

2017 WCCC

## The Eternal Lamb of God (2)

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I believe brothers and sisters are very clear that the theme of this conference is “Wherever the Lamb goes, they will follow.” My burden is to share on the Eternal Lamb. In the last session, we mentioned that our Lord is the Lamb of God and the Lamb is the important image of our Lord Jesus Christ. Tonight, I would like to fellowship on the two likenesses of the Lamb who has been slain.

Please read some of the Lord’s words with me.

*Genesis 1:26-27 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

*Exodus 29:38-39 “Now this is what you should offer on the altar: two one year old lambs each day, continuously. The one lamb you shall offer in the morning, and the other lamb you shall offer at twilight.”*

*Exodus 29:42 “It shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the doorway of the tent of meeting before the Lord, where I will meet with you, to speak to you there.”*

*Revelation 5:6 And I saw between the throne with the four living creatures and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth.*

*Revelation 22:3-5 And there shall no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His bond-servants shall serve Him; and they shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. And there shall no*

*longer be any night; and they shall not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God shall illumine them; and they shall reign forever and ever.*

*Romans 6:5 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection.*

We mentioned the Lamb of God is a divine and eternal thought in God's purpose. This is a very important thought and it is a central theme in God's will. We thank our Lord Jesus for His obedience to the will of God. He came to this earth to become the Lamb of God. Therefore, the Lamb is the important image of our Lord Jesus Christ. We mentioned that our Lord is so great; heaven and earth cannot contain Him. Yet He was willing to humble Himself and became meek, taking on a little lamb as His image. This is a great revelation in terms of spiritual experience. We desire for the Holy Spirit to clearly depict this image in our hearts so we can see the great Lord, willing to take on an insignificant image. For us to follow the Lamb today, we must first have this insight. This is an important first step in our experience of following the Lord.

This morning, our elderly brother mentioned the family of Hudson Taylor. These few days, I also thought about the story of Hudson Taylor. We know Brother Hudson Taylor started the China Inland Mission. He brought the gospel of the Lord to many places in China and the ministry was considered very successful. As a result, he became a world-renowned preacher. One time, he was invited to speak in a certain assembly. The brothers and sisters there were very excited because in their minds he was a great servant of God. They were thrilled to have him come and preach, especially the elder who led the assembly. This elder couldn't sleep for days. He was considering how he should introduce this servant of God. When time came for the meeting to start, the elder came to the podium to make an introduction. He was very excited and said, "A great servant of God is in our midst today." Later on, Brother Hudson Taylor came to the podium and said to the brothers and sisters, "I'm sorry; I have to make a correction to our brother's introduction. I am not a great servant of God. I am a lowly servant of the great Lord." All those who follow the Lamb must make themselves small. No matter how many gifts the Lord has given to us and no matter how great a work the Lord has entrusted to us, we

must be humble and have the image of the Lamb. This should be the first step in our experience as we follow the Lamb.

Our Lord is the Most High and He was willing to humble Himself. Who are we? If we are arrogant, then we are not worthy to follow the Lamb. One who thinks highly of himself cannot be a companion of the Lamb. We know in today's church service, especially in Christianity, everyone wants to be a lead and no one wants to be insignificant. If we truly want to follow the Lamb, we must first have this picture in us and humble ourselves. Only in this fashion, can we become true followers of the Lamb. This is an important experience. I recall when I was young, a brother shared on the meaning of a "Christian." He used the English word to explain the meaning and it left a deep impression upon me. He said, "What is a Christian? Because the first part is 'Christ,' followed by 'ian,' it should be defined as Christ only and I am nothing, or Christ only and I am nobody." I feel his explanation is very meaningful. It seems like a word game, but that is exactly what it means. It's very easy for us to understand the word but it is so difficult to carry out. If the Lord gave us some gifts and the work bore some fruits, we would quickly forget this. We truly need the Lord's mercy. Throughout generations, all those who truly follow the Lord know how to humble themselves. These are the ones who can become true followers of the Lamb and stand on Mount Zion with the Lord. Through the Holy Spirit, may the Lord first place this simple picture in us. No matter when, no matter where, let us always see the little Lamb, the image of our Lord.

Today, God is to work this image in us. So we ask the Lord to have mercy on us, especially in these last days as the Lord's return draws near. We only have a small window of opportunity to follow the Lord. May this image impact our life and our service, so every brother and sister could be like this little Lamb. There are so many difficulties today in the church life and family life because we are puffed-up. If we are modest, then there would be no issues. If we are humble, then there would be harmony in the family and in the church. May the Lord be able to see His own image in the church. We ask the Lord to show us that this is not just doctrine. May we practically follow Him in our daily life.

The Lord Jesus Christ not only became the Lamb of God, He is also called the Lamb who has been slain. As the Lamb of God, our Lord knew He had to come to the earth to be slain. The Apostle Peter told us in Acts that our Lord was delivered to men according to the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God and He was killed in the hands of men. Therefore, He is the Lamb who was slain. Today as God's lambs, we need to understand the meaning of the term "being slain," because this is a very important matter in God's heart. In addition to our Lord showing us His image is a Lamb, the Bible also shows us that in this one image, the Lamb who has been slain has two different likenesses. We can say these likenesses are two simple pictures. In Genesis chapter 1, when God created man, there was an image and a likeness. God not only gave us an image, but also a likeness. Therefore, the Lamb is the image of the Lord but the Lamb who has been slain has two likenesses, two very simple pictures. From the Bible, we see the first likeness is the Lamb who has been slain, on the altar. The second likeness is the Lamb who has been slain, on the throne. We can say these two likenesses encompass the entire Bible. The Lamb who has been slain, on the altar, is the likeness of the death of Christ, as spoken by Paul. The Lamb who has been slain, on the throne, is the likeness of the resurrection of Christ. These two likenesses are very important and they are overall principles for all of our Christian experiences. We can understand it in this way. The Lamb who has been slain, on the altar, is God's way, known today as the way of the cross and the Lamb who has been slain, on the throne, is the purpose of God. Again, these two likenesses cover all of our Christian spiritual experiences.

The Lord not only took our place but He also represented us. He has accomplished all and also became our model. Today, God is leading us into the same condition. The Bible repeatedly states that we are being transformed into His image. God's thought is that, as His Son is, so also are His many sons. We must understand all that He has attained will be completed in us. When we read these principles, we cannot just treat them as objective truths because all that the Lord has done will one day be accomplished in us. In Romans chapter 6, Paul said, *"If we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection."* In Greek, the word "unite" is very meaningful. On one hand, it means we identify ourselves with Him. On the other hand, it also means we are planted together with Him. I feel this is more meaningful because

like a seed, He is planted in us. So from the moment we are baptized, this seed is planted in us and it will grow. This image is planted in us and as we progress our days in grace, He will continue to grow in us. Until one day, “*as He is, so also are we,*” then the purpose of God is fulfilled. So these two likenesses are very important.

The Lord knows we cannot remember doctrine. We are actually just like ignorant children when it comes to spiritual matters. When we teach young children, the best method is to use pictures. In order to teach a child the word “cow,” it’s best to draw a picture of a cow. So oftentimes, God uses pictures to teach us because once we see a picture we would have an easier time remembering. We thank the Lord for placing these two simple pictures before us to make it clear. The Lamb is the image of the Lord and the Lamb who has been slain has two likenesses. One is on the altar and the other is on the throne. Isn’t that easy to remember? Even though these are two simple pictures, we need the Holy Spirit to deeply imprint these two images onto our hearts because we must follow it and pursue it. In order to reach God’s purpose, we only need to follow these two likenesses in our life and our service.

I would like to simply explain the meaning of the Lamb who has been slain, on the altar. Actually, the Lamb on the altar covers many truths in the Bible, as it is an all-inclusive picture. Simply put, the first thing we see is the Lamb’s life of consecration. We know consecration is crucial for Christian living. As soon as a Christian is saved, he should consecrate himself. Through thousands of years of history in the Old Testament, the Israelites offered sacrifices daily in their lives. God said to Moses, “*You shall prepare two lambs. One for the morning and the other for twilight. Continuously slaughter the lambs and offer sacrifices, day and night.*” That clearly speaks of the essence of consecration. Our consecration is not just merely in the morning and then we forego it in the evening. We must consecrate in the morning and also in the evening. That means our entire being is for the Lord. Among the sheep of the people of Israel, when one is selected to be a sacrifice, its fate is determined and it will be slaughtered. Today, God has chosen us from among many people and desires for every brother and sister to become a lamb that is offered. Therefore, we need to have this mindset that our rebirth, our life, and our death are for God. We see the Lamb who is on the altar speaks of a

consecrated life. Also this Lamb who can be placed on the altar speaks of a holy life, as He is pure and very simple. Today, pursuing holiness and simplicity are very important in our spiritual walk. So the Lord places this simple picture before us; the Lamb who has been slain is on the altar, telling us we must be holy and simple.

Of course, the Lamb who has been slain and placed on the altar also speaks of an obedient life, to the point of death. That was our Lord exactly, when He came to earth. Philippians chapter 2 speaks of *His obedience to the point of death, even death on a cross*. What is obedience? It is the Lamb who has been slain, on the altar. This is a life of meekness. The Lamb represents a submissive life. A callous life cannot be obedient. Isaiah 53 describes Him, like a sheep that is silent before its shearers and is led to slaughter, speaking of our Lord's absolute obedience. The Lord places this likeness before us, encouraging us to learn to be obedient to our God. There is a phrase from a hymn - "Now we are on the altar, we dare not move." A lamb that is on the altar should be dead. The hymn writer spoke from experience, seeing many brothers and sisters moving around on the altar. Obedience is very difficult because Satan has put a rebellious life in us. Therefore, we are born rebellious and obedience to God is very difficult. Brother Andrew Murray once said, "Obedience brings most glory to God." The Lamb who has been slain and placed on the altar tells us that those who follow the Lamb must learn such obedience.

The Lamb who has been slain, on the altar, also represents a life of afflictions. Indeed, our Lord came to this earth to suffer for us. We see His kindness and His faithfulness. In the New Testament, the phrase "Christ's afflictions" has become well known. We know no one could take part in the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus but we could have a portion in the afflictions of Christ. In the Book of Colossians, Paul said, "*In my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body in filling up that which is lacking in Christ's afflictions.*" Our Lord suffered and died in order to gain the church, to build up the body of Christ, so we could have a share in these afflictions today. That's why there is meaning to our sufferings. This Lamb who has been slain and placed on the altar covers many truths in the New Testament. Thank God for placing this simple picture in us, such a precious reminder. So in our experiences today, it is critical that we unite with

Him in the likeness of His death. That is the picture of the Lamb who has been slain, on the altar.

God not only shows us this one likeness but He also lets us see the Lamb who has been slain is on the throne. This is God's purpose because the throne is where God reigns, representing His authority. When God created man in Genesis chapter 1, He not only wanted us to have His image and likeness, He also intended for us to rule for Him. This is the heart of God. Not only that, in eternity we will reign with Christ forever. Our Lord will not reign as King alone; He also desires all those who are saved to reign with Him. Do we know that we will reign with Him in the future? This is such a glorious thought in God's heart. He wants us to carry out His authority. But what sort of people is worthy to execute God's authority? God places this picture of the Lamb on the throne in us. In Revelation chapter 5, the Apostle John saw the Lamb who has been slain standing in the midst of the throne. This is another simple and clear picture, telling us what sort of people and what kind of life can carry out God's authority. We mentioned the Lamb is not only the image of the Lord, it is also a sign of spiritual life. From this picture, we can now understand only spiritual life can administer spiritual authority.

Today, God is to delegate His authority to man because this is so important. But what sort of people can rule for God? In the church, God wants authority and He is to entrust His authority to man. But please remember, the Lamb on the throne speaks of the fact that spiritual authority is not a title nor a position. It is life, spiritual life governing spiritual authority. Nowadays, our condition on earth clearly shows that we are making a serious error. We think since we have the title, we can just sit in that position and exercise authority. It's no wonder why many of God's children suffer. Yes, God is to delegate authority to man, but if we don't have the image of the Lamb nor walk according to the principle of the Lamb who has been slain, on the throne, we cannot rule for God. Revelation chapter 5 tells us the Lamb is on the throne and is worthy of this authority. In the spiritual realm, being worthy is a matter of qualification, extremely important. It is not according to our great gifts or might but whether we qualify. What sort of people is qualified to rule for God? Only those who have the life of the Lamb are qualified to rule for God. We must have this spiritual insight. May the Lord place this picture in us.

The importance of spiritual authority is shown in Revelation after chapter 5. After He resurrected from the dead, He was exalted by the right hand of God, the Father. He stands in the midst of the throne with the image of the Lamb who has been slain. He holds spiritual authority; all the authorities of heaven and earth are His. Because He has gained this authority, many great things shall happen subsequently. First of all, He is worthy to take up the scroll and break its seven seals. The brothers told us this scroll is the deed of God's possessions. The rights to the entire universe have returned to the Lamb; therefore, He is worthy to break the seven seals, opening the mystery of God. Thank our Lord for He has successfully accomplished salvation because He became the Lamb of God who has been slain. Our Lord has gained spiritual authority and has unfolded the mystery of God. As we read Revelation today, we can foresee what is going to happen on earth, exposing all of the enemy's power. The Lamb on the throne is such a glorious matter. We thank our Lord.

Revelation tells us not only is He able to break the seven seals, He shepherds His people on the throne. He protects all of His people with the tabernacle. He supplies the fountain of living waters. He comforts many and wipes away their tears. Today, the Lord grants spiritual authority to us and shows us that He shepherds in this fashion. In the church, we must have the image of the Lamb in order to bring blessing to the children of God. In this age, we truly feel these truths have been ignored; therefore, we administer according to our own will in the church. We cannot protect nor supply our brothers and sisters. We cannot wipe away their tears; instead, we cause them to shed tears. Our shepherding is not like that of the Lamb who has been slain, on the throne. May the Lord be gracious to us and enable us to see the important effects of spiritual authority.

Of course, there are a lot of chapters in Revelation concerning the judgment of the Lamb. First, we see the enemy is under great judgment. Before the feet of the Lamb, this little Lamb, all the power of the beast is utterly destroyed. They want to wage war against the Lamb but they are defeated. We can see the principle of victory from the Lamb. Brothers and sisters, do not despise this little Lamb. This is the most effective force to overcome all of the enemy's power. We wonder how sin and evil can be eliminated; just allow the Lamb's life to be manifested and

the enemy will naturally retreat. This appears repeatedly in Revelation but due to time constraints I cannot explain it further.

Another thing we can see is that the entire earth becomes very chaotic. There is no authority on earth that can bring peace and order to the world. In Revelation, we see only the world which is under the authority of the Lamb can be orderly and beautiful. Today, we serve among God's children and oftentimes we feel there is no order in the church. So many people consider using certain systems or methods to make the church orderly. Actually, the Bible tells us not to exert such effort. Our responsibility is to simply follow the Lamb. Manifest the Lamb's image, then the church will naturally have order. The Bible shows us the Lamb is able to restore order.

Because the Lamb is already on the throne, Revelation tells us that He will lead in a very beautiful and jubilant end. Therefore, the last to appear is the marriage supper of the Lamb, a joyous and wonderful picture. Finally, the church is one in Christ, becoming the wife of the Lamb, in perfect union with the Lord. At that time, God and the Lamb will be the temple. The Lamb will be the lamp, ushering in the beautiful new heaven and new earth. The Lord will gain a great glory for us at the end. We shall then serve Him and reign with Him forever and ever. So the Lamb who has been slain, on the throne, speaks of God's ultimate purpose.

These two likenesses, the Lamb who has been slain, on the altar, is the way of the Lord on earth today and the Lamb who has been slain, on the throne, is the purpose into which God is leading us. Actually, if we live by these two principles, we can reign for God on earth. This is an important revelation because God establishes all of His children to reign in the future, to be leaders. These two principles are very important and are great revelations in God's glorious purpose. We must be united with Him in the likeness of His death and we shall also be united with Him in the likeness of His resurrection.

When we look back at the Old Testament, even before our Lord was incarnated and came to earth, God appointed leaders among His people using these principles. Let me make it clear to brothers and sisters with some examples. In the

Old Testament, we see at least three marvelous leaders, Joseph, Moses, and David. Our brothers have already given us very good sharing of the special aspects of Moses and David but allow me to add on a few more points tonight. Each one of these wonderful leaders had the temperament of the Lamb. God worked the Lamb's image in them and that was how they became such great leaders. All of their life experiences confirmed this.

All three leaders had a common experience of first being shepherds. That was necessary because God wanted to put the thought of the Lamb in them. For example, when we speak of Joseph, the Bible tells us that he was pasturing the flock with his brothers. Joseph had the experience of shepherding. In order for him to be a useful leader to God, he must have something to do with the sheep. Therefore, he first had the experience of tending the flock. Joseph's father, Jacob, was very partial and showed favoritism towards him. Joseph was very naive and lived happily. He often brought back bad reports about his brothers to his father. He had dreams and told his father and his brothers. For that, his brothers resented him and hated him even more.

When Joseph was seventeen, his brothers sold him. From that point on, Joseph suffered tremendously for thirteen years, until he was thirty years old. Psalm tells us that he was laid in irons, not wood but iron, so painful. But today do we see God's purpose? When Joseph first entered into affliction, immediately the image of the Lamb who has been slain, on the altar, appeared because God had to lead him through this experience. Joseph couldn't understand it. Of course, God didn't abandon him to suffer alone. God was with him and as a result, he prospered wherever he went.

When he was thirty years old, he interpreted Pharaoh's dream and was exalted from jail to Egypt's throne overnight. From this point on, we see another likeness; the Lamb who has been slain is on the throne. With the character of the Lamb who has been slain, Joseph was enthroned, full of wisdom and yet so humble. What touches us the most is that his heart was full of love and kindness. When I was young, I shed tears every time I read the last few chapters of Genesis, especially when Joseph met up with his brothers. His brothers did such an evil thing by selling him, causing him much pain. But when he came to a position of

power, he didn't hate his brothers one bit and he had no intentions of revenge. When all of his brothers came to Egypt, they lived in fear and trembling everyday. They thought now that Joseph held great power, he would surely take full vengeance, but he did not. Later on, they thought Joseph dared not take revenge while their father was still around, but they were still trembling within. When Jacob died, Joseph's brothers were terrified. They thought for sure Joseph would now take full vengeance. They came to Joseph and said, "Your father, God's servant, told us while he was still alive that you need to forgive us and do not take revenge on us." What does the Bible tell us? Joseph wept when he heard these words. They thought he would take vengeance but they never imagined that through many years of affliction, he now reigned with the nature of the Lamb. He said to his brothers, "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good. It was God who sent me to Egypt in order to preserve life so rest assured."

This reminds us of the Lord Jesus when He was crucified on the cross. His first prayer on the cross, He said, "*Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.*" What kind of heart is this? This is the nature of the Lamb. Joseph now had the character of the Lamb. God had greatly expanded his capacity. Not only did he take care of the house of Israel, he had the capacity to shepherd all the earth, becoming such a wonderful leader by completely manifesting the Lamb's character. We can see God worked in him according to this principle. He must experience the Lamb who has been slain, on the altar, in order to reach the Lamb who has been slain, on the throne. Only the life of the Lamb is worthy to sit on the throne. Only spiritual life can administer spiritual authority for God. Only this authority can bring protection, provision, and blessing to man. Thank God, He first manifested His thought through His Son.

It was the same with Moses. In the first forty years, Moses lived in the palace of Egypt. The Bible tells us he was a beautiful child, born of nobility, and was educated in all the learning of the Egyptians. He was smart, eloquent, and capable. Moses thought he could serve God at that time, but God couldn't use him then. Let's think about this. Suppose a person appears in the church today. He is good looking, comes from a noble family, graduated from a prestigious school with a high degree, very eloquent, and very capable. Wow, we would definitely put him to great use. Such a person could bring glory to God and lead His people. Isn't that

right? For over two thousand years of church history, man continues to make this mistake. Until now, we still see this in Christianity. Yet the Bible clearly tells us that God was not able to use Moses in such a condition.

In order to make Moses into a leader according to His will, God drove him into the wilderness. What was the first thing Moses did? He became a shepherd, keeping flock for his father-in-law, Reuel, for forty years. This talented Moses ended up tending sheep. I remember a coworker of mine in the past. He came from a prestigious school and he was an engineer. Later on, the Lord called him out to serve. Unlike Moses, he was not eloquent at all. So the brothers in the church didn't use him much and sent him to care for the children. I recall one day when he returned to the dormitory, he sighed. He said, "If my former colleagues knew what I am doing now, they would laugh to death." They would say, "You are such a good engineer but you are not doing that type of work, instead you sit before the children daily telling them stories." I believe, in the beginning, Moses probably thought God had underutilized his great talents. But in these forty years, we can see the likeness of the Lamb who has been slain, on the altar. God didn't forsake him nor leave him. The Lord stayed with him and took him through this experience. This path is a must for the one who serves the Lord. God has to eliminate one's natural life. In these forty years, all of Moses' talents were completely stripped away. At this point, we think he would be totally useless. But in secret, the hand of God led Moses to experience the likeness of the death of Jesus Christ. The Book of Hebrews tells us that in those forty years, it was as if Moses had seen the Lord who is invisible. The principles set by God cannot be changed.

When Moses was eighty years old, he felt he could not do anything. He couldn't even speak clearly. Yet God put him to use at this point of his life. God called him out to be a leader of His people. Immediately, we see another picture; the Lamb who has been slain is on the throne. Now Moses could reign for God. God personally testified for him, proclaiming His servant was more humbled than any man on the face of the earth. We thank our Lord. Now Moses was set free from his old life and the life of the Lamb could be manifested in him. So when he was being misunderstood and reviled among God's people, he no longer extended his fist. What did Moses do instead? He fell on his face and prostrated himself on the ground. The Bible recorded the glory of Jehovah appeared whenever he did

that. He reigned for God in the image of the Lamb and led two to three million Israelites in the wilderness for forty years. In the end, he was called the most faithful servant of God in the entire house of Israel. Do we see? We must go from the Lamb who has been slain, on the altar, in order to reach the Lamb who has been slain, on the throne.

It was no different with David. He suffered from his youth. By God's command, Samuel was sent to Jesse's house to anoint one as king. Jesse set up a great feast with all of his sons present except David. David was left in the wilderness tending sheep. When Samuel was about to make a selection, God told him none of them was the chosen one. Samuel asked Jesse, "*Are these all the children?*" Jesse replied, "*There remains yet the youngest.*" God wanted to choose the little one. We know the youngest son in a family is usually pampered. Yet David was not treated that way. Some Bible scholars said, "Perhaps David was not born from Jesse's first wife, so he had no standing." When David wrote Psalm, he said, "*My father and my mother have forsaken me, but the Lord will take me up.*" He was despised from his youth. When David was tending sheep in the wilderness, he never had a passive attitude nor was he offended. In church service today, many often feel mistreated. They think - how can a person like me be put in such a position? They complain and they suffer. It was not so with David. When he was in the wilderness, he enjoyed God's creation and he wrote Psalm 8. He diligently tended and cared for the flock with all his heart. As a result, he wrote many famous psalms, such as Psalm 23, a product of his experience as a shepherd. When we read Psalm 23 today, we see the bond between the shepherd and his sheep, depicting our relationship with God, speaking forth such beauty. If we can see the picture of the Lamb who has been slain, on the altar, then we would have no complaints because this is God's hand doing His important work in us. Let us Christians not have any passive thoughts.

Before God, we need to realize all things that happen to us have His good purpose. We need to remember that we will reign with Him; we will reign for God. Therefore, God permits these circumstances to fall upon us. Later on, Samuel anointed David with oil. It would be logical for David to be ecstatic but he never thought this anointing would lead him into greater affliction. Though the power was now with him yet his life became more miserable. He was the subject of Saul's

hatred. Saul went out of his way to try to get rid of him. David fled everywhere, to the mountains, from one cave to another. David experienced such suffering. Therefore, in the Old Testament, “David’s afflictions” became a special term. I believe it has the same meaning as “Christ’s afflictions.” At this point of David’s life, we can clearly see the Lamb who has been slain, on the altar. Fleeing for his life, David never departed from the anointing, instead he respected it. He knew it was the anointing that controlled his life. This is such an important matter. In the age of the New Testament, it is most important for Christians to follow the anointing in their lives. Today, the anointing of the Holy Spirit in us will bring us through the cross. He will lead us into the experience of the Lamb who has been slain, on the altar. Only through this experience, will our corrupt nature be transformed and our souls be saved. David’s life was one that was under the control of the anointing. Today, our life must also be under the control of the anointing. This is an important experience.

Through these afflictions, God could now put David on the throne of the house of Israel. Immediately, we see another picture; the Lamb who has been slain is on the throne. David governed the people of Israel with the nature of the Lamb. We see he had such a great capacity. It was David who united the houses of Israel and Judah into one kingdom. He also had the capacity to unite the people of God. Even when he was on the throne of the house of Israel, he was like the Lamb who has been slain. He humbled himself and never thought highly of himself. He often said, “Who am I?” This is such a good phrase. Who am I? I am nothing. I am nobody. Even when he was despised by his wife, Michal, he said, “*I will be more lightly esteemed than this.*” His whole heart was towards God. In the Old Testament, David was the best example in terms of loving God. Wholeheartedly, he was mindful of God. As soon as he was enthroned, he sought after the ark of God. He didn’t care about his own enjoyment. He had the desire to build a temple for God and reestablish the entire priesthood. God’s purpose was completely restored during David’s time. God even proclaimed that He will return to rebuild the fallen tabernacle of David. Now David could fully manifest the authority of the Lamb. In the Old Testament, he was the most qualified to be called the king that was in God’s heart. God said, “*He was a man after my own heart.*” He became the standard for all the kings in the Old Testament.

Among the people of Israel in the Old Testament, these good leaders were all built up by God with the principle of the Lamb. Therefore, these two likenesses, the Lamb who has been slain, on the altar, and the Lamb who has been slain, on the throne, are overall principles of spiritual pursuit for us who are following the Lord today. When we speak of following the Lamb, we need to know how we ought to follow. May the Lord clearly place these two pictures in us. Today, we must pursue this path and enter into this experience of the Lamb who has been slain, on the altar. Then we desire to reach the goal of the Lamb who has been slain, on the throne. So the image and the function of the Lamb can be manifested in us, bringing great blessing to the church and God's people. Our condition will then be in accordance with God's requirement. We will be in good standing to welcome Him when He returns. Let's bow our heads for a word of prayer.

*Lord we thank You with all our hearts. Your thoughts of us are so precious. You have first accomplished the will of God for us, becoming the Lamb who has been slain. Lord, You have completed salvation on the altar and manifested Your sovereignty on the throne. Not only have You completed this, You are leading all of us into this condition. Lord, who are we? We never imagined we can have such change. But this is Your heart - as You are, so also are we. While we still have time on earth, we follow You according to this principle. Every brother and sister is a follower of the Lamb. Let us experience the Lamb who has been slain, on the altar, so our corrupt nature can be removed and the life of Christ can be manifested. Also, let us be able to rule for You, to bring Your blessing to the earth so the enemy will be dealt with and Your kingdom may be manifested. Lord, we thank You. We truly confess man's words are so limited. May the Holy Spirit start a work in brothers and sisters. Let us be able to see more clearly, above and beyond what we have heard. Glory be to You. Hear our prayer. In Jesus Christ's precious name. Amen.*