2/8/26

Sunday 1st Message

There Is No Other

Is 45:1-7

Numbers 18:5 states that the Levites should faithfully guard over the sanctuary and the altar and the priests guard the priesthood for all that concerns the altar so that there may never again be wrath on the people of Israel. This can be understood to mean that as long as the sacrifice of the covenantal blood is continuously maintained, there will be no more wrath upon us. The Levites and the priests were specifically set apart for this task.

So he told them not to work and instead to devote themselves fully to the duties of the sanctuary and the altar, in order to protect the people from his wrath - this was God's command. Because this sacrifice was of utmost importance, the only official task they undertook during the first year after the Exodus was the construction of the tabernacle. They completed and erected the tabernacle on the first day of the first month of the second year (Exodus 40:7). This represents the worship we offer today. If we continue offering the sacrifice of the covenantal blood, it means that God will no longer be angry with us but instead will forgive and bless us. The message given to us this year is about worship, prayer, and the word, and among these, worship is the most fundamental. Within this worship, offered through the blood of the covenant, lies the foundation of all blessings in our lives.

And all the tithes offered by the remaining tribes of Israel were given entirely to the Levi tribe. This allowed the Levites and the priests to devote themselves fully to worship, which was seen by God as the most important duty. Only in doing so could God's presence, forgiveness, and the withholding of this wrath continue without interruption. Additionally, one-tenth of the land originally possessed by the other tribes was allotted to the tribe of Levi. Therefore, there was fundamentally no excuse for the other tribes not to give their tithes.

However, today there is no longer any visible land like before; instead, all the land is now spiritual - unseen, intangible territory of business - that has been distributed among the other tribes. Of course, God sees it all clearly. Therefore, tithing is a natural and rightful act, as it was never truly ours to begin with. While the Levites labor to block God's wrath from coming upon me, I am simply cultivating their land and returning their rightful share. This is the mentality of giving tithe. This is our worship, and this is our offering. May we all open our spiritual eyes once again, put this into practice, and thereby see God's wrath depart and his blessings overflow.

1. **There Is No Other**
    1) It means that there is no other being besides Me in all of humanity and the world. I created everything, I still govern everything, and every conclusion is in my hands. Verse 7 says, "I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity." Salvation, which is the light, is within me, and Satan, who brings darkness, is in my hands. Whether it is peace or trouble, every matter in your life is entirely within my hands.
    2) If this word enters into you and becomes your covenant, then you will be able to conquer the world and life right then and there. Verse 6 says, from the rising of the sun and from the west, there is none besides me.
    3) There is a term called God's absolute sovereignty. It is a theological term, but there are few who do not know it. When Jacob and Esau were still in the womb, God's salvation was already determined without regard to them. This is the part where all those who hate God raise their voices and go into a frenzy, but to those who love God and are within his grace, there is no greater grace than this. Therefore, anyone who is in his grace, who loves him, and who becomes the one to believe in Christ is enough. Once this happens, what seems irrational and unfair to others becomes for me a gratitude more precious than life itself.

4) In verse 1 of today's passage, the name Cyrus appears. He was the king who rose to power in Persia and allowed the Israelites to return from Babylonian captivity and rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. What's remarkable is that this passage was written approximately 200 years before Cyrus was even born - and yet, the bible explicitly records his name.
5) Isaiah 44:28 says: "who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd, and he shall fulfill all my purpose'; saying of Jerusalem, 'She shall be built,' and of the temple, 'Your foundation shall be laid.'" - He is my shepherd, and he will be the one to say these things.
6) Even though Israel had not yet been taken into captivity by Babylon and both Jerusalem and the temple were still standing, this prophecy was spoken in advance. That's why the king of Judah would have had no reason to be pleased. This message assumed that if idolatry continued, a day would come when everything would be destroyed. The prophecy of restoration only made sense if destruction was first accepted as inevitable.
7) In this passage, a foreign king Cyrus is mentioned. Verse 1 states that God declares Cyrus as his anointed one, whose right hand God has grasped to subdue nations before him and to open doors before him that gates may not be closed. Verse 2 states that God will go before him and level the exalted places, break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron. Verse 3 states that God will give the treasures of darkness and the hoards in secret places so that all may know that it is the Lord, the God of Israel, who calls Cyrus by name.
8) Verse 4-5 states, "I call you by your name, I name you, I equip you, though you do not know me." God states that he will call Cyrus his shepherd, his anointed one, and the one he has named.
9) Persia was the greatest empire of its time that overthrew Babylon, and Cyrus was the king who executed the most decisive act concerning Israel. God accurately mentioned the name of such a person even before he was born, and every prophecy about him was fulfilled exactly. Who else could have done this but God? This becomes important evidence that even the history of unbelievers is in God's hands.
10) There is no other - this means it must become absolute. Because there is no one besides God. Everything about God is absolute. Therefore, all the promises in the Bible must become absolute to us, and in every age, for those who made God's desire their covenant, every problem turned into a blessing.
11) They surely conquered their destiny and future, and every crisis collapsed and turned into an opportunity. They lived lives that saved people and crushed the head of Satan, always standing at the center and the core of their age. If our hearts align with what God desires to do in this age, we too can become people like them.
12) What is it that God desires from me in this age? - It is to continually think about and organize this question, to earnestly listen to the word, to sincerely give worship, to establish personal prayer time, and to continue in training.
13) In the midst of this, the word enters and becomes the absolute covenant. God does everything through his word. What he did for Cyrus today was also through the word spoken by his prophet. That was the end of it, and no matter how much others tried to interfere, that word was fulfilled exactly. When even one word from God becomes the absolute covenant for me, everything is finished. May all of us be filled with this blessing today.