

#23 The Vision of the All-sufficient One— the Divine View of God's People

(Crystallization-Study of Numbers 2) 2019/10/28-11/3

I. We should never underestimate the value of having a proper view of a certain matter; the view changes us; it affects our entire being.

Acts 26:19 Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,

II. In the Bible vision denotes an extraordinary scene; it refers to a special kind of seeing—a glorious, inward seeing—and to the spiritual scenery we see from God:

A. In order to have a vision, we need revelation, light and sight. **Eph. 1:17** That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him, **18** The eyes of your heart having been enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

B. The heavenly vision governs us, restricts us, controls us, directs us, preserves us, revolutionizes us, keeps us in the genuine oneness, and gives us the boldness to go on. **Prov. 29:18** Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law.

C. Under the heavenly vision we are directed toward God's destination, and our life is controlled according to God's economy.

III. Like Balaam, a Gentile prophet who was brought into a vision, we need to see the vision of the All-sufficient One and have a divine view of God's people: **Num. 23:9** Here is a people who live alone And do not reckon themselves among the nations. **21** He has not beheld iniquity in Jacob, Nor has He seen trouble in Israel; Jehovah their God is with them, And the shout of a king is among them.

A. The prophet Balaam heard the words of God and saw the vision of the All-sufficient One.

B. "From the top of the rocks I see him, / And from the hills I behold him. / Here is a people who live alone / And do not reckon themselves among the nations" (**Num. 23:9**):

1. This word indicates that the children of Israel were a holy people, a sanctified people set apart from the nations. **2.** The same is true of the church. **1 Pet. 2:9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession...

C. "Who can count the dust of Jacob, / Or number the fourth part of Israel? / Let me die the death of the upright, / And let my latter end be like theirs!" (**Num. 23:10**):

1. Balaam's word in verse 10a was a blessing of abundant increase. **2.** His word in verse 10b was a word of great blessing and appreciation.

D. "He has not beheld iniquity in Jacob, / Nor has He seen trouble in Israel; / Jehovah their God is with them, / And the shout of a king is among them" (**Num. 23:21**): **1.** This word was spoken not according to the human view but according to the divine view. **2.** In the sight of God, Israel is without fault: **a.** In themselves God's people have many defects. **b.** In God's redemption and in Christ they have no defects. **3.** When God looks at His people, He does not see them according to what they are in themselves but according to

what they are in Christ.

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E. "How fair are your tents, O Jacob, / Your tabernacles, O Israel!" (**Num. 24:5**): **1.** Balaam's first parable reveals that Israel is holy; the second, that Israel is perfect; and the third, that Israel is beautiful, as indicated by the word fair. **2.** This will be the actual condition of Israel in the millennium: **a.** God promised that the descendants of Abraham would be a blessing to all the nations. **b.** Eventually, the Jews will be fully blessed by God, and they will be a blessing to the entire human race. **3.** Balaam's parables also indicate that in its standing the church is holy, in the sight of God the church is perfect, and in appearance the church is beautiful, fair: **Eph. 5:27** That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.

a. The church is sanctified, perfect, and beautiful when it is full of Christ. **b.** Christ is the content, the constituent, and every part of the church as the new man.

F. "Like valleys they are spread forth, / Like gardens beside a river, / Like aloes which Jehovah has planted, / Like cedars beside water. / Water shall flow from his buckets. / And his seed shall be in many waters" (**Num. 24:6-7a**): **1.** The word concerning valleys and gardens in verse 6 and concerning water flowing from buckets in verse 7 reveals figuratively that the church as valleys, that the church is like a garden, and that in the church there is an abundance of water. **1 Cor. 12:13** For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit. **3:9** ...For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's cultivated land, God's building. **2.** These are some of the riches concerning the church.

G. Balaam's word in Numbers 24:7b about Jacob's king being higher than Agag and about Jacob's kingdom being exalted is a prophecy that eventually has its fulfillment in Christ.

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H. "Blessed is everyone who blesses you, / And cursed is everyone who curses you" (**Num. 24:9b**): **1.** Instead of cursing God's people, Balaam, speaking on behalf of God, altogether blessed them. **2.** To bless a person is to speak well of him, to speak positively concerning him. **Eph. 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ. **3.** The more we praise the Lord for His people and speak well of them in faith, the more we put ourselves under God's blessing: **a.** Those who speak positively concerning the church receive the blessing. **b.** Those who speak negatively put themselves under a curse.

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IV. We need to have a vision concerning the church and see that the church is "Christly," "resurrectionly," and heavenly; these adjectives describe the facts conveyed in the Bible:

A. The church is a matter in Christ, in resurrection, and in ascension in the heavenlies: **1.** After Christ terminated the entire old creation through His all-inclusive death, the church was produced in His resurrection; the church is absolutely in resurrection, a new creation created in Christ's resurrection and by the resurrected Christ. **2.** The church has been resurrected with Christ, and now the church is in ascension, in the heavenlies, with Christ. **3.** The church is of Christ, the

church is of resurrection, and the church is of the heavens.

B. Such a vision will govern us to the uttermost and rule out everything that is not Christly (of Christ), resurrectionally (of resurrection), or heavenly (of the heavens)

V. We need to learn that the way we look at God's people is a serious matter:

A. Joseph's two dreams, both from God, unveiled to him God's divine view concerning the nature, position, function, and goal of God's people on earth: Gen. 37:6-7 (Thu) And he said to them, Listen to this dream which I have had: There we were, binding sheaves in the field, when suddenly my sheaf rose up and remained standing; and then your sheaves gathered around and bowed down to my sheaf. Gen. 37:9 And he had still another dream...and said ... There were the sun and the moon and eleven stars, bowing down to me. **1.**

In his first dream Joseph saw sheaves in the field; if we see this heavenly dream, then we see that in God's view all His people are sheaves full of life to produce food for the meal offering to satisfy God and man. **2.** In his second dream Joseph saw the sun, the moon, and eleven stars bowing down to him; in God's eternal view, His people are heavenly bodies full of light. Rev. 12:1 And a great sign was seen in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon underneath her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; Eph. 5:8 For you were once darkness but are now light in the Lord; walk as children of light. **3.** If we praise the Lord for His saints being full of life and light, we will be the first to participate in life. Gen. 12:3 (Thu) And I will bless those who bless you, And he who curses you I will curse; And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed. Thu/Fri

B. In Numbers 33, the record of the forty-two stations of the journey of the Israelites from the land of slavery to the land of rest, there is no mention of the failures of the people: **1.** If we had only the record in Numbers 33, we would think that in their journey the children of Israel were together aggressive, positive, and successful, going from station to station until they reached their goal—the land of rest:

a. After reading Numbers 1 through 32, we may have the opinion that there was nothing good with the children of Israel. **b.** Numbers 33 shows that in the eyes of God the record regarding them is positive. **c.** This indicates that, in His view, God always considers His people in a positive way.

2. We need to view the church in a heavenly way and realize that all the local churches are parts of the coming New Jerusalem. Rev. 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which you saw upon My right hand and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the messengers of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches. 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3. If we have God's view of His people, we will see them as God sees them—chosen, redeemed, saved from the bondage of the fall, enjoying Christ, being built up with the Triune God, formed into an army to fight for God, and prepared by God to possess the all-inclusive Christ as the good land. Sat

Crucial Point(1):Dual status of the believers: the degraded status in the flesh and the beautiful status in Christ. The disappointment that comes from the degraded status is only for helping the believers to bring into Christ, so we should not remain in the disappointment

OL1: "He has not beheld iniquity in Jacob, / Nor has He seen trouble in Israel; / Jehovah their God is with them, / And the shout of a king is among them"—Num. 23:21

OL2: When God looks at His people, He does not see them according to what they are in themselves but according to what they are in Christ.

OL3: "How fair are your tents, O Jacob, / Your tabernacles, O Israel!"—Num. 24:5

OL4: Balaam's parables also indicate that in its standing the church is holy, in the sight of God the church is perfect, and in appearance the church is beautiful, fair.

One of the most striking lines in [Balaam's second] parable is in Numbers 23:21: "He has not beheld iniquity in Jacob, / Nor has He seen trouble in Israel." How could Balaam speak such a word, since Israel was not perfect and since God could see all the iniquities of His people? The answer is that this word was spoken not according to the human view but according to the divine view. God's view is different from our view. If we realize this, we will be careful whenever we speak of the defects of the saints. According to our view, a certain saint may have many defects, but according to God's view, this saint is perfect.

How can we reconcile the word in verse 21 with the obvious fact that the children of Israel had many iniquities? This apparent contradiction is reconciled by the fact that God's redeemed people have a twofold status: their status in themselves and their status in God's redemption. This is our situation as believers today. In ourselves we have many defects, but in God's redemption and in Christ we have no defects. When God looks at us, He does not see us according to what we are in ourselves but according to what we are in Christ. God does not look at what His redeemed people are in themselves. We may even say that He has forgotten what we are in ourselves. Our basis for saying this is that God has forgiven us, and when God forgives, He forgets. God has put us all into Christ. Since He has put us into Christ, when He looks at us, He sees us in Christ. God's view of us is that in Christ we do not have any iniquity. The principle is the same with God's view of the church life. According to our view, the church life may be very poor. But according to God's view, the church life is glorious. God has not beheld iniquity in the church. ...In ourselves the church life is not glorious, but in Christ the church life truly is glorious.

Application to young people and college students

Students, please realize that you have dual status as the saved person. Those are the status of the degraded person in the flesh and the status of the redeemed person in Christ. Please train yourself to see the status in Christ concerning yourself and brothers and sisters. If you do so, you will have the different view concerning yourself and brothers and sisters and then speak positively, not negatively.

The status in the flesh is temporally and will go out soon.

But the status in Christ will get bigger and bigger and consummate in the New Jerusalem. There is anything negative in the New Jerusalem.

When you feel disappointed by yourself, don't remain in your disappointment. The disappointment will help you to bring you into Christ. For instance, "my grades don't improve", "I am not pretty/handsome", "I am not popular among friends", "Boys/girls don't like me", "my family is not rich". Train yourself not to remain in these disappointments. After you confess your sins, faults and weaknesses, enter into the positive fellowship of the divine life, including the fellowship with the Lord and with the brothers and sisters, with boldness. The confession of sins which is the application of the redemption is not the goal. You will find that in the fellowship of the divine life, you and brothers and sisters in Christ are all "sinless and beautiful".

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, I was redeemed and now I am a person in Christ. Let me get out of my disappointment and train myself to see my status in Christ. Not looking at my sins, faults and weaknesses, I would confess them immediately and with boldness, enter into the fellowship of the divine life with the Lord and with the brothers and sisters. I see positively concerning myself and brothers and sisters and speak positively. Amen!"

Crucial Point(2): Those who bless the church will be blessed and those who curse the church will be cursed
OL1: "Blessed is everyone who blesses you, / And cursed is everyone who curses you" (Numbers 24:9b).

OL2: The more we praise the Lord for His people and speak well of them in faith, the more we put ourselves under God's blessing.

OL3: Those who speak positively concerning the church receive the blessing. Those who speak negatively put themselves under a curse.

If you praise the Lord for the church life and speak well concerning it, you will put yourself under God's blessing. During all the years I have been in the church life, I have not seen one person who spoke negatively about the church who was under God's blessing. On the contrary, all who have said that the church was poor, low, or dead have been under a curse. Those who speak positively about the church, declaring that the church is lovely and that it is God's house, receive the blessing. This is not mere doctrine; it is a testimony that can be verified by the experiences of many saints.

Sometimes when I am disappointed over the church and do not think positively about it, the Lord within warns me to be careful. Immediately I ask the Lord to cleanse me, and I begin to declare how wonderful the church is. Even though the church may cause me trouble, I still love the church. The more I speak this positive way, the more I am under God's blessing.

Whose word about the church is right, yours or the Lord's? In eternity, the Lord's word will prove to be right, for in eternity the church will be marvelous, glorious, and transcendent. All the enemy's accusations regarding the church are lies. To say that the church is poor or dead is to utter a devilish lie....The church is uplifted and very living.

Do not see deeper than the Lord sees.... Are you wiser

or more perceptive than God? The Bible declares that the Lord does not behold perverseness in Israel. But you claim to see perverseness in the church. Which do you choose to believe, the Lord's sight or yours? If we stand with the Lord's estimation of the church, we shall be kept from falling from the blessing into the curse.

For the young working saints and graduate students

Your boss always sets for you a high goal and requires your continual running toward the goal. You may feel disappointed and exhausted to see it is hard to attain the goal. In such time, you need to be reminded that you are the saved person, owning the life of God and you are the part of the Body of Christ because of God's life and be encouraged by it. God has already blessed the church with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies. By faith you just need to enjoy the blessing which was given to you.

Don't speak negatively like "I am incapable to do that", "It is impossible for me to attain such goal", "I cannot do because others are disturbing me". Before you speak negatively, the negative thought comes first. You need to confess this negative thought to the Lord and learn to remove this thought from you. Then you will be saved from speaking negatively. You will be filled with positive thought by faith inwardly. Please declare that "I can attain this goal with my best".

Although the goal your boss set seems difficult to attain but it is not impossible. This is not to recommend you to ask for the miraculous blessing. For example if you cannot speak English, it is impossible for you to work by using English. So in learning to speak positively, you need to be saved from asking miraculously.

Prayer: "O Lord Jesus, I wish to train myself to confess to the Lord a negative way of thinking and remove it as soon as it comes up. We the church are already blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies. Because I can enjoy the rich blessing, I speak positively and go forward together with the Lord. And when I seek your blessing, save me from seeking miraculous blessing."

Crucial Point(3): If you use the divine telescope to see the church, you will see the church is sheaves of life, the sun, the moon, and the stars. The ones, who praise that the church is full of life and light, are also filled with life and light.

OL1: In his first dream Joseph saw sheaves in the field; if we see this heavenly dream, then we see that in God's view all His people are sheaves full of life to produce food for the meal offering to satisfy God and man.

OL2: In his second dream Joseph saw the sun, the moon, and eleven stars bowing down to him; in God's eternal view, His people are heavenly bodies full of light.

OL3: If we praise the Lord for His saints being full of life and light, we will be the first to participate in life

Although God's people are positioned in heaven as the sun, the moon, and the stars, they are living on earth as sheaves, for sheaves grow in the field. Today we are the heavenly people living on earth.

We are God's people. I have been encouraged, strengthened, and edified by this. I have complete faith in you all, and I expect to see you all in the New Jerusalem. I like to have an eternal view, not the view from the earth. I do not want to view things according to my limited sight.

Rather, I would use the divine telescope. If you say that the brothers and sisters are so bad, it means that you are extremely shortsighted. But if you use the divine telescope to see through time, you will behold the New Jerusalem where there is nothing but sheaves and stars. In the New Jerusalem there are no "gophers" or "scorpions." There, everything is full of life and light.

The more mature in life you become, the less you will speak negatively concerning the saints or the church.... One day the heavenly dream will come, and your view will be revolutionized. You will realize that you dare not say anything negative concerning the church or the saints. On the contrary, you will say, "This is the church, and this is God's people. In God's eyes the believers are all sheaves. They are also the sun, the moon, and the stars."

From our study of the book of Numbers, we need to learn that the way we look at God's people is a serious matter. Perhaps in your eyes God's people are not very good. But God sees them as chosen, redeemed, saved from the bondage of the fall, enjoying Christ, being built up with the Triune God, formed into an army to fight for God, and prepared by God to possess the all-inclusive Christ as the good land. If we see God's people in this way, we will not lose heart or be discouraged concerning the church life.

For the serving ones

You should see the 6 kinds of newcomers through the divine telescope. They are sheaves, the sun, the moon, and the stars. You should not see them shortsightedly and speak negatively concerning them. When you serve, it is crucial that your natural view needs to be changed.

When a baby is born, parents talk to and care for the baby with hope of the future. None of the parents say, "why can't you speak?", "why can't you walk?" or "why can't you eat?" A newborn baby can only suck the breasts milk and cry. However, parents, especially mothers, talk to their baby every day with hope. Do you serve with a divine view, such as "they are regenerated human with the hope of living," or "they will be saved and become the serving one by hearing the word of God." when you care for the 6 newcomers? **1 Pet. 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has regenerated us unto a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**

In fact, the outcome of your service depends on your view. Newly saved believers, or brothers and sisters who have not come recently because of weakness, are the sun, the moon and the stars. They can emit light as light emitters. They can also produce food and satisfy God and people as sheaves full of life.

However, this is not a recommendation to avoid the real problems or pretend not to see. The problem gets worse when you ignore the problem. Fellowship with the Lord and the leading brothers and sisters about the problem, and plan and take action. However, in many times, those who serve often tend to see the newcomers negatively. Train yourself to notice their very small progress, such as "It seems that there is a little desire for the Lord than before", "It seems that the expression is subtly aggressive, or the negative words are less." Growth

and transformation in life can only happen gradually. Miraculous rapid growth is not growth of life. What the serving one need is a great appreciation of small progress with a divine perspective and the encouragement to the newcomers with patience.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, I thank the 6 kinds of newcomers. Friends can be saved by injecting faith by hearing the gospel. The weakening brothers and sisters are also reborn and have a hope of living. In God's view, they are sheaves of life, the sun, the moon, and the stars. May I have the same perspective as God to love them and look after them. Give your church an increase and prosperity. Amen!"

The Mystery of Human Life (II)

The miserable situation of human(4): "Busy"

- A. Meaning to be drawn around in different directions. (Luke 10:40 FN1)**
- B. You looked for much, and yet it amounted to little; ...Why? ...Because of My house that lies waste while you each run to your own house. (Hag.1:9FN1)**
- C. For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world but loses or forfeits himself? (Luke 9:25)**
- D. Seizing every favorable opportunity. In this evil age, every day is an evil day full of pernicious things that cause our time to be used ineffectively, to be reduced, and to be taken away. Therefore, we must walk wisely that we may redeem the time, seizing every available opportunity. To understand the will of the Lord is the best way to redeem our time. Most of our time is wasted because we do not know the will of the Lord. (Eph. 5:16FN1,2, 17FN1).**

The grace and blessing given from God(1): "Blessing"

- A....for no one's life is in the abundance of his possessions. (Luke 12:15b)**
- B. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of the heavens....Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.—For the kingdom of the heavens we need to be poor in spirit, empty in our spirit, that we may receive Christ. Also, we need to be pure, single, in our heart that Christ may grow in us without frustration. Seeing God is a reward to the pure in heart. This blessing is both for today and for the coming age. (Matt.5:3, 8 & 8FN1, 2)**
- C. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to announce the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to send away in release those who are oppressed, To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, the year of jubilee."(Luke 4:18-19)**
- D. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ— All the blessings with which God has blessed us, being spiritual, are related to the Holy Spirit. ...God's blessing us is actually His dispensing Himself into us. All the blessings are spiritual, in the heavenlies, and in Christ. (Eph. 1:3FN6,7)**
- E. was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel. (Eph. 3:8b)**