

For Thine is The Kingdom 2

Christian Chen

Let us turn to Hebrews 2: 6 – 10.

But one has testified somewhere, saying, “What is man, that You remember him? Or the Son of Man, that You are concerned about him? “YOU HAVE MADE HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS; YOU HAVE CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR, AND HAVE APPOINTED HIM OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS; YOU HAVE PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET.” For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him. But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.

Let us have a word of prayer.

Dear Lord we thank You. The reason we can be seated here tonight is because Thine is the kingdom. We thank You because we can be seated here just like Mary at Your feet listening to Your words; those who speak and those who listen are all by Your power and Your grace. May You fill us with Your glory in this meeting tonight. Please fill us with Your glory so we can see that glory is indeed Yours. We thank You because Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory. We pray this in the victorious name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

God’s Work Demonstrates That The Kingdom is His

The verses in Hebrews that we just read in the scripture are very clearly words from Psalm 8. We have mentioned that in the Old Testament there was only one throne in God’s eyes and that was David’s throne. Solomon sat on David’s throne. Josiah sat on David’s throne. Solomon did not have his own throne. Josiah did not have his own throne either. When our Lord returns in the future, He is going to sit on David’s throne. So the throne of David can tell us what the kingdom is. When David said, Thine is the kingdom, there was no one who knew what the kingdom is better than David. Even though God at one point said to David you were not that person; you shed too much blood so you could not build the temple for me, yet David had a heart to build the temple for God. He had many sleepless nights because he wanted to build the temple for God. So that blow to David was a great hurt; that hurt came from his

deep love for the Lord. He was not doing it for himself; he was doing all for the Lord. He did not want to die until he saw that the temple was built. No wonder David was the man after God's own heart. His sufferings were for the sake of satisfying God's heart.

At that time our God should have accepted him; God should have accepted his offering without any hesitation. But God said to David you were not that person. Did David take a step back because of this? Did he fall into the enemy's trap because of this? Even though God chose someone else, David still gave his all. When the temple was built, it was not called David's temple. Sure, it was David's throne but the temple was Solomon's temple. It was as if God purposely gave the glory to someone else. If you truly want to serve God, and you feel that God surely will have to use you, and one day when God said I cannot use you, what would you do? We will just not serve God then. When we want to serve God we feel that God should use us because we are very important, and God should put us in a prominent position in His service. But thank the Lord; even though God said to David you were not that person yet at the end of his life, he gave all his savings before God's feet. When he put all before God's feet, all his people also offered their all at David's feet. David took his offerings and the offerings of the people and put it at God's feet. Then David had a prayer and that prayer was Thine is the kingdom.

How do you know Thine is the kingdom? Where are you? Are you at His feet even though God said you are not the one? God can use you or not use you. When God put you aside, can you still diligently give your all to Him? Of course when God use you, you give your all. But do not forget, the kingdom is His; He can use you and He can also not use you. He can use you or He can put you aside. At that time can you say, 'Lord I will lay down my all at Your feet?' When you serve the Lord, of course you give all to Him; you are useful in His hands. But can you see that because He is Lord, you will say, 'He uses me because He is lord'; and 'even if He does not use me, He is still Lord'. So thank the Lord, you see David learned a wonderful lesson. At the end, when he gave all to God, then God put all under his feet.

How do you describe this kingdom? No wonder the bible says this is David's throne. There was only this one throne, no second one because David not only knew the kingdom but because he could also pray Thine is the kingdom. And for this reason, God opened his eyes, and in Psalm 8 we see he indeed knew what the kingdom was. And chapter 1 and 2 of Genesis were completely opened to him. If you read Psalm 8, you will find that verse 1 of Psalm 8 is parallel to verse 1 of Genesis 1. The verses after verse 4 are comparable to those verses after verse 26 in Genesis. So how do you explain verses 2 – 25? Here we see why God created man. And when He created man, He created them a little lower than the angels. God Himself did not deal directly with the enemy, because He is the creator. It would be so easy if you use the power of the creator to deal with the created. If He were to do something like that, the enemy could have words to say, and even the two- third angels who had not fallen would have words to say.

Now God had to do one thing and not only will it overcome the enemy but will shut the mouth of the enemy. And for this reason, God had to create man a little lower than the angels.

Angels are created beings and after they rebelled, they became Satan and the devil. So how do you deal with these fallen angels? God then created man a little lower than the angels. And not only that, He put two trees in the Garden of Eden. He wanted man to choose the tree of life, because only this tree in the whole universe represents what life is. When man eats of the fruit of the tree of life, this person naturally will turn back into an infant state; that life becomes a life of dependence on God; that life is a life of obedience to God. The result is that he develops strength even though he does not previously have the strength. And that strength is so powerful that it can defeat the enemy; can deal with the enemy and can shut the mouth of the enemy.

The Way of The Tree of Life is the Right Path

So how is this to be done? How can man achieve this goal? On one hand, He used glory and majesty as our crown. When He created us, He created us according to His image; He then crowned us with glory and majesty. But at the same time God gave us a mission. This mission was for us to care for what God has created. We are to be the head of all the military. The bible says that all things will be in subjection under his feet because this life is a life of submission. So when man subjects himself under His feet, God then put all things under man's feet. And the human race naturally fills the earth and subdues the earth. How does he subdue the earth? The bible gives us a very clear principle. When all the earth is under the hands of the enemy; when the world falls in the hands of the evil one, how can we recover the lost territories from the enemy? It can happen only when this life fills the entire earth. That is why our Lord said be fruitful and multiply. This life, this dependent life; this life which is the tree of life not only needs to grow but has to be full; not just a little full but abundantly full. This life is so full that no matter where this life goes it fills the earth and then it naturally will subdue the earth. As a result, it will inherit the earth.

We know this is the will of God. And that was why God said be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue the earth. What does it mean to subdue the earth? It means that all things were to be in subjection under the feet of man. At that time, all the lost territories would be recovered. Because Adam was in subjection under God and when all things were in subjection under the feet of Adam, Adam being the head of the human race would bring in all things in subjection under the feet of God. All these things were previously in the hand of Satan. But now you can see, they would then be in subjection under God's feet. So this is the kingdom that God had originally prepared for man from the foundation of the earth. On the surface, it seemed as if it was Adam's kingdom, but in reality Thine is the kingdom. The kingdom was not Adam's. The authority was but a delegated authority to Adam. There is only one authority in

this universe and it is God's authority. Now man not only manifests His glory because man is like Him. Our service is an out flowing of life. However much Christ is in us that will be our out flowing of the service.

Today we do too many things. In Genesis we can clearly see that the extent of our service to God is according to the outflow of the life in us and how much we are like God. The content and the capacity of our service cannot be greater than how much we are like Him. Today our service is a service of failure; we do too much; we labor too much; we perform too much. Brother and sister, God's will is very clear; when the life comes into us, we can be more and more like Him and we can manifest Him more and more. When this life flows, it fills the earth and it will naturally subdue the earth. You will ask how I can have the power to recover the land from the hands of the enemy. Thine is the kingdom; Thine is the power. If you have any victory, the power is His; if you have any victory, the glory is His. Why? It is because we are only the created; we are created according to His image. But thank the Lord, because we have received Christ's life, when we prostrate before Him, He will put all things in subjection under our feet. To the parents, if you submit before God, He will naturally put the children under your feet. Our true self is revealed whenever our children rebelled against us. Those who are husband, if they are truly in subjection under Christ and let Christ be the head, brother and sister, very naturally the wife will see that the husband is head. All those who want people to submit to them will eventually have the people admire them. No one serves like a slave; that was the Roman Empire; that was the worldly kingdom. When we say the husband is to be the head, many times we follow the ways of the world as to how man is to be the head. It is very clear that God in the very beginning already explained how the kingdom is to man.

The Garden of Eden

Not only this. But in Genesis 2 we see how we can make all things to be in subjection under our feet and how this life can fill the entire earth. What did God do? Even though He has created Adam in a territory that has been taken captive, yet He put Adam in the garden of Eden. And what was the garden of Eden? The garden of Eden was a miniature of the city of Jerusalem. If you are to compare the garden of Eden with Jerusalem, you will see something very amazing. When you look at the garden of Eden, you see there was water flowing out; when you look at the new Jerusalem, you can see that there is water flowing out from the throne of God and flows to the entire earth. So all of the garden of Eden is irrigated and as long as you follow the flow of water, you will find gold. God represents God's nature. And you will find precious stones and precious stones represent the work of the Holy Spirit. Then you find pearls which represents life out of death. Do you see? Just follow the flow of the Holy Spirit.

Today, what is the meaning of Eden? If you are to go and fill the earth, you have to be at God's feet first. We need to be under the filling of heaven first. We need to be under the throne of heaven first. Then you follow the flow of the water, and you will find gold and precious stones and pearls.

We all know if Adam had not fallen, in the end, the garden of Eden would be the foundation. Now Eden was just a garden but the new Jerusalem is the garden city. So here we see clearly that all beginnings have to start from heaven. If we are truly before His throne; if we follow the showering of heaven, this life will grow up. Because this life grows up, this life also becomes broader. Because we grow upward vertically, naturally we will also grow broader and horizontally. This life slowly becomes fuller and fills the garden of Eden. Then it continues to become fuller and broader and in the end fills the entire world. Then it subdues this earth. All things are recovered and brought to God under His feet. Brother and sister, what is the secret? The secret is the garden of Eden. But sadly because man had fallen, we only can see the garden of Eden but we were not able to see the building up of Jerusalem.

Even though Abraham lived in tents yet he was waiting for a city that has roots. And God is the builder and the architect of this city. So we know, from eternity to eternity, God's purpose is to have a tabernacle among men. And this tabernacle is the new Jerusalem. If you compare Genesis and Revelation, very naturally you will know what is originally in God's heart and what kind of kingdom He wants to build.

The Fall of Man

But sadly this kingdom never materialized because Adam did not choose the tree of life. Adam chose the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Man fell and failed. Genesis 3 talks about the fall of man into sin. Genesis 6 talks about man's fall into their own lust. And in Genesis 10, man fell into the world. And what does that mean? There was a hero named Nimrod. What did Nimrod do? Nimrod conquered the entire world at that time. And he established the first Babylonian empire. Not only did he build the Babylonian empire but the Babylonian city; not only a city but the tower of Babel. They wanted to build the tower as tall as possible so it could reach to the heaven to propagate their name and to prevent them from being dispersed. Why? Satan, through Nimrod, wanted all things on earth to be in subjection under His feet. This is called the empire. The beginning of the very first empire in human history, in fact is taken from the thought of God. Do you see? God wanted man to be before His feet. Because Satan corrupted and fell, he wanted to do the same thing. That was the beginning of Babylon.

When you come to chapter 14, you see what God did was to have Jerusalem be the opposite of Babylon. So the garden of Eden was the tale of two trees and as you go on, it was the tale of two cities. We know of course Babylon represented the world. And the world is in the hand of the evil one. Then chapter 10 tells us there were seventy nations. Do you remember that Jesus sent out the seventy disciples? It was because there were seventy nations. But in Galilee, Jesus sent out twelve disciples because there were

twelve tribes. It is very clear what the makeup of the world is. Why do we say do not love the world; why is it that if we love the world, the love of the father is not in us? If we can see how Jerusalem is in opposition to Babylon, we will know. We can see clearly how deep in sin man had fallen and how man individually rebelled. When we come to chapter 10, it was a corporate rebellion. And that was the beginning of the kingdom of the world. So we need to remember where the phrase, 'the kingdom of this world becomes the kingdom of our Lord and Christ' comes from? How did this kingdom begin? After Adam ate of the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil, all that was of Adam fell under the feet of Satan. God first lost the territory but now all these territories included Adam's race too. So the first question of God to Adam was 'Adam, where are you'. So Adam not only fell into sin, not only fell into flesh, but fell into the world.

God Proclaimed The Seed of Woman is Going to Bruise the Head of Satan

And for this reason, God needed to prepare a salvation. He chose Abraham with the purpose that one day the seed of the woman would be born. Adam failed. The human race failed. But the seed of the woman was to gain the victory. Adam failed before the serpent. After man failed, what was God's first promise? Your seed and the seed of the woman would become enemies; the seed of the serpent and the seed of the woman were to be enemies. But do not forget, the seed of the woman should bruise its head. So do you see the first Adam completely failed? But now how was the seed of the woman to gain the victory? You see, the seed of the woman on the cross would bruise you on the head and you should wound Him in His heel. On one hand, on the cross, our Lord overcame the enemy, but on the other hand, He bled and was wounded, but it was only His heel. However to the enemy, the wound was a fatal wound. So brother and sister, let us remember even though it seemed that Adam was completely defeated, yet God said there would be a savior for the human race. His name is Jesus; He would save us; He would deliver His people out of sin. This we all know. But more importantly, this savior would be an over-comer. The first Adam failed; the second Adam became victorious. The first man failed, the second man gained the life. Why the second man? Did God give up His plan? Did God say since the first man failed, I would forget about it? Even though man failed and God had a setback, yet God still wanted to accomplish His will. So He promised us the seed of the woman.

The Savior of Mankind

Thank the Lord. Now we know one day the savior of the human race was going to appear. But if the savior was to be Jesus Christ Who is the son of God and if He is only the Son of God, though He has the qualifications to save us, yet God could not die. If He could not die, how could He die on the cross? In order to accomplish the salvation, the Word had to become flesh; God had to become man. So when

through Mary, He became flesh, He was the seed of the woman. We all are the seed of man, so we all are sinners. But God did one special thing. Do you see? When our Lord came to this earth, He was the seed of the woman. When He was on earth on one hand, He was God; on the other hand, He was man.

Inwardly He was God, outwardly He was man. When He fell asleep on the boat, He was man. But when He stood up to rebuke the wind, He was God.

When He was nailed to the cross, for the first three hours when He said, 'Father forgive them for they know not what they did' He was the son of God. He had intimate fellowship with the Father. But from noon to three, there was a voice saying 'my God, my God, why have Thou forsaken me?' Brothers and sister these were words that you should have said; these were words that Hitler should say. These were words that I should have said. All sinners should say these words – my God, my God, why have Thou forsaken me. So Jesus stood in the position of the Son of Man. For the first three hours, He truly was the son of God but the last three hours, He was the Son of Man indeed. So brother and sister why would He be the son of God and the Son of Man? Because this was the only way He could accomplish the salvation. And you see only in this situation could the seed of the woman come down to the earth. This is a mystery. For the young people, I want to say some more. On the subject of Jesus being our savior, He is indeed God and He is indeed man. He indeed is the son of God, and He had all the qualifications to save us. He has the power to save us. But as I have said before if He is only the son of God, He could not die on the cross. So He had to become the Son of Man. Thank the Lord when Jesus was nailed on the cross for six hours, on one hand, He was the Son of God and on the other hand, He was the Son of Man. Do you not think it is a mystery? How could this happen?

Jesus, a Little Lower Than the Angels

Let me tell you another story. The bible said God is light; God is like light. When you look at our light, indeed what is light? Someone will tell you that there was a man called Newton and He told us that light is like a bullet and this bullet goes at a very fast speed. And we call this bullet light. But not long afterwards, scientists did experiments and found that light is like waves. It will be like when you throw a pebble into the water, the waves formed and then slowly dispersed. Then at that time, there was another scientist called Maxwell. He was a Christian like Newton. He did experiments and found that there were four equations that could explain about the electricity and its phenomenon. But because He believed that God is the true God, he thought that four equations are too many and so He came up with just one equation. According to that equation, He found out that light was but a wave just like what the experiment showed him and that speed is like the speed of light. Both Newton and Maxwell were Christians. Newton told us that light is like a bullet moving forward; Maxwell and other scientists told us that light is like a wave. So what are we supposed to do?

So at one time in England, if you were to teach physics, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, you teach that light is like a bullet, because you need to please Newton. And then on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, you would teach that light is like waves. So everyone is happy. Until today, physicists still tell us if you really want to know what light is, on the one hand, it is like a bullet and on the other hand, it is like a wave. If you see only one side of it, you have not embraced the truth. Only when you embrace both sides, then you see the truth.

So remember, our Lord had to become the Son of Man. Only in this way could He save us. But thank the Lord. What does the 'Word became flesh' mean? It means one hundred percent God inside and one hundred percent man outward. So to use the ancient English, it is very God and very man. Only then you will know whom you believe. So thank the Lord, man failed and needed a savior. But the problem was that the kingdom is no longer His. So why would everyone ended up before the feet of Nimrod and Satan? If the Lord promised us a savior, He would do a work mightier than this.

So brother and sister, we need to turn back to the verse we just read and that is Hebrews chapter 2.

When we read Psalm 8 which said 'You have made Him a little lower than the angels', we thank the Lord because verse 9 in Hebrews chapter 2 has a very clear explanation of this verse. Verse 9 says, 'But we do not see Him Who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely Jesus'. As to Jesus being the Son of God, He is greater than the angels. But because He became the Son of Man, so for a little while, He was a little lower than the angels. Do you understand brother and sister? God has to deal with the enemy; He did not deal with them as a creator. Then Jesus became man and He was the Son of Man, on the one hand He could be hang on the cross for us, but on the other hand, our Lord Jesus now stands in the position of the second man. When the first man failed, did God's plan get overturned? No. Our Lord Jesus stood in the position of the Son of Man. Brother and sister, now we know that His life became a life of dependence and His life was then a life of submission. He did not consider equality of God to be grasped, but He emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond servant obedient to the point of death, even death on the cross. Brother and sister, so God exalted Him. Do you see? This life was a life of submission; this life was a life that willingly died on the cross. Not only was He only a little lower than the angels, but in the very end, He was in the lowest part of this earth for three days and three nights. Therefore God exalted Him from the very depth to the highest point. Now we understand. Today if our Lord was to be victorious, if He was to overcome the enemy, it was because He was a little lower than the angels. Thank the Lord. When He gained the victory this way, God made all things to be in subjection under His feet.

So brother and sister, we can clearly see this when we read Philippians chapter 2. Let us read that verse again. Philippians chapter 2: 6 – 8 'who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made

in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God highly exalted Him. When He was on the cross, He not only was a little lower than the angels, but He humbled Himself to a point as if He was among the criminals. Brother and sister, the bible tells us that on the cross, He bruised Satan's head. And after three days, He resurrected; God raised Him from the death.

The Surpassing Greatness of His Power

Very quickly we come to Ephesians 1. Our brother this afternoon has already mentioned about Ephesians 1:19 'and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward we who believe.' The power of God's creation is manifested in the nuclear power. That power is like the nuclear power. All creations speak of His glory. But do not forget, today we are saved by grace. The power of salvation on the one hand is the power of resurrection; on the other hand is the power of ascension. The earth is like the bottom of the casket and the heaven is like the top of the casket. For many years no one can break through the casket. Death never dies before. But when our Lord rose on the third day, death died.

We remember a true story. At one time Wellington fought with Napoleon. Everyone was waiting for the news of the war. When they saw the words in the sky with the result of the battle, 'Wellington defeated', everyone in Britain was depressed and went to the chapel to pray. However, when they came back out of the churches and the sun came out, they saw that actually there was a word after the words saying 'Wellington defeated'; there was also the word Napoleon. So it should read 'Wellington defeated Napoleon'. Brother and sister, when the Lord was crucified on the cross, it was as if our Lord had failed; but when He resurrected from death, do you see that He overwhelmingly conquered and He was the victorious one?

We saw that God raised Him up from death. But if it was just resurrection, you would still be living on this earth. You still suffered from the force of gravity and you would still be bound by this earth. But do not forget, here is a power, that allows us to break from earth to heaven and that is the power of ascension. So remember, now there are two powers – the power of creation that you can see in the nuclear power and the power of resurrection which manifested itself in the resurrection and ascension. Some people experience only the power of resurrection and they are still bound on earth and they are so depressed. They need prescribed medication and all kinds of things. But what they really need is the power of ascension. Thank the Lord. Now we can see where the two powers led our Lord to. Of course the power of resurrection allowed Him to be raised from the dead but the power of ascension led Him into heaven and to sit at His own right hand.

Not only that. What does it mean to sit at His own right hand? It means surpassing all things. When He ascended into heaven, He had to pass through where the enemy has dominion because Satan is the prince

of the air. This power of ascension made all of the enemies to be under His feet, not only in this life but of the age to come. When He was raised to the heaven, what did God say? He said He makes all things to be in subjection under His feet. Brother and sister, now do you understand? Because when our Lord was on the cross, He subjected under the Father's feet, so God resurrected Him from the dead. When He ascended to the heavenlies, then all things were made in subjection under His feet. How do you explain 'all things were made in subjection under His feet?' It means that God made Him the head of all things. Do you see? He is the head of all things. All things are under His feet. What is between the head and the feet? It is the body of Christ. Do not forget that the church is the body of Christ. So today, you see there is a kingdom. How do you know that is the kingdom? It is because all things were in subjection under His feet. How do you know that it is called the kingdom? It is because He is the head of all things. Brother and sister, to Adam it was all things on earth which were in subjection under His feet. But because our Lord ascended into heaven, all things in the universe were in subjection under His feet. And He is made the head of all things even the church. Brother and sister, how do you describe this kingdom? This kingdom is of course the kingdom of the Son of Man. How do you describe this kingdom? This kingdom is of course the kingdom of heaven. Do you understand now? It is very clear.

God Made Him Lord and Christ

Not only this, but is this the only place in the bible that says all things were put in subjection under His feet? Of course when our Lord came the first time He became flesh; He died and rose again; He ascended into heaven and all things were put in subjection under His feet. So we know on the day of Pentecost, God had already made Him Lord and Christ. Do not forget. The word 'lord' at the time of Paul was usually used on the emperor. You say Lord Augustus because Augustus was the emperor of Roman Empire. That was why when Paul preached to the Philippians jailers He said, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus'. Even though he was a Roman citizen, it was no longer Lord Caesar. So brother and sister, if God made Him to be Lord and Christ, it is very clear that there was already a kingdom on earth. What Adam failed to accomplish was being accomplished by Christ our Lord. So when did the kingdom of heaven begin? It was when our Lord ascended into heaven and God made Him Lord and Christ. On the day of Pentecost God opened the gates of the kingdom of heaven through Peter's keys. Thus when our Lord said 'the kingdom of heaven was at hand, you need to repent', He was preparing the people for the kingdom of heaven and many followed Him.

When He resurrected, He appeared to five hundred disciples. But most left and there were only one hundred and twenty who remained and gathered in Jerusalem. Thank the Lord, we know on the day of Pentecost these one hundred and twenty people were baptized into one body. That day was the birth of the church and the inauguration of the kingdom. So let us remember, when the bible speaks of the

kingdom of heaven, the kingdom of God is from eternity to eternity. When you read the bible, you can clearly see that the kingdom of heaven was from the time when our Lord first came down to earth; it was first manifested with His birth in Bethlehem. But the inauguration of the kingdom was when Jesus ascended into heaven.

The Second Coming of the Lord

There is another passage in the bible and that is I Corinthians 15: 24 'then comes the end' which refers to the time the Lord comes again. That is the second coming of Christ, in which the bible says 'when He shall deliver up the kingdom to God, even the Father, when He shall have abolished all rules and all authorities and power.' To say it in our words it means that Christ has already squished Satan. It was not that He does not want Him to die. But it was at that time He squished Him to death. What did the bible say? He then delivered the kingdom up to God. Do you understand? Very clearly His kingdom is when He first came until the end of the millennium. That is called the kingdom of heaven. Now He gives the kingdom of heaven to His father. And now let us return to the kingdom of God. It goes from kingdom of heaven to kingdom of God. The kingdom of heaven started from when He first came to the earth till He comes back again.

Then verse 25 says, 'For He must reign, till He has put all enemies under His feet.' Do you understand? The kingdom of heaven began 2000 years ago. But the kingdom of heaven is also in the future. On one hand the kingdom of heaven is today. On the other hand, the kingdom of heaven is also of the future because the kingdom of heaven started when He first came and lasts until His return. And at the end, He delivers up the kingdom to God. Now we are very clear, God puts all things in subjection under His feet. Clearly we see that is the kingdom to come that was prophesied in the Old Testament. You see our Lord is to sit on David's throne.

We continue with verse 28 which says, 'And when all things have been subjected unto Him, then shall the Son also Himself to be subjected to Him that did subject all the things unto Him, that God may be all in all.' Now do you understand what the kingdom is? Even our Lord, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, He is to be subjected to the One Who made all things to subject to Him. Then what did it say? It says that God may be all in all. What does it mean? It is Thine is the kingdom. Brother and sister, now you see, through our Lord, victory is gained over the enemy and the enemy is dealt with; the enemy is now put to shame. Now it is very clear, this is what the bible in the New Testament call the kingdom of God or the kingdom of heaven. They overlap as well as not overlap. When you come to Portland, you are in the United States. When you come to the United States, you not necessarily come to Portland. We are clear that the bible talks about the kingdom of God on one hand and also talks about the

kingdom of heaven on the other hand. We know this kingdom is from when our Lord first came until He returns. God's words are very clear on this.

Seeing the Kingdom from Prophecies

So lastly, let us look at this from prophecies. We will look at the book of Daniel. When the Lord Jesus and John the Baptist spoke of the kingdom of heaven, John did not explain to the multitude what the kingdom of heaven was; but the multitude understood. Our Lord Jesus did not explain it either. So the words 'kingdom of heaven' must have come from the Old Testament. Where did they come from? It is very clear if you read Daniel 2. Do you remember in the Book of Daniel that King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream? And in this dream he saw a big statue. The head was of gold, chest of silver, belly of brass and legs of iron. We know that time was slowly flowing from the head to the chest. Towards the end of time, naturally time flowed to the legs. The bible tells us a great boulder fell on the feet and crushed the feet. Brother and sister, what does this speak of? The Jews are very clear on this; since it was the feet so it had to be towards the end of times. They knew it has to be the messianic kingdom; the messiah will arrive. But we need to prove who the messiah was in the New Testament. Do you remember in Matthew 21, the Lord said the stone that had been rejected by the builder has now become the chief cornerstone? He said one thing, whoever this stone fell on, that person would be crushed. Do not forget this was that stone. So one day all things are to be in subjection under His feet. At that time, that stone will become a huge mountain and fill the earth. So here it is very clear. The kingdom of heaven is in the future. But do not forget, after fifty years, Daniel was no longer seventeen years old. He had to be around sixty-seven at that time and He saw the vision in Book of Daniel chapter 7. This time he did not see gold, silver, brass and iron. He saw four beasts. The first beast came out of the Mediterranean sea. So one was Babylon; one was a lion, then a bear and a leopard. And the last one is the unknown beast. We know even though fifty years have passed, God's prophesy has not changed. It was still the four great empires. Only one was a dream of a king, and the other one was a dream of a captive. When the king dreamed, He saw the world as gold, silver, brass and iron. He only saw the outward part of the world but not the inward part. If you see the inward part as seen by Daniel, there would be the lion and the people of Israel were like sheep in the mouth of the lion. When after Babylon was destroyed in history, did the Israelites give a sigh of relief? No, because then they ended up in the mouth of the bear, and then the mouth of the leopard. Brother and sister, to Daniel there were blood and tears in the history of Israel. In chapter 2, there were four empires, and the empires were symbolized by the stone, gold, silver, brass and iron. In chapter 7, Daniel saw the vision again. How do you describe this nation? Because man has fallen; because Satan

wants all to be put in subjection under his feet, so the most horrible appearances of all kinds of sins were represented in this nation by the four beasts.

But thank the Lord, you see here there is the fifth kingdom and this kingdom is called the kingdom of the Son of Man. In the first vision, the comparison between the stone and the gold, silver, brass and iron was used. But now it was the kingdom of the Son of Man compared to the kingdom of the beast. You know in the language of Hebrew, because there is lack of adjectives, many times two words were used together to describe a thing. For example, for the man of sorrow does not mean that it is sorrow giving birth to the son. It means that this man is a sorrowful one. Barnabas is the son of comfort. It does not mean comfort gives birth to this son. It means this person is one who comforts other people. What is Son of Man? What does it mean? It means Man of man. And this is different from the translation in Chinese. This is a man indeed, a very man. Adam failed and now we see here there was a Son of Man; He came to this earth; eighty times He called himself the Son of Man.

Brother and sister, now there is a kingdom which is called the kingdom of the Son of Man. Do not forget, there was a kingdom prepared for man before the foundation of the world. Was it not the kingdom of man? Was not Adam's kingdom the kingdom of man? But man fell so what could be done? The second man overcame. So this kingdom is the kingdom of the Son of Man. Now we need to ask when this Son of Man would appear. Here it tells us that these four beasts were four kings. And all these four kings would rise in this earth. All these four kings were named in the bible. Who represented the kingdom of Babylon? It was Nebuchadnezzar according to the bible. Who represented the kingdom of Persia? It was Cyrus. Why was it so? It was because in 800 B.C. before Cyrus was born, God already called him. So brother and sister, do you see? He was the second beast. The third one is Alexander the Great and the fourth kingdom had to show up in the bible. Once it showed up, the Son of Man would come. So let us read some bible verses. Luke chapter 2 , 'Now it came to pass in those days, there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world shall be enrolled.' Everyone knows that Caesar Augustus represented the Roman Empire because he brought peace to the Roman Empire for 200 years. When Augustus first got to the throne, Rome was a city of bricks. When he left the throne, the city of Rome was a city of marbles. This let us see that today in the hands of Augustus, all roads led to Rome, from one place to another. Was not that amazing? The Lord Jesus not only was born under the Roman Empire but also under the fourth beast. What was the name of the fourth beast? It was Caesar Augustus.

And then you have the story of Bethlehem and after that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. We see how the virgin Mary gave birth and finally the Lord Jesus was born in the manger. And how did the angels explain it? There were shepherds in Bethlehem attending the flocks. The angel of God suddenly stood before them and the glory of the Lord surrounded them. And the angels said to them 'do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy. Which shall be for all people, for today in the city of David was born

for you a savior. The Lord Jesus was the seed of the woman; He would be our savior. And not only this but also He would be 'Christ the Lord'. Before it was Lord Augustus, now it was Lord, the Christ. So the kingdom of the Son of Man was established in the enemy's territory. But how do you know that He was the Lord Christ? What was the sign? How do you know it was Lord Caesar? Because Lord Caesar sat on a throne and he had a crown. He had a scepter in his hand. There could be no mistake. That was the kingdom of the earth. But if you are to find Jesus, where can you find Him? There was a sign and if you see that sign, you know that was the Lord Christ and it could not be wrong. So what did they see? An infant wrapped in cloth in a manger. That was Christ the Lord. The kingdom of the heaven began in the manger. Brother and sister, this was His sign. The sign of the kingdom of the world was the glory of the throne. The kingdom of the Son of Man; the kingdom of heaven began in the manger. You saw an infant. We can see in psalm 8, 'out of the mouth of babes and sucklings, you have established strength'; from this we see that this life was the life of the tree of life. You see when Jesus was in Bethlehem He did not even have a room. He humbled himself to the point that He was born in the manger and the manger was His cradle. But do not forget, when you see the infant in the manger, you see that His life was a life of dependence. Do not forget, He is Lord, He is Christ.

The Kingdom of the Son of Man Began on Earth

So brother and sister, do you understand? Because of this, it is very clear that we see the kingdom of heaven in Daniel 7 began when the Word became flesh. Not only this, when did the Son of Man gain the kingdom? We see a picture there and what was this picture? We see the picture of the Son of Man ascended into heaven, and then He came on the cloud. That showed He just ascended into heaven. He was the Son of Man and the Son of Man should be among men. Now if He went to the throne, was it not ascension? What did He do after the ascension? God made Him Lord and Christ. On one hand, He received the Holy Spirit from the Father and He poured the Holy Spirit down. That was the story of Pentecost. But on the other hand, He opened the seals; the first seal, the second seal because God made Him Lord and Christ. So we need to ask when the inauguration of the kingdom of heaven was. You need to ask when He became Christ. It does not need to wait till the Lord returns in the future. You see that when He ascended into heaven, He already gained the glory.

I ask brother and sister. When the disciples saw Jesus ascended into heaven, they saw with their own eyes that He went from Mount Olives onto the clouds. They saw Him. But they could not see Him after the clouds. So to John it was always a mystery until he wrote the Book of Revelation. In Revelation chapter 1, verse 1 he wrote, 'the revelation of Jesus Christ'. From the earth to the clouds, the revelation was already given to us through John in the Gospel According to John. But what happened from the clouds to the throne. Thank the Lord, God finally revealed that mystery and gave us the Book of

Revelation. But here is the problem. If John could not see, Peter could not see. Then what was the basis that Peter said God already crowned Him Lord and Christ on the day of Pentecost? Of course the Holy Spirit revealed that to him. But the Holy Spirit uses what God has spoken to speak to the people again. So very clear, brother and sister, when you read Daniel 7, after fifty years of course Daniel has improved; his life has grown. Before when he was young he might have seen just the outward but now he could see the inward. Before he could only see that their nation was lost and that they needed a messiah to restore their nation. But now he saw those who were oppressed needed to be saved. And how the oppressed needed the salvation! Do you think the Romans who oppressed the people of Israel would not need to be saved? Both the oppressors and those oppressed are all sinners. Therefore His name is Jesus. Was He to save the people of Israel out of the rule of the Roman Empire? No. He is to save them out of sin. Brother and sister, now he saw that here was the kingdom of the Son of Man, after these four kings, and when He ascended into heaven, He gained the kingdom. There is no question that it is the kingdom of heaven. Why? It was because the kingdom was gained in heaven.

The kingdom of Adam was on earth. He was the king of all the earth. But the kingdom of heaven tells us He is the King of the universe because God made all things in subjection under His feet. But thank the Lord; Daniel used the telescope of time and saw someone went from the cloud to the throne. It was as if he was using a video camera to view it. Brother and sister, what Daniel saw, was what John and Peter could not see on the Mount of Olives. Thank the Lord. Based on this revelation, John let us see the Lord is above all when He ascended into heaven. Not only that, but God put in subjection all things under His feet. God gave Him a name above all names, all tongues shall call Him Lord and all knees shall bow before Him. What does that mean? It is Thine is the kingdom.

Thank the Lord. So at the inauguration of the kingdom of heaven on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit poured down and the one hundred and twenty were born of the Spirit and born from above. They were like paratroopers; one hundred and twenty of them descended into the enemy territory; then it was three thousand and one hundred and twenty and then eight thousand and one hundred and twenty. Those three thousands were those who had said 'crucify him, crucify him'. They were speaking for Satan because they were under the feet of Satan. But now do you see? Because these one hundred and twenty subjected to God under His feet, they had the food from heaven; they had provisions from heaven; they kept the laws from heaven, they were willing to turn their cheeks and walk the second mile. Brother and sister, What do you call that? It was the manifestation of the kingdom of heaven in Jerusalem. It was manifested not only in Jerusalem but also in Antioch; then in Colossae. Today it is manifested in Beijing, Taipei and Portland.

The Church Will Make the Kingdom of Earth Become the Kingdom of Heaven

Brother and sister, do you see? What did our Lord said will happen before His return? The gospel of the kingdom of heaven will be preached throughout the earth before His return. So this is the responsibility of the church. Brother and sister, today you see that no matter where the church is, the reality of the church is there. When you preach the gospel, not only a few got saved. The saved were moved from darkness into light; from idols to the true God. Brother and sister, do you see that because of the church, this kingdom slowly recovers the lost territory one by one. It was like in World War II. Do you remember that the entire France was taken captive by Germany? Do you remember the invasion of Normandy in 1944, June 6, 6:30 in the morning? That was something that had never happened in history. But do not forget that the night before midnight, the British and the American air force had already sent the paratroopers to the enemy line, and they have taken many, many beaches and so when the invasion of Normandy took place the following morning, the entire France was recovered. So brother and sister, one day, the feet of our Lord will touch the Mount of Olives and when He sets foot on the Mount of Olives, it will be just like the landing of the troops in Normandy, and then the church will be ready. Do you understand? The church will be ready and will reign with Christ. And you will see by the prayers of the church, what has been bound in heaven is bound on earth; what has been loosed in heaven is loosed on earth.

Thank the Lord, when the Lord returns, the bible said, the kingdom of this world will become the kingdom of our Lord and Christ the Lord. What does that mean? It means now God made all things in subjection under the feet of our Lord. And at the end, you see our God defeats all the enemies. And then He will deliver the kingdom to God. That will be at the end of the millennium and then brother and sister; we will reign with Christ for eternity. Brother and sister, the kingdom of God is for eternity. When Satan stood up and challenged the kingdom of God; when there are voices on earth that say the kingdom is not all thine; thank the Lord, from eternity to eternity, our Lord accomplished. When our Lord delivers the kingdom to God the Father, what does the bible say? It clearly says that God is above all and in all and He is the Lord of all things. Do not forget what that means? It means Thine is the kingdom. May the Lord open our eyes and we see that the kingdom is all His. He gains from the second man that which He could not gain from the first man. So do you see? The Son of Man is not only our savior, but He can build the kingdom, so that the enemy will be shamed and His children will be blessed. And then Thine is the power and Thine is the glory.

Let us pray.

Our Lord, we continue to commit these words into Thy hands. We want to commit especially those who are here for the first time. We pray for the young people and we pray that the Holy Spirit will do the

translation. Speak to the point that they can understand. From today onward, let them see Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory. We do prostrate before you. Thank you for giving us such a meeting and such a message, because Thine is the kingdom, Thine is the power and Thine is the glory. In Jesus' glorious name. Amen