

# **When the Church Experiences the Grace of Restoration...**

**[Short Word Meditation (37)]**

**James Kim**

## **False pastors**

False pastors do not warn the saints to avoid being taken captive by sin,  
but rather preach false and worthless gospels  
that lead them further down a path of wickedness  
(Ref.: Lamentations 2:14).

## **‘Painful Happiness’**

Jeremiah the prophet told Baruch, who had written down all the words he had spoken,  
that 'This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says:  
Baruch, you said, "Alas, it is so painful.  
The Lord has added sorrow to my suffering;  
I am weary from groaning and have found no rest"  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 45:1-3).

When reflecting on this passage,

I thought of the Apostle Paul's lamentation and cry in Romans 7:24:

“Oh wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?”

And another passage that came to mind is 'Painful Happiness,'

a message sent to me via KakaoTalk by the mother of my friend Albert,  
who suddenly passed away in an accident on December 14th of last year.

Also, I just remembered the Korean gospel song “In these dark days lift up your eyes to Jesus”:

(Verse 1) In these dark days lift up your eyes to Jesus Lift up your eyes He's still upon the throne

And come what may, He never will forsake you For He is God to Him all things are known

(Verse 2) In these dark days lift up your eyes to Jesus Lift up your eyes He's still upon the throne

And come what may, He never will forsake you For He is God to Him all things are known

(Chorus) Lift up your eyes He still is there Be not dismayed He knows your weight of care

In these dark days lift up your eyes to Jesus And trust in Him He will your burden bear

## **Proud people**

Proud people not only regard all the words spoken by God through His servant as lies, but also believe that those words oppose them, harm them, and deceive them. Therefore, they disobey God's command  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 43:1-4, 7).

## **A proud person will achieve nothing!**

Even if someone is extremely proud, with a very arrogant heart, boasting and displaying their arrogance, a proud person will achieve nothing  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 48:29-30).

## **Those who once enjoyed rich spiritual food in the church**

Have those who once enjoyed rich spiritual food in the church now become pitiable in the streets outside the church?  
(Ref.: Lamentations 4:5)

## **Although the church has sinned against a holy God ...**

Although the church has sinned against a holy God,  
Almighty God has not forsaken us  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 51:5).

## **Has the church not fallen into a state of distress?**

The church's worship hall has become desolate,  
and even during Christian holidays, no one comes there.  
All the church doors are empty, pastors are sighing,  
and the congregation is worried.  
Has the church not fallen into a state of distress?  
(Ref.: Lamentations 1:4)

## **When the church experiences the grace of restoration ...**

When the church experiences the grace of restoration,  
we will return with tears and seek our God together.  
We will inquire about the path of the cross that the Lord walked  
and head in that direction, and we will be united with the Lord again  
through an eternal covenant that we will not forget  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 50:4-5).

## **Those in the world who attack the church ...**

Those in the world who attack the church believe  
that since we have sinned against our hope,  
God, they are not committing any wrongdoing by striking us  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 50:7).

## **Are the children of the church ...**

Are the children of the church seeking the gospel of Jesus, the bread of life,  
but are there fewer and fewer people who can share the gospel with them?  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 4:4; John 6:48)

## **Has the glory of the church completely departed from it?**

Is it possible that the glory of the church has completely disappeared?  
Are the pastors of the church exhausted and helpless?  
(Ref.: Lamentations 1:6)

**The young people of the church have entered an age  
that is as precious as pure gold.**

The young people of the church have entered an age  
that is as precious as pure gold.  
I hope they will not become like common earthen vessels  
(Ref.: Lamentations 4:2).

**Because the Lord will have forgiven all their sins**

The Lord, who is the Good Shepherd,  
will bring back God's scattered flock to His church,  
where they will be fully nourished with God's word.  
At that time, their sins will not be found or discovered  
because the Lord will have forgiven all their sins  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 50:17-20).

**It will make it even more unbearable.**

The pain itself is distressing, but the thought  
that this pain is given to me by God on the day of His anger,  
and that God has left me to suffer all day,  
will make it even more unbearable  
(Ref.: Lamentations 1:12-13).

## **God will make them foolish.**

God will strike  
those who seem wise to the people of the world  
and those who speak lies,  
and make them foolish  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 50:35-36).

## **Isn't it true that there is no one to welcome them?**

Isn't it true  
that there is no one to welcome  
those who leave the church  
where bad things happen  
and wander from church to church?  
(Ref.: Lamentations 4:15)

## **They allowed the Jews to have their way according to their twisted hearts and wrongful demands.**

After hearing the words of his officials, King Zedekiah said to them,

'He (Jeremiah) is in your hands; do with him as you wish.

I cannot stop you.'" (Jeremiah 38:5).

When reflecting on this passage,

I thought of the Roman governor Pilate.

Pilate personally examined Jesus but found no basis for the charges

the Jews brought against Him, nor did he find any guilt in Him

(Luke 23:4, 14).

In fact, Pilate told the Jews, "...this man (Jesus)

has done nothing to deserve death" (v. 15).

So Pilate wanted to have Jesus flogged and then release Him (v. 16).

He wished to set Jesus free (v. 20).

The reason is that Pilate found no cause for a death sentence in Jesus

and intended to have Him flogged and then released (v. 22).

But when the Jews shouted loudly and persistently demanded

that Jesus be crucified, their voices finally prevailed (v. 23).

'So Pilate decided to grant their demand' (v. 24).

In this way, both Governor Pilate and King Zedekiah allowed the Jews

to have their way according to their twisted hearts and wrongful demands.

If a pastor, while ministering, knows that the congregation's hearts are misguided

and their demands are wrong, yet allows them to have their way,

I believe it can not only deeply wound a true and righteous believer

but also cause great harm to that believer.



## **God will repay them according to what they have done.**

Those who are arrogant toward the Holy God  
will be repaid by God according to what they have done  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 50:29).

## **We must obey all the words that God gives us through His servant.**

We must obey all the words that God gives us through His servant.  
Whether the words are pleasing to us or not, we must obey them.  
Then we will be blessed, and everything will go well for us  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 42:6).

## **We should not fear the person who brings disaster upon us.**

We should not fear the person who brings disaster upon us.  
The reason is that God is with us, He will save us,  
and He will deliver us from that person's hand.  
Therefore, we should not fear that person at all.  
God will have compassion on us and cause that person  
to have compassion on us as well  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 42:11-12).

## **‘I have loved you with an everlasting love ...’**

When we receive the rest that God gives,  
He will appear to us and say,  
‘I have loved you with an everlasting love;  
therefore, I have drawn you with unfailing kindness’  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 31:3).

## **There is also a message that says, ‘Even if you fight, you will not win.’.**

Among the messages that a true servant of the Lord  
delivers to the congregation,  
there are some that say,  
‘You will surely fight and win,’  
but there are also messages that say,  
‘Even if you fight, you will not prevail’  
(Reference: Jeremiah 32:5,

"너희가 여호와께 범죄하고 그에게 순종하지 않았기 때문에  
이 모든 일이 너희에게 일어난 것이다"  
(예레미야 40:3, 현대인의 성경).

The prophet Jeremiah, who had been taken captive  
and was being led to Babylon in chains along  
with the people of Judah and Jerusalem, received a word from the Lord  
after the Babylonian commander Nebuzaradan released him at Ramah.

Commander Nebuzaradan called for Jeremiah and said to him,  
'The Lord your God declared this disaster upon this land,  
and now He has brought it to pass.

This has happened to you because you sinned  
against the Lord and did not obey Him'  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 40:1-3).

When I meditate on this passage,  
the first thing that comes to mind is a quote from the book  
I am currently reading, *The Gospel Comes with a House Key*  
by Rosaria Butterfield: 'Obedience to Jesus (which is a death to self  
and involves doing what He desires despite the desires of the flesh) brings freedom.'  
I believe that the true prophet Jeremiah was given freedom by God  
because he was obedient to the Lord.

The second thought that comes to mind is  
that when the prophet Jeremiah experienced freedom,  
the word of the Lord came to him.

Whether Jeremiah was in prison (Ref.: 37:15, 21)  
or enjoying freedom (40:1), God's word came to him.  
I believe that God's word comes to His servants  
who obey Him, in God's timing and in His own way.

The third thought is that God can speak to us through unbelievers.  
It seems that God spoke to the prophet Jeremiah  
through the Babylonian commander Nebuzaradan.

This reminds me of the book of Jonah.

God spoke to the disobedient prophet Jonah,  
who was deeply asleep in the hold of the ship,  
through the unbelieving captain, telling him 'Get up' (Jonah 1:6)  
[God had already commanded Jonah to 'Arise' (2:1)].  
Lastly, the fourth thought is that the unbelieving commander Nebuzaradan  
was aware that God had 'carried out what He had spoken'  
concerning the disaster declared upon Judah and Jerusalem (Jeremiah 40:3)  
and that 'all this has happened because you have sinned  
against the Lord and did not obey Him' (v. 3).  
Yet, the people of Judah and Jerusalem,  
while being taken to Babylon in chains (v. 1),  
seemed not to acknowledge this fact.  
It seems that God speaks to us, rebukes us,  
and shames us, even through unbelievers.

**‘Each of you should turn from your evil ways and reform your actions; do not serve both God and money.’**

God continues to send His servants, the pastors,  
diligently to speak to us,  
saying: 'Each of you should turn  
from your evil ways and reform your actions;  
do not serve both God and money.'  
However, we are not listening to,  
hearing, or obeying God's words  
(Jeremiah 35:14-15).

**They will weep tears of joy and pray for them.**

When the Lord's servants see those  
who have strayed from the Lord's embrace return,  
they will weep tears of joy and pray for them,  
guiding them along a smooth path beside tranquil streams  
so that they do not stumble again  
(Jeremiah 31:9).

## 동서남북으로 갇힌 바 된다 할지라도 그러한 위기 상황에서도 하나님의 말씀은 우리에게 임합니다.

The word that God spoke to the prophet Jeremiah while he was still imprisoned in the royal court was: “You are to go to the Ethiopian Ebed-Melech and tell him that the Almighty Lord, the God of Israel, says this: ‘I have spoken concerning this city that I would bring disaster upon it and not bless it. Now those words will be fulfilled before your eyes’” (Jeremiah 39:15-16).

When I meditate on this passage, I receive several lessons:

(1) Even if the Lord’s servant is confined in any direction —north, south, east, or west—

God’s word still reaches him even in such a crisis.

In fact, during a major crisis in my family ministry,

I received promises from God’s Word

(Psalms 63:3; 1 Peter 5:10).

(2) I learn that God shows us that He will surely fulfill the promises He has already made to us.

Although the Ethiopian Ebed-Melech saw the disaster

that God had spoken through the prophet

Jeremiah being fulfilled in Jerusalem,

in my case, despite the fact that

I should have seen disaster unfold before my eyes,

God, who is abundant in compassion, mercy, grace, and love,

allowed me instead to witness the fulfillment of His blessings.

This is entirely due to God’s great grace and love!

## **Even if they have no fear or sign of repentance ...**

Even if those who hear or read all the sermons  
from my mouth and the reflections of my heart  
(Ref.: Psalms 19:14) have no fear or sign of repentance  
and instead erase those words from their minds,  
and even if they go so far as to fall into temptation  
and hate me, I believe that the Lord will protect me  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 36:24-26).

## **Similar and unsatisfactory situations may unfortunately occur frequently in ministry.**

The true prophet Jeremiah was deemed a person who deserved to die  
(Jeremiah 26:11; 38:4).

The priests and prophets said to the officials and all the people of Judah,  
"This man deserves to die" (26:11), and the officials told King Zedekiah,  
"This man must be put to death" (38:4). They gave the following reasons:  
"... As you have all heard, this man is prophesying the destruction of our city..."  
(26:11), "... He is demoralizing the soldiers and all the people remaining in this city.  
He is not trying to help this people but is rather trying to harm them" (38:4).  
However, in reality, the prophet Jeremiah was trying to help the people of Judah:  
"... This is what the Lord says: 'Anyone who stays in this city will die  
by the sword, famine, or plague.

But whoever surrenders to the Babylonians will live; they will escape with their lives'" (v. 2).  
It is not right to misunderstand someone who is trying to help as one who deserves to die.  
Nonetheless, similar and unsatisfactory situations may unfortunately occur frequently in ministry.

## **Though God should have revealed our faults and punished our sins ...**

Though God should have revealed  
our faults and punished our sins  
(Lamentations 4:22),  
He desired instead to have His only Son,  
Jesus Christ, suffer on our behalf.  
For our transgressions, Jesus Christ was pierced,  
and for our iniquities, He was crushed.  
God placed our sins upon Jesus Christ  
(Isaiah 53:5, 6, 10).

## **For a proud and arrogant person, joy and gladness will vanish.**

For a proud and arrogant person,  
joy and gladness will vanish.  
One reason is that prideful individuals  
are awaited by fear, snares, and traps.  
A proud person fleeing from fear will fall into a pit,  
and one who escapes the pit will be caught in a snare.  
This is because God has appointed a time  
for the proud to be punished  
(Jeremiah 48:29, 33, 43-44).



## **If we change our hearts and become a slave to sin again ...**

If we obey God's command and no longer serve as slaves to sin,  
living as free people, but then our hearts change  
and we return to serving as slaves to sin,  
this is disobedience to God's command and it defiles God's name.  
We must not subject ourselves again to slavery to sin  
(Jeremiah 34:10-16).

## **If we continue not to listen to God's words ...**

If we continue not to listen to God's words and do not answer when He calls,  
God will bring upon us the disaster He has already declared  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 35:17).

## **If we have only provoked God's wrath from the beginning of the church building until now ...**

If we have only provoked God's wrath  
from the beginning of the church building until now,  
God may decide to destroy that church building  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 32:31).

## **If we do not listen to God's warning and continue to act according to what seems good to us ...**

If we do not listen to God's warning and continue to act according to what seems good to us, we will face the disaster resulting from God's loving discipline.

At that time, we will understand whether God's warning to us has been fulfilled.

This is because God will surely show us evidence that His word has been accomplished (Jeremiah 44:28-29).

## **If God covers the church with a cloud of His anger ...**

If God covers the church with a cloud of His anger, the church's glory will fall from heaven to the ground, and the church's leaders will be disgraced (Lamentations 2:1-2).

## **The reasons to share with many people**

The reason I share the recorded sermons and messages of God through videos (YouTube) and written formats (email, Facebook, Naver Blog, KakaoTalk Story, KakaoTalk, church website, Google Blog) with many people is, of course, because it is the calling God has given me.

Additionally, it is because perhaps the Lord will feed them with these words as spiritual nourishment, allowing their faith to grow and also granting us all the grace to recognize the sins we need to repent of and turn away from those sinful ways (Jeremiah 36:6-7).

## **The pastor must faithfully convey the message whether the congregation listens or not.**

King Zedekiah summoned the prophet Jeremiah and said to him,

"I have something to ask you. Do not hide anything from me."

At that time, the prophet Jeremiah responded to King Zedekiah,

"If I tell you the truth, won't you surely kill me?

Even if I give you advice, you won't listen to me."

Then King Zedekiah secretly promised Jeremiah, saying,

"As surely as the Lord who gives us life lives,

I will not kill you or hand you over to those who seek your life."

Only then did the prophet Jeremiah relay to King Zedekiah

the words of the Almighty God of Israel.

"If you surrender to the officials of the king of Babylon,

you will not die, and this city will not be burned; you and your family will live.

But if you do not surrender to them, this city will be handed over to the Babylonians.

They will burn it down, and you will not escape from their hands"

(Jeremiah 38:14-18).

As I reflect on this passage, I receive a few lessons:

- (1) The servant of the Lord must not hide anything when proclaiming God's word but should deliver the message exactly as received to the congregation.
- (2) The servant of the Lord must faithfully convey the message whether the congregation listens or not (cf. Ezekiel 2:5, 7; 3:11).
- (3) The servant of the Lord should trust God's promises over the promises of people and deliver even the messages that are difficult for the congregation to hear, as long as they are God's words.

## **Respect the pastors and elders?**

Is it possible  
that people in this world do not respect pastors  
and do not treat elders well?  
(Ref.: Lamentations 4:16)

## **Because of the sins of the pastors and elders?**

Could it be  
that these bad things are happening in the church  
because of the sins  
of the pastors and elders of the church?  
(Ref.: Lamentations 4:13)

## **A pastor may sometimes experience being at the bottom of life.**

The officials took the prophet Jeremiah and lowered him  
by ropes into the cistern of the royal prince Malchiah,  
which was in the courtyard of the guard.  
The cistern had no water, only mud, and Jeremiah sank into the mud  
(Jeremiah 38:6).

As I meditate on this passage,  
I am reminded of the prophet Jonah, who disobeyed God's command.  
When he prayed to his God from the belly of the great fish  
(Jonah 2:1), he described himself as being in the deep waters (vv. 3, 5)  
and sinking down to the roots of the mountains, imprisoned in the land of death (v. 6).  
Yet, despite his situation, the prophet Jonah prayed to God,  
saying, "But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you.  
What I have vowed I will make good. Salvation comes from the Lord" (v. 9).  
As a result, the Lord saved the prophet Jonah's life from death (v. 6).  
If the Lord rescued the disobedient prophet Jonah,  
wouldn't He also save the prophet Jeremiah, who was obeying God's word?  
The Lord used Ebed-Melech, the Ethiopian court official, to go to King Zedekiah and say,  
"Your Majesty, what these men have done to the prophet Jeremiah is an evil act.  
They have thrown him into a cistern, and he will starve to death there  
since there is no bread left in the city."  
So, King Zedekiah commanded Ebed-Melech, "Take thirty men from here with you  
and lift the prophet Jeremiah out of the cistern before he dies."  
Thus, the prophet Jeremiah was rescued from the pit where he had been trapped  
(Jeremiah 38:7-13).

It seems that even pastors, who are servants of the Lord, may sometimes experience  
being at the bottom of life, like being in a pit or the depths of the sea.  
Such experiences can lead them to feel a sense of despair.  
However, the great grace of God given in those desperate situations is  
that the Holy Spirit makes them long for the Lord even more and fills them with hope,  
ultimately allowing them to experience God's salvation.

## **He will completely build us up.**

After the Lord has completely broken us and destroyed us,  
He will completely build us up  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 31:28).

## **Without faith, we will not obey God's word.**

Without faith, we will not obey God's word.  
The reason is that, in our fear, we will make decisions  
based on what seems good to us,  
even if it is something that God considers wrong,  
and we will choose that path.  
However, the path we choose will be  
one of disobedience to God's word and will be incorrect.  
Despite this, we will stubbornly persist in following that path.  
As a result, what we fear will come upon us,  
and we will not be able to escape the disaster  
that God will bring upon us  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 42:13-17).

## **He will surely fulfill!**

God will do what he has planned  
and will surely fulfill the words he declared long ago  
(Ref.: Lamentations 2:17).

## **The day will surely come when it will be fulfilled.**

The day will come  
when the Lord will surely fulfill the promise He made to us  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 33:14).

## **It will surely be fulfilled in God's time and in God's way!**

God will surely fulfill what He has planned  
against the enemies of the church and what He intends to do to them,  
in His time and in His way!  
At that time, we will hear their cries of lamentation  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 50:45-46).

## **All night long we weep in sorrow, tears running down our cheeks ...**

All night long we weep in sorrow, tears running down our cheeks,  
but none of our loved ones will comfort us;  
all our friends have turned against us  
and become our enemies  
(Ref.: Lamentations 1:2).

## **Removing idols from our hearts through discipline of love?**

Through the prophet Jeremiah, God declared to all the people of Judah who disobeyed His command and went to Egypt that He would use His servant, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, as an instrument to attack Egypt. He would kill those destined for death, capture those destined for captivity, and strike with the sword those destined for the sword. Not only that, but He would set fire to Egypt's many temples, burn them, take their idols, and break the obelisks of Heliopolis (Ref.: Jeremiah 43:7-13). As I meditated on this passage, it occurred to me that God can use even unbelievers who are much stronger than us in many ways to discipline us in love when we are disobedient. And through this loving discipline, God not only seeks to bring us to repentance for our disobedient sins, but also to remove from our hearts everything we rely on more than Him.

## **Aren't we defiling our bodies, which are the temple of the Holy Spirit?**

Could it be that right now we have turned our backs on the Lord, and despite His diligent teaching, we do not listen to or accept His instruction? Instead, have we set up defiled idols in the Lord's temple, thereby corrupting our bodies, which are temples of the Holy Spirit? (Ref.: Jeremiah 32:33-34; 1 Corinthians 6:19)



## **Isn't it greater than the sin of the people of Sodom?**

Could it be that our sins as God's people are  
now greater than the sins of the Sodomites  
mentioned in the Bible?  
(Ref.: Lamentations 4:6)

## **They live in a desperate situation with no place to rest or peace.**

For those who have suffered much pain and hardship and are in captivity in many ways,  
they live in a desperate situation with no place to rest or peace  
(Ref.: Lamentations 1:3).

## **If unfaithful church members trust in their wealth ...**

If unfaithful church members trust in their wealth and boast about their possessions,  
God will, in His own time and manner, bring fear upon them from all around  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 49:4-5).

## **No matter how powerful a nation may be in the world ...**

No matter how powerful a nation may be in the world,  
if God strikes it, that sinful nation will be greatly shamed  
and will become the most insignificant nation in the world  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 50:12, 14).

## **Isn't it true that no one can recognize ...?**

Isn't it true that no one can recognize  
that we are Christians anymore?  
(Ref.: Lamentations 4:8)

## **When there is no one to help us no matter where we look ...**

When there is no one to help us no matter where we look  
(Ref.: Lamentations 1:7), we should lift our eyes to look to God.  
The reason is that our help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth  
(Reference: Psalm 121:1-2),

## **When there is no one to comfort us wherever we look ...**

When there is no one to comfort us wherever we look  
(Lamentations 1:9; Ecclesiastes 4:1),  
we must look with faith to God,  
who comforts us as a mother comforts her child  
(Isaiah 66:13), who comforts us when we are discouraged  
(2 Corinthians 7:6), and who comforts us in all our troubles (1:4).  
By crying out to the God of all comfort,  
we not only receive God's comfort to endure our own sufferings (Ref.: v. 6),  
but we must also comfort those around us who are suffering (v. 4).

## **What can we say to someone who is suffering with incomparable sorrow and deep wounds like the sea?**

What can we say to someone who is suffering  
with incomparable sorrow and deep wounds like the sea?  
(Ref.: Lamentations 2:13)  
In trying to comfort that person,  
we may end up causing them more distress instead  
(Ref.: Job 16:2).

## **Perhaps the Lord will weaken the unrepentant church ...**

Perhaps the Lord will weaken the unrepentant church among the many,  
so that they will despise it (Ref.: Jeremiah 49:15).

## **The inconsistency between my words and actions is ultimately a rebuke of my own pride.**

When God, through the prophet Jeremiah, told the people of Judah not to go to Egypt, Azariah, Johanan, and all the other arrogant people told Jeremiah that God had not sent him to say that they shouldn't go to live in Egypt. They claimed that Baruch was inciting Jeremiah against them. However, despite God's command, they disobeyed and went to Egypt, taking Baruch with them (Jeremiah 43:1-7).

As I meditate on this passage,  
I realize that the words of these arrogant people  
(saying that Baruch was inciting Jeremiah against them)  
and their actions (taking Baruch with them to Egypt) do not align.  
This inconsistency between their words and actions  
makes me reflect on my own lack of alignment,  
which ultimately stems from my pride.

## **The whole world will hear of and tremble in fear.**

We are the source of the Lord's joy, praise, and glory,  
and the whole world will hear of and tremble in fear  
at all the good things the Lord has done for us  
and the abundant blessings and prosperity  
He has bestowed upon us  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 33:9).

## **‘Why do you commit such evil acts that provoke my anger ...?’**

Perhaps right now, God is saying to us (the church),  
‘Why do you commit such evil acts that provoke my anger,  
bringing disaster upon yourselves and making yourselves a curse  
and a reproach among all the nations of the world?’  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 44:7-8)

## **Intoxicating the whole world**

We, who witness the madness caused by drinking  
the sinful 'wine' of Satan's kingdom that intoxicates the whole world,  
must not admire the things of Satan's kingdom,  
which will suddenly fall and be destroyed  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 51:7-8).

## **It will be completely destroyed!**

Satan's kingdom  
will be completely destroyed by God's judgment  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 51:9).

## **We should humble ourselves before God, fear Him ...**

We must not forget the sins our ancestors and we have committed against God.

Instead, we should humble ourselves before God, fear Him,  
and faithfully obey the commandments He gave to our ancestors  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 44:9-10).

## **When we are surrounded by walls of hardship and trials, burdened with heavy chains of the heart, and unable to escape ...**

When we are surrounded by walls of hardship and trials,  
burdened with heavy chains of the heart, and unable to escape,  
there are times when it feels like no matter how much we cry out to God  
and plead for help, He rejects our prayers  
(Ref.: Lamentations 3:5, 7, 8).

Can we truly give thanks to God even when He rejects our prayers?  
Can we humbly and faithfully accept the words from Isaiah 59:1-2 during such times?  
'Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear.  
But your iniquities have separated you from your God;  
your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.'

## **It is like choosing the freedom to die by war, disease, and famine.**

Rejecting the freedom God has given us in Christ Jesus  
and returning to slavery under sin is like choosing  
the freedom to die by war, disease, and famine  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 34:17).

## **When we are at our most difficult and painful moments ...**

When we are at our most difficult and painful moments,  
we called upon those we love, but they deceived and betrayed us.  
Therefore, we have no choice but to cry out to God:  
'O Lord, see my affliction.  
I am tormented and distressed  
because of the sins I have committed against You'  
(Ref.: Lamentations 1:19-20).

## **When we are trapped from all directions due to a great crisis ...**

When we are trapped from all directions due to a great crisis,  
it is an opportunity for us to earnestly cry out to God even more.  
Moreover, it is a good chance to hear God's voice clearly through His Word  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 33:1-4).

## **If we obey God's word ...**

If we obey God's word, God will build us up and not tear us down,  
and plant us and not uproot us  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 42:10).

## **We look to the eternal kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

This is the message from 2 Peter 1:11:

'And you will receive a rich welcome  
into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.'

What we focus on is the eternal kingdom of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Although we currently live in various countries of this world,  
which are like a wilderness, the country we long for  
is the eternal kingdom of our Savior Jesus Christ.

We are merely sojourners in this world (Hebrews 11:13).

We are longing for our better heavenly homeland (v. 16).

'God has rescued us from the dominion of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves' (Colossians 1:13).

Therefore, we seek first His kingdom and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33).

When the Lord calls us,  
we will enter the eternal kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, we must be even more diligent  
to make our calling and election sure (2 Peter 1:10).

By doing so, we will not fall, and we will 'be richly welcomed  
into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ' (v. 11).



## **We should not be afraid or startled.**

We should not be afraid or startled  
because God is with us and will certainly save us.  
Although God will discipline us with love  
because of our unrepented sins and will not leave us unpunished,  
He will not abandon us entirely.  
Instead, the God of abundant mercy and grace will,  
in His time and by His method, rescue and restore us,  
enabling us to live in peace and without worry  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 46:27-28).

## **We must keep in mind.**

We must keep in mind that the Lord has all wisdom  
and does great and wonderful things,  
and He sees everything we do and He rewards each person  
according to what he has done  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 32:19).

## **Our eyes will fail from hoping for help in vain.**

If we are now expecting help from someone who cannot save us,  
our eyes will fail from hoping for help in vain  
(Ref.: Lamentations 4:17).

## **We focus on our eternal Triune God.**

God the Spirit (John 4:24) is eternal.

The Father God is eternal

(Romans 1:6:26).

The Son Jesus, who is eternal life, is also eternal

(John 1:1-2).

And the Holy Spirit is also called the eternal Holy Spirit

(Hebrews 9:14).

We do not focus on ourselves, but on this eternal Triune God.

## **We focus on Jesus, the source of eternal salvation.**

This is the message from Hebrews 5:9:

'And once made perfect,

He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him.'

Although Jesus is the Son of God,

He learned obedience through the sufferings He endured

and thus became perfect (vv. 8-9).

Therefore, Jesus has become the source of eternal salvation

for all who obey Him (v. 9).

Therefore, we focus on Jesus, the source of eternal salvation.

## **We focus on the eternal gospel.**

Consider Revelation 14:6:

'Then I saw another angel flying in midair,  
and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth  
—to every nation, tribe, language, and people.'

What is the gospel? The gospel is about the Son of God

(Romans 1:2).

It concerns the birth of Jesus (v. 3), His death, and His resurrection (v. 4).

The gospel is the virgin birth of Jesus Christ

(Matthew 1:18).

Jesus, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin,

and crucified to redeem our sins, is the gospel

(Romans 1:4).

And the resurrection of Jesus from the dead on the third day is the gospel (v. 4).

The humanity and divinity of Jesus are the gospel (vv. 3-4).

The Apostle John refers to this gospel as the 'eternal gospel'

(Revelation 14:6).

The reason is that Jesus, who is the eternal life, is the eternal God

(1 John 1:2; Ref.: Romans 16:26).

We are those who are chosen for this gospel (v. 1).

Therefore, we must proclaim this gospel to everyone,

whether they believe in Jesus or not.

We should not be ashamed of the gospel

but should spread the gospel of Jesus Christ,

which is the power of God

for the salvation of everyone who believes (v. 16).

This is because we owe the debt of the gospel to all people (v. 14).

Do you and I truly believe in the power of the gospel?

Are you and I not ashamed of the gospel?

Are we actively spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ?

## **We focus on eternal love.**

The eternal God loves us with an everlasting love (1 Kings 10:9).

Jesus, who is eternal life and loves us eternally with His eternal love, confirmed God's love for us by willingly giving up His life on the cross (Romans 5:8; 1 John 3:16).

The eternal Holy Spirit produces the fruit of the Spirit, which is love (not the fleeting love of man but the eternal love of God) (Galatians 5:22).

He enables us to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:37, 39).

This eternal love of the Triune God is better than our life, so our lips cannot help but praise Him (Psalm 63:3).

## **We focus on eternal life.**

We do not focus on our lives, which are like a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

The reason is that we are focusing on the eternal life that Christ has personally promised us (1 John 2:25, Modern Korean Bible) and the eternal life that God has given us through faith in Jesus Christ (John 3:16).

Therefore, like the Apostle Paul, we confess in faith, 'If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord' (Romans 14:8).

## **We focus on eternal atonement.**

This is the message from Hebrews 9:12:

'He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves;  
but He entered the Most Holy Place once for all by His own blood,  
thus obtaining eternal redemption.'

'Atonement' is translated from the Hebrew word 'kaphar'  
and the Greek word 'catalysis,'

meaning 'to cover,' 'to remove,' or 'to eliminate faults,'  
which refers to the act of making amends for sin (Internet).

In the Bible, 'atonement' refers to the act of Jesus Christ, the Son of God,  
shedding His blood on the cross to provide forgiveness for our sins.

In the Old Testament, there were specific sacrifices  
required for atonement, known as 'sin offerings.'

The purpose of these sin offerings was to achieve forgiveness for sins  
and restore the broken relationship with God due to those sins.

This symbolizes the atoning work of Jesus Christ (Internet).

We were under the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2).

To be saved from the law of sin and death, a sin offering was necessary.

Therefore, a sin offering had to be made to God.

Since we were enemies of God (5:10),

we needed a peace offering to be reconciled with Him.

God the Father made His Son, Jesus Christ, 'His own Son' (Hebrews 8:3),  
the sin offering and peace offering (Chang Seh Kim).

Now, no longer with the blood of goats and calves,

but with the blood of Jesus Christ,

He accomplished eternal redemption

and entered the Most Holy Place once for all (Hebrews 9:12).

'If the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those  
who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean,  
how much more will the blood of Christ,  
who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself unblemished to God,  
cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death,

so that we may serve the living God!' (Hebrews 9:13-14).  
Therefore, Jesus Christ, the mediator of the new covenant,  
shed His blood on the cross to atone for sins  
committed under the first (old) covenant,  
so that those called by God may receive  
the promised eternal blessings (Hebrews 9:15).  
Thus, we focus on the eternal atonement of Jesus Christ.

## **We focus on eternal glory.**

This is the message from 2 Corinthians 4:17 (Modern Korean Bible):  
'For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us  
an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.'  
We do not lose heart. Although our outer self is wasting away,  
our inner self is being renewed day by day (v. 16).  
Although we are destined to face troubles in this world (John 16:33),  
we consider these troubles as light and momentary (2 Corinthians 4:17).  
The reason is that the suffering we endure now cannot be compared  
to the glory that will be revealed in us (Romans 8:18).  
'Therefore, I endure everything for the sake of the elect,  
that they too may obtain the salvation  
that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory' (2 Timothy 2:10).  
We endure all suffering while focusing on eternal glory.

## **We focus on the eternal King.**

This is the message from Jeremiah 10:10 (Modern Korean Bible):

'But the Lord is the true God; He is the living God, the eternal King.

When He is angry, the earth trembles; the nations cannot endure His wrath.'

The Lord is the true God, the living God, and the eternal King (v. 10).

Who is the King of Glory?

The Almighty God is the King of Glory (Psalms 24:10).

He is the King of Righteousness and the King of Peace (Hebrews 7:2).

As the great King who rules the entire world,

we should fear the Most High God (Psalms 47:2).

This great King, God, gave up all His privileges

and became like humans, appearing in the form of a man.

He humbled Himself and died on the cross (Philippians 2:7-8).

Jesus, who is the eternal King (Jeremiah 10:10) and eternal life (1 John 1:2),

was nailed to the cross, the tree of curse (Deuteronomy 21:23; Galatians 3:13).

When Jesus was crucified, the inscription of His charge on the cross read,

'Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews' (Mark 15:26).

The chief priests and the scribes mocked Jesus, saying,

'He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the King of Israel.

Then we will believe in Him' (Mark 15:31-32).

Even the criminals crucified with Him hurled insults at Him.

He became a person despised and rejected by men,

a man of sorrows and familiar with suffering.

People turned their faces away from Him, and we did not esteem Him (Isaiah 53:3).

He bore our diseases and suffered for us,

but we considered Him stricken by God, punished by Him.

He was pierced for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities;

the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him,

and by His wounds, we are healed (Isaiah 53:4-5).

Thus, the King of kings, Jesus, humbled Himself,

was despised and rejected, and gave His life as a ransom for us (Matthew 20:28).

Through this, we received forgiveness of sins (Colossians 1:14) and salvation.

We, who have been saved, are a chosen people,  
a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a people belonging to God.  
This is so that we may declare the praises of Him  
who called us out of darkness into His wonderful light (1 Peter 2:9).  
Therefore, we praise my God, the King: 'I will extol You, my God the King;  
I will praise Your name forever and ever' (Gospel song 'My God, the King').  
'At the proper time, God will show His appearing.  
He is the blessed and only Sovereign,  
the King of kings and Lord of lords' (1 Timothy 6:15).  
Before the appointed time,  
the ten kings seen by the Apostle John have not yet received their kingdom,  
but they will receive authority for a short time with the beast.  
They will have one purpose and will give their power and authority  
to the beast and fight against the Lamb.  
However, since the Lamb is Lord of lords and King of kings,  
He will overcome them, and those who are called  
and chosen faithful believers will overcome with Him  
(Revelation 17:12-14).  
Therefore, 'To the eternal King, immortal, invisible,  
the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen' (1 Timothy 1:17).

## **We focus on all the righteous laws of the eternal Lord.**

Psalms 119:160 in the Modern Korean Bible says:

'All Your words are true; all Your righteous laws are eternal.'

Therefore, we should focus on the eternal truth of the Lord's righteous words and laws.

By loving these words and laws (v. 163), we meditate on them day and night (1:2)  
and confess like the Psalmist, 'I will always obey Your law, forever and ever' (119:44).



## **We focus on eternal comfort.**

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 says:

'May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father,  
who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope,  
encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.'

There are times when, like the Psalmist,  
our souls refuse to be comforted (Psalms 77:2).

Jacob mourned so deeply for his son Joseph,  
whom he believed was dead,  
that even though his children tried to comfort him,  
he could not be consoled (Genesis 37:35).

Similarly, when a loved one dies, there are times when our souls  
are so distressed that we refuse any comfort.

At such times, the God of all comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3) comes to our aid.

Our God, who loves us, gives us eternal comfort and good hope by His grace.

God the Father comforts our hearts with eternal comfort  
and, in our afflictions, comforts us (2 Corinthians 1:4).

Not only does He help us endure our sufferings (v. 6),  
but He also enables us to comfort those who are in any trouble (v. 4).

Moreover, God comforts us with eternal comfort  
and encourages us even when we are discouraged (2 Corinthians 7:6).

Especially, God comforts us with the hope of the resurrection  
and the second coming of Jesus Christ

so that we do not grieve like those who have no hope,  
when we mourn for our loved ones who have died  
(Matthew 5:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

God comforts us by speaking to us secretly (Job 15:11).

God's word is our comfort in times of suffering.

The Lord's word gives us life (Psalms 119:50).

Therefore, we focus on God's eternal comfort.

May the God of all comfort give you eternal comfort.

## **We focus on eternal joy.**

People should be able to enjoy life  
because there is nothing better than eating, drinking,  
and enjoying oneself in this world.  
However, such enjoyment must be found in working diligently  
during the time God has given us on this earth (Ecclesiastes 8:15).  
Yet, for some reason, it seems we are unable to enjoy life.  
It feels as though we are not experiencing joy right now (6:3).  
In other words, it seems we have no enjoyment,  
much like there is no one to be joyful and happy  
even in fertile lands and vineyards.  
It seems that all the sounds of joy have ceased  
(Isaiah 16:10; cf. Jeremiah 48:33).  
It seems that people's enjoyment has disappeared (Joel 1:12).  
What is the reason for this?  
Perhaps the reason all the sounds of joy have ceased is  
that worries in our hearts are causing our spirits  
to be wounded and our bones to dry up (Proverbs 15:13; 17:22).  
Perhaps the reason is that we can only think of the pleasures  
that are immediately visible to us (Ecclesiastes 7:4).  
Perhaps it is because we are ignoring  
God's warnings and advice (Ezekiel 21:10).  
The pleasure of the ungodly is all fleeting (Job 20:4).  
We should seek pleasure in the Lord (Isaiah 58:14).  
We should make God our delight (Psalms 35:9),  
because those who seek the Lord find pleasure (105:3).  
The reason is that our God gives joy and delight  
instead of sorrow to those who mourn,  
and praise instead of anxiety (Psalm 61:3).  
We should receive God's word as if it were delicious food.  
The reason is that God's word becomes joy  
and delight in our hearts (Jeremiah 15:16).

The Lord's teachings and laws are our delight (Psalms 119:24, 77).  
The knowledge of God's word  
and God Himself gives us pleasure (Proverbs 2:10).  
May God remove sorrow and mourning from us  
and grant us only eternal joy and delight (Isaiah 35:10).  
Therefore, we pray that those whom God has rescued will sing  
and return to God's sanctuary,  
experiencing eternal joy and delight (Psalms 51:11).

## **We focus on eternal blessings.**

Psalms 21:6 in the Modern Korean Bible says:  
'You have given him eternal blessings  
and made him glad with the joy of Your presence.'  
The Lord hears the desires of our hearts  
and does not refuse our requests, giving us strength (vv. 1-2).  
He also grants us victory (vv. 1, 5) and enhances our glory,  
bestowing upon us fame and dignity (v. 5).  
The Lord gives us eternal blessings and has bestowed all spiritual blessings  
in the heavenly places in Christ (Ephesians 1:3).  
Therefore, we, who already possess eternal life (1 John 3:14),  
focus on God's eternal blessings rather than  
the fleeting and temporary blessings of this world.

## **We focus on praising God forever.**

Psalms 111:10 in the Modern Korean Bible says:

'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

All who follow His teachings have good understanding;  
to Him belongs eternal praise.'

Our God is worthy of eternal praise.

We should praise Him for the marvelous works

He has done and for His greatness (Psalms 150:2).

We should give thanks and praise to God and sing:

'God is good, and His love for us is eternal!' (Zephaniah 3:11).

Since God is good, we should praise Him

and glorify His beautiful name (Psalms 135:3).

With wisdom and power belonging to God,

we should praise His name (Daniel 2:20).

We should thank the Lord every day

and praise Him forever (Psalms 145:2).

We should praise our God of salvation,

who bears our burdens daily (68:19).

We should sincerely praise God

for the salvation He has provided for us (71:23).

Since the Lord has come to rescue us from sin,

we should praise the Lord our God (Luke 1:68).

We should praise God because He has strengthened us,

His people, and those who draw near to God should praise Him

(Psalm 148:14). We should praise the Most High God

who has given us victory (Genesis 14:20).

As the Lord teaches us His laws,

we should always praise Him (Psalms 119:171).

We should not forget all of God's grace

and continue to praise Him (103:2).

We should trust in God and praise the Lord's word (56:10).

We should always remain hopeful

and praise the Lord even more (71:14).  
Since the Lord's steadfast love is better than life,  
we should praise the Lord (63:3).  
Because God's love for us is great and His faithfulness is eternal,  
we should praise Him (117:2).  
We should praise God from now on and forever (41:13; 115:18).  
From now on and forever, God's name will be praised (113:2).  
While we are alive, we will praise God  
and sing praises to Him all our lives (146:2; Ref.: 104:33).  
We will boast about God all day long  
and praise and thank the Lord forever (44:8).  
King, my God, I will extol You  
and praise Your name forever (45:1).  
Our God, we give thanks to You  
and praise Your glorious name (1 Chronicles 29:13).  
Our God, may You be praised forever (v. 10).  
'Praise the Lord, O my soul; praise the Lord, O my soul;  
let everything within me praise His holy name'  
(Ref.: Psalms 103:1, 22).

## **We are left alone.**

So, we cannot help but weep, and tears flow from our eyes.  
And yet there is no one near us to comfort us,  
and the one who will revive our souls is far away.  
We are left alone. Even if we stretch out our hands, there is no one to help us.  
People have heard our groans, but there is no one to comfort us  
(Ref.: Lamentations 1:16-17, 21).

## **We must examine and probe our ways and return to God.**

We must examine and probe our ways and return to God.

We should open our hearts and lift our hands in prayer to God in heaven

(Ref.: Lamentations 3:40-41).

## **We should be so ashamed of the sins we committed in our youth that we can hardly bear it.**

After we have turned away from the Lord, we should quickly repent,

and once we realize our wrongs, we should beat our chests in sorrow.

We should be so ashamed of the sins we committed in our youth

that we can hardly bear it (Ref.: Jeremiah 31:19).

## **We don't focus on our love.**

Hosea 6:4 (Modern Korean Bible) says,

‘...Your love is like the morning mist, like the early dew that disappears.’

Our love is like the morning mist that appears briefly and then quickly vanishes.

Our love is by no means eternal.

Therefore, if we live our lives focusing on such fleeting love,

whether in marriage or in human relationships, we are bound to be disappointed.

If we are loving our family and neighbors with temporary,

false love rather than God's eternal, authentic love,

that love will not remain in our hearts for long.

It will disappear quickly, just like the early dew.

This is why we do not focus on this kind of love.

## **We don't focus on our own lives.**

James 4:14 (Modern Korean Bible) says,

'You do not know what will happen tomorrow.

What is your life?

You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.'

Since we are like a mist that appears briefly and then disappears,

we do not worry about what we will eat, what we will drink,

or what we will wear for our bodies

(Matthew 6:25, 31).

The reason is that we believe our Heavenly Father knows

that we need all these things (v. 32).

Also, we believe in Jesus' words:

'Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses

their life for my sake will find it'

(Matthew 10:39; Ref.: 16:25).

Therefore, we do not focus on our own lives.

We are those who lose our lives for the sake of Jesus and the gospel

(Mark 8:35).

We do not consider our lives worth anything to ourselves,

if only we may finish the race

and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given us

—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace

(Acts 20:24).

## **We focus on the eternal dominion of the Lord.**

This is from Daniel 4:34: 'At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation.'

King Nebuchadnezzar, while walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, said, 'Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?' (Daniel 4:30). Before the words were even out of his mouth, a voice came from heaven: 'King Nebuchadnezzar, this is what is decreed for you: Your royal authority has been taken from you. You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox for seven years until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes' (Daniel 4:31-32).

The word was fulfilled for King Nebuchadnezzar, and after seven years had passed, he looked up toward heaven, and his sanity was restored. He then worshiped the Most High God and praised Him who lives forever, saying (Daniel 4:34): 'His dominion is an eternal dominion; His kingdom endures from generation to generation' (v. 34).

In the vision that Daniel saw, God gave authority, glory, and a kingdom to 'one like a son of man' (7:13), so that all nations and peoples of every language would serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and His kingdom is one that will never be destroyed (v. 14). The Lord's dominion is an everlasting dominion. This eternal authority is the authority given by God the Father to His Son, Jesus Christ, to rule over all people, and with this authority, the Lord grants eternal life to all whom the Father has given Him (John 17:2). Therefore, we focus on this eternal dominion of the Lord.



## **We should long for the grace of repentance and repent to God.**

If we have realized our sins  
through the servants of God whom He continually sends,  
we should yearn for the grace of repentance and repent to God.  
If we refuse to repent and do not listen to  
what God's servants say to us in His name,  
and continue to act according to our own desires,  
believing that we will have plenty to eat and live in abundance  
without encountering any disasters, then we will inevitably face  
the bitter consequences of our unrepented sins  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 44:12-19).

## **We focus on God's eternal power.**

Romans 1:20 (Modern Korean Bible) says,  
"For since the creation of the world,  
God's invisible qualities—his eternal power  
and divine nature—have been clearly seen,  
being understood from what has been made,  
so that people are without excuse."  
God has revealed what can be known about Him to all sinners,  
making it clear to everyone (vv. 18-19).  
Since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities—  
His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen,  
being understood from what has been made (v. 20).  
Therefore, we must proclaim  
this eternal power of God (Psalms 68:34).  
Every generation should praise the works of the Lord

and proclaim His mighty acts (145:4).  
God, who preserves all things by His powerful word,  
has cleansed our sins with the blood of Jesus  
and has sat down at the right hand  
of the great God in heaven (Hebrews 1:3).  
God has performed such wondrous deeds to make all nations  
living on the earth recognize His great power  
and to serve our God with an everlasting reverence (Joshua 4:24).  
The Lord, who intercedes for us at the right hand of God,  
gives us abundantly more than we can ask or think  
according to the power at work within us (Ephesians 3:20).  
To that Lord, we should pray,  
“God, Your power is great; be exalted.  
We will sing and praise Your great power” (Psalms 21:13).  
This is because the Lord is full of power,  
and His strength is great (89:13).  
We are the people whom the Lord has led  
with His great power and strength (Deuteronomy 9:29).  
We are all servants of the Lord,  
and the people whom the Lord has saved  
with great power and strength (Nehemiah 1:10).  
And now we live by the word of truth  
and the power of God (2 Corinthians 6:7).  
“To the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
be glory, majesty, power, and authority,  
through all ages, now and forever. Amen”  
(Jude 1:25).

## **We have been set free by the gift of God's grace.**

The Babylonian commander Nebuzaradan released the prophet Jeremiah and said to him:

"Now I will remove the chains from your hands and set you free.

If you want to come with me to Babylon, come with me, and I will take care of you.

But if you don't want to, you don't have to come.

Look, the whole land is before you—go wherever you want.

... You can go back to Gedaliah, the grandson of Shaphan

and the son of Ahikam, whom the king of Babylon has appointed as governor over Judah,

and stay with him and the people, or go wherever you like."

Then Nebuzaradan gave Jeremiah food and a gift and let him go (Jeremiah 40:4-5).

As I meditated on this passage, I was reminded of John 8:32:

"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

The true prophet Jeremiah was a servant of God who received God's word

and faithfully delivered it to the people of Judah and Jerusalem,

and he was a person who knew the truth. And he believed in that truth and lived by faith.

Therefore, even though he was imprisoned, thrown into a pit,

and even bound in chains, I believe his soul was free.

We were slaves to sin, living under the yoke of bondage,

but Jesus Christ set us free so that we might live in freedom (Galatians 5:1).

We have been saved by grace through faith in Christ.

This is not by our own strength, but it is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8).

And after receiving this gift of grace from God,

we became workers who spread the gospel of Jesus Christ

by the power of God working within us (Ephesians 3:7).

## **We should also not be lazy in the work of God.**

We should not rely on our talents and wealth (Ref.: Jeremiah 48:7).

We should also not be lazy in the work of God (v. 10).

## **We are God's children.**

God is the God of all our families,  
and we are God's children  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 31:1).

## **We focus on the eternal plan God has established in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

This is Ephesians 3:11 from the Modern Korean Bible:

"This was according to the eternal purpose  
that God has accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord."

This plan of God is a "mysterious plan,"  
and we have come to know this mysterious plan of God  
through His revelation (v. 3).

Now, this plan has been made known to Christ's holy people  
through the Holy Spirit (v. 5).

The mystery of this plan is that the Gentiles  
are also heirs together with Israel, members together of one body,  
and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel (v. 6).

We have received the gift of God's grace and,  
by the power of God working within us,  
have become servants to spread this gospel (v. 7).

Therefore, we focus on the eternal plan  
that God has established in Christ Jesus our Lord,  
and we pray that this plan will be accomplished  
on earth as it is in heaven (Matthew 6:10).

## **We focus on our eternal home in heaven.**

This is 2 Corinthians 5:1 from the Modern Korean Bible:

"We know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed,  
we have a building from God,  
an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands."

God the Father, out of His love for us, chose us (Ephesians 1:4)  
and gave us the gift of eternal life  
by enabling us to believe in Jesus Christ (2:8).

This eternal gift is eternal life (Romans 6:23).

In other words, God has granted us, the chosen ones,  
salvation in Christ Jesus along with eternal glory (2 Timothy 2:10).  
And the eternal God, who has given us eternal life (Romans 16:26),  
is leading us on the eternal path (Psalms 139:24).

Because God loves us with an everlasting love,  
He is guiding us with unfailing love (Jeremiah 31:3).

God will richly provide for us an entrance into the eternal kingdom  
of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:11).

When the earthly tent we live in is destroyed,  
we will have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven,  
not built by human hands (2 Corinthians 5:1).

This is according to the eternal purpose that  
God has accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord (Ephesians 3:11).

The Lord has blessed us with eternal blessings  
and filled us with joy by being with us (Psalms 21:6).

When we possess our eternal home in heaven,  
sorrow and sighing will flee away,  
and we will experience everlasting joy and gladness  
(Isaiah 35:10, 51:11).

At that time, God will be our everlasting light,  
and the days of our sorrow will end (Isaiah 60:20).

## **When we face troubles and trials ...**

When we face troubles and trials,  
we remember the joys of the past  
(Ref.: Lamentations 1:7).

## **We should not be afraid or discouraged by bad rumors.**

We should not be afraid or discouraged by bad rumors.  
Bad rumors can cause anxiety in our hearts  
like waves on the sea, taking away our peace  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 49:23).

## **We too will witness!**

We too will witness  
the fulfillment of all that the Lord has promised us  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 32:24).

## **‘Have mercy on us’**

God is willing and ready to forgive our wickedness and sins,  
but the issue is that we lack the ability to repent and turn away from our evil ways.  
Even though we have experienced all the disasters that God has decreed for us,  
we realize that even though we want to turn away from our evil ways,  
we are unable to do so on our own, leading us to despair  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 36:3).  
Therefore, all we can do is plead with God, 'Have mercy on us'  
(Ref.: Luke 17:13).

## **He will have compassion on us.**

The Lord will restore us to our former state  
and have compassion on us  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 33:26).

## **It deceive us.**

Our reputation and the pride of our hearts deceive us  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 49:16).

## **We must not think that they have completely left us.**

We must not deceive ourselves  
and think that Satan and his forces have completely left us.  
Satan and his forces will not leave us and will continue to attack us  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 37:9).

## **It frees us from the slavery of sin.**

The covenant God made with us in Christ Jesus proclaims freedom  
and sets us free from the slavery of sin  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 34:8).

## **He is a faithful God who always keeps His promises to us!**

The Lord is a faithful God who leads us, His people,  
with amazing miracles, great power, and fear,  
and who surely fulfills what He has promised us  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 32:21-22).



## **He will allow us to enjoy peace and prosperity.**

However, though the Lord may turn His face away from us for a time,  
He will heal our wounds and restore us in His time,  
allowing us to enjoy peace and prosperity.  
The Lord will rebuild His church as it was before,  
cleanse us from all the sins we have committed against Him,  
and forgive our sins and rebellious acts  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 33:4-8).

## **Our God, who is our Savior, is mighty ...**

Our God, who is our Savior, is mighty, and His name is the Almighty God.  
God will surely avenge us, granting us peace  
and bringing unrest to our enemies  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 50:34).

## **When our souls are deprived of peace and we forget happiness ...**

When our souls are deprived of peace and we forget happiness,  
we can truly say, 'My strength has weakened, and my hope in God has vanished.'  
We remember the bitter suffering and adversity we endure,  
and just thinking about it can lead to discouragement.  
Yet, the reason all of this can become our hope is  
because of God's great love and His everlasting mercy.  
These are renewed every morning, so we cannot help  
but acknowledge and confess, 'The Lord is indeed faithful.'  
Therefore, we say to our hearts, 'The Lord is my portion;  
I will put my hope in Him' (Ref.: Lamentations 3:17-24).

## **Our enemies are prosperous ...**

Could it be that our enemies have become our rulers  
and our adversaries prosper because of our many sins,  
and that God has allowed us to fall into sorrow?  
(Ref.: Lamentations 1:5)

## **Our enemy, the devil, is watching us every step of the way.**

Our enemy, the devil, is watching us every step of the way.  
He is trying to trip us up and trap us.  
The only one who can protect us is the Lord!  
(Ref.: Lamentations 4:18-20)

## **He may be draining our strength.**

Perhaps God has delivered us into the hands of someone  
we cannot withstand, placing various yokes upon us to drain our strength  
(Ref.: Lamentations 1:14).

## **He is leaving us with a remnant of strength.**

When God the Father, in loving discipline, breaks the strength of us, His children,  
He still extends His grace by leaving us with a remnant of strength  
(Ref.: Lamentations 2:3; Isaiah 1:9).

## **Because of this our heart has grown faint, and our eyes have grown dim.**

Now our joy has departed from our hearts,  
our dancing has been turned into mourning,  
and the crown has fallen from our heads.  
It is a sad thing, because we have sinned.  
Because of this our heart has grown faint,  
and our eyes have grown dim  
(Lamentations 5:15-17).

## **“This is the vengeance of the Lord.”**

God will take vengeance on the enemies of the church  
and repay them for what they have done.

“This is the vengeance of the Lord”

(Jeremiah 50:15).

## **Future hopes**

There is hope for our future

(Ref.: Jeremiah 31:17).

## **God who raises the wind of destruction on the day of disaster**

God will raise the wind of destruction on the day of disaster  
to strike Satan’s nations, such as Babylonia

(Ref.: Jeremiah 51:1-2).

**I have written down all the words of God  
that I have preached so far.**

Now, I am serving the Victory Presbyterian Church,  
the body of the Lord, by the grace of God,  
and I am writing down all the words of God  
that I have preached so far  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 36:2).

**Those who once honored us ...**

Those who once honored us may see our naked shame and despise us.  
Therefore, we can only sigh and hide our faces  
(Ref.: Lamentations 1:8).

**When God put a yoke of hardship on us in our youth ...**

When God put a yoke of hardship on us in our youth,  
He taught us patience and trained us to sit alone and wait quietly before him  
(Ref.: Lamentations 3:27-28).

## **The grace I seek from God ...**

The grace I seek from God is that, if it is in God's will, until the time I pass away, I will continue to delight in God's word, meditating on it day and night (Ref.: Psalms 1:2), and I wish to keep sharing the written reflections on God's word through the internet with many people (Ref.: Jeremiah 36:27-28).

## **They will become an object of ridicule.**

The proud who mock the Lord's church  
will become an object of ridicule  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 48:26-27).

## **When we feel that we are bearing the consequences of our ancestors' sins ...**

When we feel that we are bearing the consequences of our ancestors' sins (Ref.: Lamentations 5:7), we must look to Jesus Christ in faith, who took upon Himself all our sins and died on the cross as payment for those sins. God has freely given us the gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Ref.: Romans 6:23).

## **We must surrender to the Lord!**

King Zedekiah was afraid of the Jews  
who had surrendered to the Babylonians.  
He was concerned that if the Babylonians handed him over to them,  
they would mock him. Upon learning this,  
the prophet Jeremiah said to King Zedekiah:  
'You will not be handed over to them.  
Obey the Lord by doing what I tell you,  
and it will go well with you; your life will be spared.  
But if you refuse to surrender,  
this is what the Lord has revealed to me will happen ...'  
(Jeremiah 38:19-21).

As I meditate on this passage,  
I receive the lesson that the servant of the Lord  
must first surrender to the Lord  
and clearly convey the message to believers  
that they too must surrender to the Lord.  
Additionally, I learn that we must boldly  
and lovingly communicate that if we obey God's word,  
we will live, but if we refuse to obey,  
the consequences of that disobedience  
will occur just as God has said.

## **Even though the Lord causes us sorrow ...**

Even though the Lord causes us sorrow,  
He will show mercy because of His great love.  
The Lord does not intentionally cause us to suffer and worry  
(Ref.: Lamentations 3:32-33).

## **Why do You forget us and forsake us for so long?**

God, You reign forever; Your throne endures from generation to generation.

Why do You forget us and forsake us for so long?

Restore us to Yourself, O Lord, that we may return;  
renew our days as of old (Lamentations 5:19-21).

## **When the Lord restores us ...**

When the Lord restores us,  
the sounds of joy, gladness, the voice of the bridegroom,  
the voice of the bride, and the voice of those who say,  
'Give thanks to the Lord Almighty,  
for the Lord is good; His love endures forever,'  
and the sounds of those bringing thank offerings  
to the house of God will be heard once again  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 33:10).

## **'Lord, save Your church'**

We must sing joyfully for the Lord's church and praise Him,  
declaring, "Lord, save Your church"  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 31:7).



## **The Lord is my God.**

The Lord is my God.

If the Lord restores me, I will return

(Ref.: Jeremiah 31:18).

## **The Lord continues to do the same today as he did long ago in our lives.**

The Lord, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever

(Hebrews 13:8),

is the God who continues to perform such amazing miracles today,

just as He did long ago in our lives,

making His name known throughout the whole world

(Ref.: Jeremiah 32:20).

## **The Lord will surely rebuild His church!**

The Lord will surely rebuild His church

so that we can be established

(Ref.: Jeremiah 31:4).

## **The Lord satisfies the weary.**

The Lord refreshes the weary and satisfies the weary  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 31:25).

## **When the Lord's church is besieged from all directions due to the consequences of unrepented sin ...**

When the Lord's church is besieged from all directions  
due to the consequences of unrepented sin,  
a true servant of the Lord may also find themselves surrounded on all sides,  
just as they deliver God's message faithfully to the congregation  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 32:2-3).

## **If it is the Lord's will ...**

If it is the Lord's will, I pray that all the (sermon) reflections I share  
may lead the brothers and sisters in the Lord who hear or read them to receive God's grace.  
I also hope that they will be able to share the grace-filled words  
with those they wish to share them with  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 36:13).

## **The reason why the Lord hides His face?**

It may be that the reason the Lord, who is the head of the church,  
hides His face from His body, the church, is  
because of all our wicked deeds  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 33:5).

## **A true servant of the Lord**

A true servant of the Lord must know for sure  
that the words he hears are truly the words of God  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 32:8).

## **Who is like God??**

Who is like God? Who can challenge God?  
Who can stand up to God?  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 50:44)

## **Although God has continued to send His servants to tell us not to engage in such abominable acts that He detests ...**

Although God has continued to send His servants to tell us  
not to engage in such abominable acts that He detests, we have not listened.  
We still engage in the idolatry of greed and do not turn away from our wickedness.  
As a result, we have angered God through our evil deeds  
and have witnessed the 'disasters He has brought upon us.'  
Therefore, like the tax collector who prayed in the temple,  
we can only stand afar off, not daring to lift our eyes to heaven,  
but beating our chest and praying, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner'  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 44:2-6; Colossians 3:5; Luke 18:13).

## **God will bestow upon them all the blessings He has promised.**

God will gather together the people of the Lord's church  
who have been scattered in His anger and lead them back to the church,  
allowing them to practice their faith safely within it.  
Additionally, God will give them one heart and mind,  
so that they may serve Him with reverence for their own good  
and that of their descendants.  
He will establish an everlasting covenant with them,  
ensuring that He will never again abandon them.  
God will do good to them and instill in them a reverent heart  
so that they will never again turn away from Him.  
God will take delight in doing good for them and will plant them  
in His kingdom with all their heart and soul.  
He will bestow upon them all the blessings He has promised  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 32:37-42).

## **The cries of the suffering that God hears**

I pray that God will grant us all the ability to hear  
the cries of those suffering around us:

'O God, I have become desolate. Look upon me'

(Ref.: Lamentations 1:11).

We long for the grace to also hear  
the cries of those who are suffering,  
which God is listening to

(Ref.: Exodus 3:7).

## **We must flee from the kingdom of Satan and save our lives ...**

We must flee from the kingdom of Satan and save our lives,  
for when the Holy God takes vengeance,  
He will repay all the sins of the kingdom of Satan  
according to what they have done

(Ref.: Jeremiah 51:6).

## **Is there anything that the God of all humanity cannot do?**

Is there anything that the God of all humanity cannot do?  
Even in our sorrow, when we pray while looking to God,  
we must ask in faith to believe that the Lord,  
who created the heavens and the earth with great power and strength,  
can do all things—there is nothing He cannot do

(Ref.: Jeremiah 32:17, 27).

## **God has saved us by redeeming us from the hand of Satan, who is stronger than us.**

God has saved us by redeeming us from the hand of Satan, who is stronger than us.  
Therefore, we must go up to God's house and greatly rejoice and praise God  
for all the spiritual blessings He has bestowed upon us.  
Our hearts are like a well-watered garden, no longer burdened by worries.  
We dance and rejoice, and all the saints celebrate together.  
The Lord turns our sorrow into joy, comforts us, and gives us joy instead of grief.  
We are satisfied with the abundance of the Lord's good things  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 31:12-13).

## **May God show us ...**

May God show us where we should go and what we should do  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 42:3).

## **God opposes the proud.**

God opposes the proud.  
Therefore, the proud will surely stumble and fall,  
and there will be no one to raise them up,  
because the time has come for them to be punished  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 50:31-32).

## **Nothing is beyond God's knowledge.**

Nothing is beyond God's knowledge.

God knows all our evil deeds and filthy acts,  
and there will come a time when He can no longer endure.

When that time comes,  
it will be because we have engaged in the idolatry of greed  
(excessive desire), sinned against God, not obeyed Him,  
and failed to keep all His commands.

It is for these reasons that God has brought 'disasters  
like those of today' upon us  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 44:21-23).

## **God remembers what we have endured and observes our disgrace.**

Although we lead a life of being chased in many ways,  
and we are tired yet unable to find rest,  
and even when we live by submitting to our superiors just to make a living,  
God remembers what we have endured and observes our disgrace  
(Ref.: Lamentations 5:1, 5-6).

## **God will punish this sinful world.**

God will punish this sinful world, like Babylon.

God's arrows will not miss; they will hit their target with perfect accuracy.

Therefore, we must lead each other

to depart from the sinful ways of this world

(Ref.: Jeremiah 50:8-10).

## **God shows grace to those who place their hope in Him and seek Him.**

God shows grace to those who place their hope in Him and seek Him.

Therefore, we should place our hope in God and quietly wait

for His salvation while seeking Him

(Ref.: Lamentations 3:25-26).

## **They will receive the rest that God gives.**

In this world that is like a wilderness,

the saints who escape the sword of Satan and his forces

are people who have received grace

and will receive the rest that God gives

(Ref.: Jeremiah 31:2).



## **God gives us a warning in advance not to go that way.**

God knows when we decide to choose  
the wrong path due to a mistaken resolution.  
When we are about to walk that wrong path,  
He gives us a warning in advance not to go that way.  
However, if we do not remember this warning  
and instead ignore it and walk the wrong path,  
we will have to experience the bitter consequences  
of our wrong choices and actions in life  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 42:19-22).

## **God forgives our evil deeds and will no longer remember our sins!**

God inscribes His word within us and writes it on our hearts.  
Therefore, we are all coming to know God.  
God forgives our evil deeds  
and will no longer remember our sins  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 31:34).

## **Those who trust in God will surely be saved by Him!**

Ebed-Melech the Ethiopian, a eunuch of King Zedekiah of Judah,  
who rescued the prophet Jeremiah from the pit where he was left to die  
(Jeremiah 38:7-13), received a promise from God  
that He would surely save him  
when the Lord brought disaster upon Jerusalem in his presence.  
God told Ebed-Melech through the prophet Jeremiah,  
'I will save you on that day, and you will not be handed over to those you fear.  
I will surely rescue you; you will not fall by the sword but will escape with your life.'  
The reason is that Ebed-Melech trusted in God (39:16-18).  
As I meditate on this passage,  
I receive the lesson that those who trust in God will surely be saved by Him.  
Therefore, I revisit the words of Proverbs 3:5-6:  
'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not rely on your own understanding.  
In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.'

## **Without God's will**

Nothing can be accomplished without God's will!  
(Lamentations 3:37)

## **God's heart longs for us and shows us compassion.**

We are beloved children of God, His delighted sons and daughters.  
Though God may occasionally rebuke us, He still remembers us.  
God's heart longs for us and shows us compassion  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 31:20).

## **The word of God can never be imprisoned.**

Even if the servant of the Lord is imprisoned,  
the word of God can never be imprisoned  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 37:4, 15, 21).

## **The servant should consistently deliver the message of repentance.**

When a brother who is suffering from God's disciplinary love  
due to unrepented sins comes to the Lord's servant again to hear God's word,  
the servant should consistently deliver the message of repentance  
rather than saying something like,  
'God will rescue you from this suffering.'  
Additionally, when the brother asks for prayer,  
it is more important for the servant to first pray,  
'Forgive our sins,' before asking God to deliver him from his suffering.  
This is because repentance and forgiveness of sins  
must come first in order to be rescued from suffering  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 37:17).

## **As a servant of the Lord entrusted with the responsibility of proclaiming God's word ...**

As a servant of the Lord entrusted with the responsibility of proclaiming God's word,  
I want to be a pastor who delivers God's word in its entirety,  
rather than merely giving sermons that please people's ears  
(Ref.: 2 Timothy 4:3).

Even if the message exposes people's sins  
and includes words of rebuke calling for repentance,  
or warnings that if they do not repent,  
they will face all the disasters declared by God  
as a consequence of their sins,  
I wish to faithfully convey all of it  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 36:4).

## **For those who obey God's word ...**

For those who obey God's word,  
God will never fail to have descendants  
in their families who will serve God  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 35:19).

## **Just as our ancestors obeyed God's commands ...**

Just as our ancestors obeyed God's commands,  
we, our spouses, and our children also desire the grace  
to keep them all our lives without fail  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 35:8-10).

## **God's people have become like lost sheep.**

God's people have become like lost sheep.  
Their shepherds have led them astray,  
allowing them to wander in this sinful world,  
causing them to forget where to find rest.  
The forces of Satan that encounter them are devouring them  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 50:6-7).

## **Even if we have tasted God's faithfulness ...**

Even if we have tasted God's faithfulness  
after He has fulfilled His promises to us,  
if we still do not obey the Lord, do not follow His teachings,  
and fail to love our neighbors as ourselves as He commands,  
He will bring all these disasters upon us  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 32:23; Matthew 22:39).

## **God's grace and loving discipline?**

God's grace is that when the enemy, the devil, approaches us,  
God extends a helping hand to protect us and guides us with a gentle touch.  
The discipline of God's love is when He withdraws that helping hand  
(Ref.: Lamentations 2:3; Job 29:4; Isaiah 40:11).

## **Just as the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore cannot be counted ...**

Just as the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore cannot be counted,  
I pray that the Lord will make His Christ-centered servants so numerous  
that they cannot be counted (Ref.: Jeremiah 33:22).

## **Are the pastors and elders of the church ...**

Are the pastors and elders of the church not respected  
and the youth of the church having a hard time?  
(Ref.: Lamentations 5:12, 13)

## **Could it be that we are continually angering God ...?**

Could it be that we are continually angering God with our wicked deeds,  
as we have been committing evil from the beginning before God?  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 32:30)

## **Could it be ...?**

Could it be that while we are not paying attention to God's word,  
we are expecting God to listen to our prayers?  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 37:2-3)

## **The Lord who scattered the unrepentant church ...**

The Lord who scattered the unrepentant church will gather us again,  
and the Lord, who is the good shepherd, will keep us, His flock  
(Ref.: Jeremiah 31:10).