

<Introduction>

“Bitter water” by Jeremiah

Today, we are going to have a look at the “bitter water”.

<People die because of the bitter water>

The Bible tells us that people will die in End Times because the water turns bitter. It is written in scriptures below.

Revelation 8:11 the name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter.

It is written here that the water turns bitter and many will die. What is the interpretation of this scripture? Some say Wormwood is Chernobyl where there was a nuclear disaster, this points out the harm caused by radioactivity. This interpretation may be correct but we have to remember that the Bible was basically written for Christians. Revelation is related to faith and eternal life in the same way, Matthew and Mark are related to them. We have to remember that the Bible is the book of parables and mysteries as written below.

Psalm 49:4 I will turn my ear to a proverb; with the harp I will expound my riddle

Here, God says, “I will expound my riddle”, this indicates that there are many mysteries in the Bible. This confirms that the Bible is not just a book but it was written from God’s wisdom and is full of “mysteries”. Revelation, especially, is filled with parables and mysteries, so it is important to have them revealed by God with His wisdom. We shouldn’t give shallow interpretations without any back up theory by saying things like “bitter can mean radioactivity”.

<What is the mystery about bitter water?>

What is the mystery (riddle) about the bitter water? One of the clues can be found in the book of Numbers as seen in scriptures below.

Numbers 5:19 Then the priest shall put the woman under oath and say to her, “If no other man has had sexual relations with you and you have not gone astray and become impure while married to your husband, may this bitter water that brings a curse not harm you.

5:24 He shall make the woman drink the bitter water that brings a curse, and this water that brings a curse and causes bitter suffering will enter her.

Here, it describes a woman (wife) who is suspected of having adultery and drinking “bitter water”. If the woman has not committed adultery, the water will not be bitter and is harmless, but if she has, she will be affected by the bitter water. I think this is a parable as well. It is written in Ephesians that the marriage is the mystery and it represents the relationship between Christ and the church, so the woman is thought to be representing the church. I know it is a bit complicated but by reading how the water turns bitter and many people get affected, it is fair to imagine that it is related to the issue rising amongst the churches in End Times.

I feel what is explained here is that because the church which is meant to stay pure for Christ who is the only husband commits adultery with others, the water will turn bitter and people start to suffer as a result of that.

In fact, current churches seem to be leaving Christ who is the real husband and making others their husband. For example, Catholics ignore the word of Christ or the Bible and prioritize the word of the Pope or worshipping the Virgin Mary. Despite the fact that the Bible tells us not to worship any idols, they find some unreasonable excuses to justify this idol worship.

Indeed, the churches are leaving the real husband (Christ) and committing adultery with others. As a result of this, the water/Spirit of those churches will turn bitter and many suffer. It is the bitter water as well as the evil spirit covering the Catholics that is the reason why many priests are practicing wrongdoings at their churches.

It is not ideal that the churches accept the worldly things or others instead of Christ, but it appears that many parts of the Bible are implying that this is going to happen. For example, Thessalonians describes that the churches will become rebellious in End Times as below.

2 Thessalonians 2:3: Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there comes a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

“Falling away” in this scripture was originally written as “apostasy” in Greek. It has the same meaning as “apostasy” which is translated into “separation” according to the Greek dictionary.

Matthew 5:31 It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement:

Falling away means almost divorcing your spouse. This means the church ends its relationship with Christ and ignores the Holy Spirit. It also can be interpreted as church adultery, so the bitter water will come upon the church as the result. It is not ideal that the church leaves Christ and commits adultery, but it seems that Revelation is implying that will happen. For example, the scripture below is similar to what could happen to the church.

Revelation 14:8 A second angel followed and said, “Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries.”

The wine is also used for communion, so this prostitute, Babylon, surely seems to be related to the church.

Also, the Lord was locked out at the seventh church in Laodikeia as below.

Revelation 3:20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

Husband and wife are supposed to live together in the same house and if one is divorced, it is an unusual situation, but this is exactly what is happening in the church in the End Times. Christ (husband) is divorced by the church (wife).

Some scripture imply that the church will leave and stand against Christ in End Times. Therefore, we can understand how the water turns bitter in Revelation 8. It is related to the prostitution of the church and that is why God allowed the punishment of the bitter water on the church (woman).

<What is the bitter water?>

Now, what exactly is the bitter water? Also, what kind of harm does it cause? We are looking at this next.

We can understand that the water represents the Holy Spirit because the Lord said as written in scriptures below.

John 7:38 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”

7:39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

The water represents the Holy Spirit and having it turned bitter can be understood that the Holy Spirit which has been active in the church has changed, and the activities of demons has taken his place. Some may think that there is no way of having the work of the Holy Spirit changed into that of the demon, but it seems that it is prophesied to happen in End Times in the Bible. Jacob also describes the bitter water as below.

James 3:11 Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring?

James 3 is about the warning to teachers. It warns that, through the same teacher, sometimes there is the work of the Holy Spirit as the sweet water but there could be the work of the bad spirit as the bitter water in other times which should be prevented.

Although this shouldn't happen, it could actually do. A teacher could invite the presence of the demon not the Holy Spirit depending on how he serves. And the bitter water here is connected to the one in Revelation. Therefore, it can be understood that the bitter water in Revelation is going to be poured as the demon onto the churches which commit adultery by teachers and pastors. As a result, a day will come when many people will die spiritually.

<It is Spirit who moves people>

Obviously, for us Christians, the most important backbone is the spiritual part, and we need to know that what kind of spirit we receive largely affects the outcome. The lord said as below.

John 6:63 The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life.

The Lord described that the spirit you receive is the most important point which influences you and gives life. So, the fact that the water turns bitter which means Holy Spirit will turn into the demon tells us how horrible it would be to have the most important part as Christian transformed in End Times. We need to know that God will allow to bring disaster on rebellious churches and also the enemy will attack them in the areas of eternal life and the spirit they receive which are the most important part for Christians.

Now, let's take a look at the Holy Spirit a bit more. Spirit also represents the blood. A part of Leviticus as shown in scriptures below describes that the blood (Spirit) is the most important part for our life.

Leviticus 17:14 because the life of every creature is its blood. That is why I have said to the Israelites, "You must not eat the blood of any creature, because the life of every creature is its blood; anyone who eats it must be cut off."

It describes that the blood itself is life. Knowing that the blood represents spirit, it tells us that our life depends on the blood we have, which is also our spirit. Ultimately, what kind of spirit and blood you have determines what kind of fundamental life you receive.

If we receive the pure Holy Spirit from God, we will be led to holy life and filled with God's life. But if we accept the devil instead, our life will be deceived and digressed away from eternal life. Surely the blood which is spirit will influence the human's fundamental part.

<The day when the mountain is thrown into the ocean>

Based on this point of view, let's take a look at the scriptures in Revelation 8:8-11

Revelation 8:8 The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood,

We understand that the mountain represents the church as the place where trees grow because Christians are compared to olive trees or fig trees. The fire is spiritual as we can see from the description that the Holy Spirit came down like the fire on the day of Pentecost. Here, it is seen as the bad spirit just like the ocean and the blood are. So, what is described here is the future when the church will be thrown into an ocean of demons, dominated by evil doctrines.

8:9 a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

Living creatures can be understood to be a Christian who has the eternal life. As we read, "fisherman who catches a man", Christians are living in the (spiritual) ocean like fish. We can see that as those Christians keep receiving the demon, they will be handed to death and lose the life of Christ. A ship represents the church which moves in the spiritual ocean.

Therefore, this is a parable that the ship (church) is going to be destroyed as a result of the demon's revival.

8:10 The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water—

Descendants of Abraham who was the role model of being faithful were described as “stars in the sky, salt on the earth”, so stars in the sky can be interpreted as Christians. Here, it is described that a high profile Christian who carries the fire of the demon's revival would start pouring the water of the demon on many people.

8:11 the name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter.

This star called “Wormwood” may be the anti-Christ. It is described here that many Christians will receive bitter water and evil spirit, lose their lives, face death and sin as the result of receiving the spirit which he pours.

So, as I mentioned previously, it describes the day when Holy Spirit which is the most important in Christianity is ignored. I have already explained that it is the spirit which gives us life, influencing us. Therefore, no one can have normal Christian life if the spirit that dwells in them is evil and a satanic one. They would rather change the way they talk and behave, before falling into the sin to lose eternal life.

<The bitter water is already poured into the church>

We are witnessing that bitter water is being poured into the churches right now. For example, “The third wave of the Holy Spirit” advocated by Peter Wagner is the wave of the demon and the bitter water. This is the returning of “Latter rain movement” which was rejected as heresy by Pentecostals. The bitter water will be poured into the churches which accept this movement and many scandals and problems will occur as well. As it is written, “a tree is known by its own fruit”, these scandals and problems are

fruits and they show the types of pastor or workers as trees, as well as the type of spirit to be led by. The Spirit influences a person's action.

Christian churches are supposed to be the light of the world and a lighthouse which directs the right way. However, sadly, there are many strange scandals in the Christian churches. Why do they happen? We can understand that it is because there is the bitter water flowing through those churches.

The kind of water we drink also affects our health condition. When we drink cold, fresh water, it vitalizes us. But when drinking unhygienic water full of bacteria, we will get sick. This also applies to the water of the spirit. It is the water (spirit) that is causing the problem in the church at the moment. The Bible mentions about bitter water that will kill many people. The death could mean literally physical death or spiritual death which leads to the loss of eternal life. We have to remember that it is written in scripture: "Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death" in James 1:15 in the Bible.

<The spiritual battle>

I have learned very important points for entering the kingdom of heaven from the sermon the other day, I would like to share this with you.

Now, let's look at the scripture from 2 Timothy Chapter 2.

Timothy 2:5 Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules.

This scripture was given to Timothy from Paul. We all know that Paul, Timothy, and us Christians are meant to go into the kingdom of heaven. This scripture was used as the instruction. It describes how important it is to "compete" according to the "rules".

Pastor Jeremiah talked about “spiritual battle” as an example before, and since this is the main theme here, I would like to talk about the scripture he used then.

2 Peter 2:10 This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the flesh and despise authority. Bold and arrogant, they are not afraid to heap abuse on celestial beings:

2:11 yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not heap abuse on such beings when bringing judgment on them from the Lord.

I have just mentioned that we have to “compete” (battle against the demon) to enter the kingdom of God by following the “rules”. Again, we have to go through the battle against the invisible enemy (Satan) and we need to ask the Lord to help us to win each time. However, we still need to know the rules which were set by God so that we could receive the glory in the kingdom of heaven. God also talks about the spiritual aspect so let’s take a look.

First of all, 2 Peter describes “those who despise authority”. And Chapter 11 mentions about “angels”.

Pastor Jeremiah preached about this part so please read through.

In this world, humans are under the authority of angels so this needs to be honored. We are supposed to respect the authority given by God. But some people misunderstand this. Peter Wagner who works for the church organization encourages “spiritual battle”, but the scripture doesn’t mention about fighting against angels. Because the angels are more powerful than humans, it is dangerous to go into a spiritual battle against them. It will be like throwing a stone to a police officer. Some people faced the danger and even loose their lives after fighting the spiritual battle against the authority. Remember the authority of angels do exist and there are rules as to how to act against them. We are going to be judged by the scripture regardless anyway, so we have to be careful. Even though it is a bad angel, you are not supposed to fight against the authority.

Also, before Pastor Jeremiah was appointed a pastor at Remnant Christian Church, he went to a shrine to fight spiritual battle with other members of the church. Nothing special happened on the day, but he suddenly had a terrible headache the next day. Fortunately, he later got better but the cause of this was the “spiritual battle”. Maybe he was warned for going against the authority given by God. Actually, a while ago, I was invited by a Christian to go to a shrine near my church to drive the demon out, so that people worshipping idols there may repent and become Christians.

I thought it was a good idea but it didn’t happen. Looking back now, I can’t help but think, “Phew! That was close. It could have been disastrous if I actually went!” especially after hearing what Pastor Jeremiah shared with us. I am so relieved.

Indeed, the Bible talks about “driving the demon out” and Jesus also told the disciples about it. I am not sure if this is correct assumption but I had an idea as to what God talks about driving the demon out as I heard sermons and testimony of Pastor Jeremiah. So we are going to take a look at this by going through the scripture in the Gospel.

Mathew 8:16 When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick.

From the scripture above, we can see that the Lord Jesus drove the demon out of people who got sick because they got possessed by the demon and He healed them. There is no description of the Lord going to a temple to drive the demon out or fought against it in the Bible. As far as driving the demon out is concerned, the Bible only tells us that the Lord Jesus drove the demon out just to heal and make people free. So, I think if we are to follow what He has done, it is important to facilitate the healing of spiritually/physically sick people, and if appropriate, pray to drive the demon out.

There is also the rule to drive the demon out according to the Bible, so we would like to take a look at this as well. A while ago, I shared from the

scripture of Acts that it is disciples such as Peter, John, James, and Paul who can drive the demon out. So I suppose it is quite dangerous for other people to use the authority to drive the demon out. I am not saying it definitely is, but the scripture below seems to back it up.

Acts 19:11 God did extraordinary miracles through Paul,

11:12 so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.

11:13 Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out."

11:14 Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this.

11:15 One day the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?"

11:16 Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.

As described in verse 13, sons of Sceva tried to drive the bad demon out in the name of Jesus. But actually the demon said "Who are you?" and beat them. Sons of Sceva used the name of Jesus but weren't His disciples. They were almost like Christians who lives like ordinary people. On the other hand, God performed miracles through Paul as written in verse 11 and 12. Through Paul, the demon came out of the sick and God's healing was revealed.

Also, the Lord Jesus gave the authority to drive the demon out to 12 disciples. Nowhere does it say that He gave it to the ordinary crowd. Therefore it is fair to say that only 12 disciples or people like Paul who are

following Jesus closely could drive the demon out. It must still apply to the current era as well. I think that the authority of driving bad demons out will be given to Christians who are living as real disciples of Jesus Christ. So, if someone who is not living as a true disciple uses the authority of driving the demons out, it is going to be very dangerous and you have to be careful.

Well, the reason I shared this testimony is because I feel that it may be one of the biggest important factors for aiming to reach the kingdom of heaven to understand “spiritual battles”. I hope you would keep striving to obtain the eternal life while being careful about those factors that the Bible points out.

Glory and honor be given to God who always teaches us the important lessons.

Amen