Rabbis who gave false teachings were called “Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers”. In other words, here, the profane church of Edom is portrayed as the nest of teachers who give false teachings.

<The few that have not defiled their garments>

Going back the the book of Revelation, let us look at a verse concerning Sardis.

Revelation 3:4 “Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.” (King James Version)

Here, it is written than there are the few who have not defiled their white garments in Sardis. There are other verses written about defiling one's garment.

I Corinthians 8:7 “Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled.” (King James Version)

Therefore, defiling one's garment is a symbol of defiling one's conscience and committing a sin. The people not included in “the few”, in other words, most of the Protestants are wearing garments that have been defiled. What kind of problems can occur by not wearing a white garment?

It is written as below.

Hebrews 12:14 “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.”

If one is not wearing a white garment and is not holy, one cannot see the Lord.

<If one's garment is not white, eternal life is difficult>

Therefore, the meaning of the garments of the people of the Sardis church being defiled is that their spirit has fallen into sin, and their eternal life is in danger. From the following verses about the Sardis, it is written about the dangerous situation of Sardis.

“I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.”

“Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die”

“I have not found thy works perfect before God.”

“Hold fast, and repent.”

Revelation 3:1-3

Therefore, the Protestants should not feel relieved about their present spiritual status. Instead, we must understand that God has given a warning about the danger of the eternal life of Sardis.

Of course, not all people of Sardis are in danger of eternal life. It is written “ Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments.”

The phrase “a few names” is something to think about. What does this actually mean? There is a similar phrase in the verse below.

Matthew 7:14 “Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”

Here, it is written that the gate to eternal life is small and its path is narrow, so the ones who find it are very few. This is the same word that points out the “few” of Sardis. Therefore, this means that the majority of people of Sardis are wearing defiled garments and have not acquired righteousness, and their eternal lives are in in danger. Let us also look at the following verse.

Revelation 3:5 “He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his

angels.”

Here, for the “few” who are wearing white garments, it is promised that “I will not blot out his name out of the book of life.”

Therefore, for the few of Sardis who are righteous people, eternal life is promised before them. It is promised that “I will not blot out his name out of the book of life”. However, what will happen to the rest of Sardis? We can imagine that their eternal life is still in danger. We can see this in the verse below.

Revelation 20:15 “And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

The book of life can be understood as eternal life. Therefore, those whose name is written in the book of life can gain eternal life. It is essential for a Christian to be written in this book.

In the verse above, it says “ whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire”. If our name is not written in this book, or was once written but was later erased, then we will all get thrown in the lake of fire. This is the same no matter how hard one commits to church activities or works as a priest. In the bible, those who will be cast into the lake of fire and those who will be not are very easily distinguished.

The division of these groups were determined on whether their name was on the book of life or not. Therefore, without reason, Christians must regard highly on the importance of getting their name written on the book of life.

It is essential for one's name to get written in the book of life in order to gain eternal life. When we look at this fact, there is a verse spoken by the Lord about the church of Sardis and the their name getting written in the book of life.

I am repeating myself, but the Lord has promised that “I will not blot out his name out of the book of life” for the few righteous people. In other words, those few people who lived righteously will not get their name erased from the book of life, but then we must think about what happens to the others?

What we can imagine is that their names will be erased from the book of life, and as a result they will be cast into the lake of fire. Let us look at an example to better understand this.

There was a classroom with 40 students, and a teacher calls 5 of the most outstanding students. The teacher says to them, “Because of some circumstances, starting next year, we have to decrease the number of students in the class. However, you 5 can remain in the school, and your name will not be erased from the roll book.”

Of course those students will have nothing to worry about, but what about the rest of the students who the teacher did not speak to? They have a chance of getting their names getting taken off of the roll book.

This is the same with the Lord's promise to Sardis. Only a few will get to keep their name in the book of life, but on the other hand, the rest of the Sardis will get their name erased.

That's right. Sardis, the Protestant church are Christians whose majority of names will get erased from the book of life.

Therefore, we Protestants must not believe false teachings such as that once one becomes a Christian, they will not be judged. Such teachings are not written in the bible, and we must listen to the words of God.

Even if a Christian is baptized, if their actions are sinful and their garments are defiled, their names will be removed from the book of life, and they will be cast into the lake of fire and become destroyed. This is the warning given towards the church of Sardis.

The expression of “getting one's name removed from the book of life” is uncommon, so let us think about this. In the bible, this expression is used in other verses as well, such as below.

Psalms 69:28 “Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous.”

Exodus 32:32 “Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.”

32:33 “And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.”

Therefore, getting one's name written in the book of life is not absolute and is not something that will never get removed. It can get easily erased depending on our actions. That is what the bible says. Though it is true that our names were written there on the day we became a Christian, but it is quite possible that it will get removed.

We must repent and listen humbly to this warning, and if necessary, we must correct our actions according to the words of the Lord. Let us follow God's words of the apocalypse.

The profane Esau

In various sections of the bible, it is written about the “idol”. In the first commandment, it says, “Thou shalt have none other gods before me. Thou shalt not make thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the waters beneath the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me” (Deuteronomy 5:7-9)

There are words related to idol such as idolatry. As Christians, we may not think deeply about such words because we do not pray or worship any buddhas or statues. But when we think about it, the bible is written for Christians who worship the one and only God and believe in Jesus Christ as the savior. Therefore, the words idol and idolatry are not completely unrelated to us. As I was doing some volunteer work for Catholics, I was feeling that perhaps many Christians including myself have not correctly recognized about the idol from the bible's point of view. This was what the Lord has told me, so I would like to talk about idolatry according to the words of God. Today, I would like to talk about 2 things: the sin of worshiping vessels and the fact that not following the words of the Lord is also idol worshiping.

The sin of worshiping vessels

We Christians are often said to be God's vessels. This can also mean those who work for God. Working as God's vessel is a very honorable thing. Christian activities are built by those who work as God's messengers such as priests and teachers. Therefore, it is important that we respect such people, help them when we can, and be obedient.

However, we must also be careful. No matter how much we respect people who work as God's vessels, we cannot treat a vessel like God. What do I mean? A vessel is a vessel, and no matter how great a person is, they cannot be God. Even though God does not make any mistakes, a vessel is different, and at times it is possible for them to make mistakes.

Of course, if what the priests and teachers say are connected to God's words, there is no problem. We should simply accept their teachings. However, if in any case, what the priests and teachers conflict with each others, what do we do? Even it is important to obey to the authority, if it conflicts with His words, we must not accept it. If we obey to the words of a vessel instead of God, our path will go the wrong way. If the words of God and the words of the vessel contradict, and if we follow the words of the vessel, this would be considered as worshipping the vessel.

For example, in the bible, it is clearly written about hell(the lake of fire), but the Roman Catholic Pope says there is no hell. If we accept this teaching without considering it, this would mean we are throwing away the teachings of God and throwing away God. This is the same with the Protestant teachings such as second chance, pretribulation, and the understanding of the Gospel. In the bible, it is written about the three and a half years of the pretribulation and the fact that God does not find joy in faith without action, but this is something that directly denies the words. If we blindly believe in such teachings, it would be preferring the words of the vessel rather than the words of God, therefore would be considered worshipping the vessel.

Therefore, when we hear the teachings, we must first consider about it. After we consider it and find that it does not conflict with God's teachings, we should accept it, and if not, we must not accept it.

In some cases, it is necessary to object and point out what is wrong. In the bible, it is written about removing idols, so it is an important point. Of course, when we do that, we must be gentle, tolerant, and sincere. Even if we are saying the right thing, if we are rude and arrogant, nobody will lend their ear, and the holy spirit cannot work through such people. Such attitude will ruin the teaching itself, so we must be careful. But when speaking, we should be clear, easy to understand, and bold while looking up to God. Even though I got off track, this is all for vessel praising. Let us look at the next point.

2 Not obeying the Lord is idolatry

Let us look at the following verse.

I Samuel 15:23

15:23 "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king."

Here, a surprising thing is written. Rejecting the word of the Lord is the same as idolatry. I believe that many Christians do not have such ideas. At least I did not know what this meant until before. What does this mean? This is what I think, ignoring if it is right or wrong. Even if someone has faith goes to church every week, does volunteer work, and prays and reads the bible often, if they do not obey the word of the Lord, they are committing idolatry. This is what is

written in verse 22.

“Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.” This is what Samuel has said to Saul. Saul was told to “Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites” from the Lord, but he did not follow his word. That is why Samuel said this.

In our faith and our service, it is important to study and practice. However, in this section, it is saying that the following the words of the Lord is the most important. It is a great thing to give a message, a prophecy, or sometimes a miracle through the words. However, like it is written in the bible, there are Christians who the Lord has said to them “And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” Before that, it is written “and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?” This shows that even if it is a Christian who has worked for God through using the gift of the holy spirit, if he commits injustice, in other words if he disobeys to the words, he will be drawn back from the Lord.

Therefore we should always ask ourselves if we are following God's words. Even if we are working for God, we must be careful not to disobey His words and commit idolatry, and be careful no to destroy ourselves. There may be different feelings and thoughts according to each person, but we must always put God's words as the priority at all times.

I have felt that God has spoken to me about the points listed above, so I wanted to give a testimony. I would like to finish with words from the bible.

Jeremiah 7:22,23

7:22 “For I spake not unto your fathers, nor commanded them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices:”

7:23 “But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.”

I praise and give thanks to the Lord that always gives us important words to give us eternal life.