7/5/26

Sunday 1st

The Watchman

Isaiah 62:1-7

Today we observe the Feast of Harvest Thanksgiving day. The Feast of Harvest was celebrated on the fiftieth day, after passing seven Sabbaths from the day the firstfruits of the harvest was offered. Therefore, it is also called Pentecost. There are several important points related to the covenant that we must confirm regarding Pentecost. First, the coming of the Holy Spirit on that day was the fulfillment of the promise given in the Old Testament age. That is why the Bible says, "When the day of Pentecost arrived." It means that because the promised day had finally arrived, the Holy Spirit, who had been sent for the fulfillment of that promise, appeared.

Furthermore, the people gathered in Mark's Upper Room were not praying vaguely or aimlessly. They held onto the Lord's promise that they had received on the Mount of Olives as their covenant and prayed holding onto it. The Holy Spirit came for no other purpose than to fulfill the Lord's promise. In John 16:13 it says, "...for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak," and verse 14 says, "He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you."

This means that the Holy Spirit came to this earth to proclaim what the Lord accomplished on the cross and to relay his words, and that he does not do anything else. Therefore, we must once again center the word of the covenant and confirm and hold onto this as our covenant as we celebrate Pentecost.

There are many records in the Bible showing that the covenant was fulfilled even when people were not filled with the Holy Spirit and were in the midst of unbelief. This means that God's promise is fundamental, and that the word can be fulfilled regardless of our spiritual state. It means that even if I fall into unbelief, the covenant can still be fulfilled. Of course, this does not mean that we should live in unbelief.

Everything related to Pentecost took place on the basis of the promises already given in the Old Testament and occurred for the fulfillment of those promises. Because that promise was the firstfruits, the Holy Spirit came to gather those firstfruits, and the mighty work of the Holy Spirit descending like wind and fire was the declaration that this day had begun. All those who participated in that amazing work were committed workers who held onto the Lord's word as their promise and prayed. This is the message that God desires to convey to us through the Feast of Harvest Thanksgiving: hold firmly to the covenant.

1. **Watchman**
    1) Verse 1 says, "For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness and her salvation as a burning torch." Verse 2: "The nations shall see your righteousness, and all kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give." Verse 3: "You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God."
    2) Verse 4 says, "You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married..." Verse 5 continues, "For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you."
    3) God gave such precious promises of blessing, and yet He also spoke of an even more fundamental promise. Verse 6 says, "On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have set watchmen; all the day and all the night they shall never be silent. You who put the Lord in remembrance, take no rest." Verse 7 continues, "And give Him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it a praise in the earth."

4) This means that we should pray continually so that God will incline his ear to our prayers and answer them. Then He promises, "I will protect you, protect your family, protect where you live (Jerusalem), and protect your nation."
5) In verse 1, God says, "For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet," and therefore you must pray to me. We often hear that because the covenant has already been completed, what remains for us is prayer. Yet even though prayer is simple, it is not always easy. Our hearts belong to us, but they do not always obey our own will.
6) However, God has given us the historic gospel and has called us to be the watchmen of this age. We are so grateful for this, yet we cannot help but ask ourselves: How can I also become a watchman and become a person who prays for this age?
7) The people of Mark's Upper Room held onto the covenant and prayed, and the promised day came and was fulfilled. The purpose and reason for it all was to gather God's harvest—that is, to evangelize and carry out missions.
8) There were three conditions. First, they received the word and held onto it as their covenant. Second, "when the day of Pentecost arrived"—that is, it was God's time schedule. Third, their direction was world evangelization to save people.
9) God's time schedule is not something we control. World evangelization is the result, so it is not something we can accomplish by our own efforts right now. What we can do now is simply receive the word, accept it as our covenant, pray, and follow it. In doing so, we will receive the answers that have been prepared for us and meet the people whom God has prepared, and our lives will become like those recorded in the Bible.
10) This is the way to live the same kind of life as the people of Mark's Upper Room. You will receive power only when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth. Then afterward, we will see that all of these things were according to God's time schedule, and we will come to see the evidence that resulted from it. In this way, world evangelization becomes the masterpiece of our lives and a monument that we leave behind for future generations.
11) This is the path by which we become people of the Seven Points, whether our role is great or small. This work is such an amazing blessing that we cannot become indifferent because of our circumstances. Would we stop because problems arise? Would we leave because someone is persecuting us? Would we become corrupted and change our stance? Certainly not.
12) We have done our best in this work until now, but we desire to begin again. Because biblical evangelism must take place, we also must first receive grace and gain strength within the church, just as in the Bible. The word must be fulfilled and the movement of those who thirst, the faithful, and the committed workers must arise.
13) I pray that all of you will participate in this new start and receive the same answers found in the Bible. I pray that the biblical evangelism movement will arise, so that we will become the Antioch Church that rewrites the history of America and Latin America. I bless you in the name of Christ that God grants us the word today which will surely be fulfilled, and may we enjoy the prepared answers through it. Once the word enters us, everything is accomplished.