

Redemptive Administration of the Tent! (Ge 9:26-27)

Place of Worship! Giving and receiving love between the world we can see and the world we cannot! Calling on the name of the Lord, receiving the heart of the Lord, seeing God's world through the eyes of the Lord! This is the reality of spiritual worship. This kind of worship manifests in reality in the tent of Shem. Tent is the place of worship. This is the reality of the tent of Shem. It is because you meet God through worship that He is the God of Shem (Ge 9:26-27)!

If we look at Ge 9:26, we see that God is the God of Shem, and in Ge 9:27 it talks about the tent of Shem and this is teaching us of the blessing and power of Shem's worship. Using the facts that Noah and Abraham lived contemporaneously for 58 years, and that Abraham was born in 2166BC, and also that Noah lived for 350 more years after the flood, we can calculate and come to know that God was called the God of Shem in 2458 BC.

However, we can see that as 1,000 years passed by, and as Shem's descendants lived in Egypt for 430 years, they no longer knew who God was and become people who had forgotten God. And therefore, they even lost the tent. And just as they lost their tent, they also lost their land. Even more pitifully, Shem's descendants in fact lived on Ham's land, in Ham's tent, as Ham's slaves (Ps 105:23, Ps 78:51). But the Bible promises that when worship is restored, all things also become restored!

The Redemptive Administration of the Tent! The descendants of Shem must again find everything. They must find God again, as well as their tent and their land. That is why there is the Promised Land and that is why they must conquer it. And in order to do that, the tent must be restored. The tent symbolizes the tabernacle, the altar, and worship. The tent that appears in Ge 9:26 is oher, and the tent of meeting that appears in Ex 27:21 as well as the tabernacle in Ex 40:36 also use the same term, ohel.

The descendants of Shem have lost their devotion to God as well as their sincerity. Though on the outside they were Hebrews, on the inside they were Egyptians. However, in the midst of God's redemptive administration, we can learn through Jacob how to re-find the tent. Ge 25:27 says "Jacob was a quiet man, staying among the tents," and "quiet" in this verse is tam meaning perfect, godly.

While staying among the tents, Jacob learned what it was to give worship through Abraham and Isaac (Heb 11:9). Jacob was one who meditated on the word of God and held fast to prayer. Beloved brothers and sisters, the Bible says that we must seek first His kingdom and His righteousness. He is a God to those who seek Him! Pr 8:17 says that when we earnestly seek him, we find him (Korean Bible Translation includes "earnestly" seeking). The original word of earnestly is shachar which means dawn or when day breaks.

Must First Cross the Jabbok River! Before Jacob was made anew and before he wrestled with the angel, he needed to cross the Jabbok River. And Dt 3:16 teaches us that before the conquest of Canaan, the boundary of the Ammonites extended to the Jabbok River. So what do we care about whose boundary extended to where back 3,400 years ago? We can come to understand this significance through the edification of the profound meaning found in the etymology of the word "Ammon" and the meaning of "Jabbok".

"Ammon" comes from amam which means to dim, grow dark, while "Jabbok" means emptying. When your heart becomes cloudy and dark, have the courage to empty yourself! The means of settling chaos does not end with merely emptying yourself but also making yourself anew. For Jacob, the purpose for crossing the Jabbok River was to return home.

However, the spiritual meaning lies in having had to empty himself and make himself anew. That is how you return to your eternal home. Before you can make yourself anew, you must completely empty yourself. Just as the angel came upon Jacob challenging him to rid himself of all the darkness within him, at times, someone comes before us to "wrestle" with us to make us completely empty ourselves. When this happens, fight with yourself boldly and win!

Jacob Who Wrestles Until Daybreak! When we look at Ge 32:24 it says "...a man wrestled with him till daybreak," and "till daybreak" here uses the same term used for earnestly in Pr 8:17 which is shachar meaning dawn, from shachar meaning to seek early, look diligently. It is the faith of dawn, a diligent faith. To seek first, you must be diligent.

To find what it is that God wants, you must seek diligently. That is why you must fight with yourself. Jacob unquestionably fought with an angel. But Re 21:17 says that the human measurement is also the angel's measurement. What is measured by man is also what is measured by the angel. Though on the outside Jacob fought the angel, on the inside he fought with himself.

Hezekiah prayed when the Assyrians took their great army and forced their way into Judah. God heard Hezekiah's prayer and sent one angel. Is 37:36 says, "Then the angel of the Lord went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning—there were all the dead bodies", right? It wasn't many angels, but one single angel that was able to destroy such a great army, so why in the world then was there a need for this one angel to fight all night long with but one man, Jacob?

Until Jacob Overcomes Jacob! Jacob begot Joseph when he was 90 and worked for his uncle Laban another 6 years for his flock and then begins his return home in 20 years at the age of 96. It wasn't an angel that was fighting the elderly. His kingdom and His righteousness is not fulfilled through age. But it was until Jacob overcame Jacob, that this angel fought along with Jacob until daybreak. Until Jacob becomes Israel!

Jacob who could not see the angel's face. Jacob who was fighting all night with his own strength and his own skills. Jacob who did not know whom he was wrestling with because he was in darkness. Jacob who did not know how long he had to fight. The angel that does not explain why they are fighting. Jacob who does not even ask why he is being attacked. Isn't it such a strange and intriguing fight? Tumbling back and forth into the night and finally as the day was breaking, the time came for God's redemptive administration.

The angel's face which was not seen all night. But the moment the day began to break, Jacob saw the angel's face and becomes sure of who he is fighting with. And he also holds on to the very end. Weeping and begging for favor (Hos 12:4). "Wrestle" is abaq which means to wrestle, get dusty and comes from a

root meaning to pound, make small. And with this word that we receive, we must wrestle with ourselves and make ourselves humble.

Through Tears, Requesting Earnestly, and Thanksgiving! Worship is restored through tears and earnestly requesting. Have faith that if you do not lose your tears, your earnest requests, and your thanksgiving, that the God of Shem is our God today, and the tent of Shem is our tent today! Beloved brothers and sisters, there is a tree known as the night blooming jasmine that gives off its fragrance at night. The flowers of this tree have no splendor or beauty and moreover when the day is bright, shrivel up and give off no scent.

However, when it becomes night, these flowers that have closed open back up and release such a strong a beautiful fragrance. In the same way, become the saints who give the fragrance of Christ to the world that is trapped in darkness! Empty yourselves and share the Gospel of Christ earnestly and diligently. Beloved brothers and sisters, with the true essence of the word that fulfills the redemptive administration, tell the nations and the peoples so that they may understand and live (Rev 10:11)! After all it is a world that exists according to our faith and our actions!