

- I. **The wheat in Deuteronomy 8:8a typifies the incarnated, crucified, and buried Christ**—John 12:24:
- A. In His full ministry in the stage of His incarnation, Christ brought the infinite God into the finite man—John 1:1, 14:
- As a finite man, Christ in the flesh was **limited in time and space**—John 7:6, 10:
 - The Lord is the eternal, infinite, unlimited God, but He lived here on earth as a man, being limited in the matter of time.
 - Although the Lord is the almighty God, as a man under persecution, He was limited in relation to His activity.
 - As a finite man, Christ in the flesh was **limited in knowledge** —Matt. 24:36; Luke 2:40, 52; cf. John 7:15; Mark 6:1-3.
 - As a finite man, Christ in the flesh **had a natural, human life and a dependent existence**—John 10:11, 15, 17; 6:57a; Matt. 14:19.
- B. Christ's humanity through His incarnation became a shell that concealed His divinity and thereby concealed His glory—John 1:14; 12:23-24; Luke 12:50:
- Because the glory of His divinity was concealed by the shell of His humanity, the Lord Jesus was pressed and constrained, longing to be baptized with the baptism of His death for the release of the glory of His divinity.
 - The Lord needed to undergo physical death that His unlimited and infinite divine being with His divine life might be released from His flesh.
 - **The Lord Jesus fell into the ground and died, and that death released Him from His human shell** —John 12:24:
 - He fell into the ground and died so that His divine element, His divine life, might be released from within the shell of His humanity.
 - The Lord Jesus, as a grain of wheat falling into the ground, **lost His soulful life through death in order to release His divine life**.
- C. In the midst of situations that limit us and press us, we may experience Christ as a grain of wheat—John 12:24:
- Whenever we are put into a situation by the Lord's sovereignty in which we are limited, in which we are pressed, we may experience the Lord as wheat—Rom. 8:28.
 - **When we contact the Lord in our limiting and restricting circumstances, we will realize that He is the infinite God who became a finite man and that there is power in Him to bear any kind of limitation**—Phil. 4:13.
 - Christ our life is within us as a grain of wheat to live the life of the incarnated One, the limited One—Col. 1:27; 3:4.
 - If we contact the Lord, we will experience Him as a grain of wheat, and in Him we will be content with our situation—Phil. 4:11-12.
 - **As wheat, Christ is our life to make us willing to be limited, willing to die, willing to be buried, willing to be nothing; this is the experience of Christ as wheat**—John 12:24-25.

II. Whereas wheat signifies the incarnated, crucified, and buried Christ, barley signifies the resurrected Christ—Deut. 8:8a:

- A. In the good land, barley ripens earlier than any other grain; therefore, it is the first-fruits—1 Cor. 15:20:
- Because barley ripens early, it is the firstfruits of the harvest—a type of the resurrected and unlimited Christ.
 - We rejoice to learn that Christ is the barley, the resurrected Christ within us, and that He is able to meet every situation.
 - Christ as the firstfruits of resurrection is the Firstborn from the dead that He might be the Head of the Body; since He, the Head of the Body, has been resurrected, we, the Body, will also be resurrected—Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:20-23.
 - As the firstfruits, Christ has become the bread of life; hence, barley loaves signify Christ in resurrection as food to us—John 6:48:
 - The number five signifies responsibility; this indicates that the resurrected Christ is able to bear responsibility.
 - As we feed on Christ as the barley loaves, we become a loaf of barley to feed others with the Christ whom we have experienced.
 - With five barley loaves, the Lord Jesus could feed five thousand people with twelve baskets of broken pieces left over; this is resurrection—Matt. 14:14-21; John 6:9, 13.
- B. As typified by barley, the resurrected Christ is unlimited—Phil. 4:13:
- Wheat points to Christ's incarnation, death, and burial, and following this, the barley points to His resurrection, the resurrected Christ—John 11:25; Eph. 1:20.
 - On the one hand, we may experience the limited Jesus as signified by wheat; on the other hand, we may experience the unlimited Christ as signified by barley—John 12:24; 6:9, 13:
 - In His incarnation Jesus was exceedingly limited, but in His resurrection He is unlimited—Luke 12:49-50; 24:5-6, 26, 34, 46.
 - Whereas wheat is the valley of death, barley is the mountain of resurrection.
 - In order to experience the wheat, the limited Jesus, we need to apply the barley, the unlimited Christ; we follow the limited Jesus in the power of the resurrected Christ—Heb. 13:12-13.
 - We can do all things in the One who empowers us because He is the resurrected and unlimited Christ—Phil. 4:13.
 - Whenever we experience Christ as the wheat, we are assured that an experience of Christ as the barley will follow—Deut. 8:8a.
 - Actually, in order to experience Christ as the grain of wheat, the limited Jesus, we must apply Him as the barley, the resurrected Christ—John 12:24-25.
 - We cannot meet our needs in ourselves, but within us a barley loaf, a portion of the unlimited resurrected Christ, meets every need and may even produce a surplus—John 11:25.
 - The resurrected Christ is the loaf of barley; nothing can hinder or limit Him.
 - If we remember that Christ is barley in us, when we come to a meeting, we can apply Him as barley to feed others by our prayer or our testimony.

- I. The wheat in Deuteronomy 8:8a typifies the incarnated, crucified, and buried Christ** [Deut. 8:8] A land of wheat and barley and vines and fig trees...
- In His full ministry in the stage of His incarnation, Christ brought the infinite, unlimited, eternal God into the finite man. As a finite man, Christ is limited in time, space, and knowledge, limited in relation to His activity. He had a dependent existence in the natural, human life. Christ's humanity through His incarnation became a shell that concealed the glory of His divinity; he was pressed and constrained, longing to be baptized with the baptism of His death for the release of the glory of His divinity. The Lord needed to fall into the ground to undergo physical death and lost His soulish life that His unlimited, infinite divine being with His divine life and His divine element might be released from His flesh, the shell of His humanity. [John 1:14] And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us..., full of grace and reality. [John 7:6] Jesus therefore said to them, My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready. [John 10:11] I am the good Shepherd; the good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. [Luke 12:50] But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how I am pressed until it is accomplished! [John 12:24] ...Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.
 - Whenever we are put into situations that limit and press us, we may contact and experience Christ as a grain of wheat, and live the life of Christ the incarnated infinite God who became a finite man and that there is power in Him to bear any kind of limitation; and to make us be content with our situation, willing to be limited, to die, to be buried and willing to be nothing; this is the experience of Christ as wheat. [Phil. 4:11] Not that I speak according to lack, for I have learned, in whatever circumstances I am, to be content.
- II. Whereas wheat signifies the incarnated, crucified, and buried Christ, barley signifies the resurrected Christ**
- In the good land, barley ripens earlier than any other grain; it is the firstfruits of the harvest—a type of the resurrected and unlimited Christ within us, and that He is able to meet every situation. Christ as the firstfruits of resurrection is the Firstborn from the dead that He might be the Head of the Body; therefore, we, the Body, will also be resurrected. As the firstfruits, Christ has become the bread of life; hence, barley loaves signify Christ in resurrection as food to us. When we feed on Christ as the barley loaves, we become a barley loaf to feed others with the Christ whom we have experienced. With five barley loaves, the number five signifies responsibility that the resurrected Christ is able to bear responsibility; that He could feed five thousand people with twelve baskets of broken pieces left over; this is resurrection and the resurrected Christ is unlimited. [1 Cor. 15:20] But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. [Col. 1:18] And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things. [Eph. 1:23] Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all. [John 6:48] I am the bread of life. [John 6:9] There is a little boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what are these for so many? [John 6:13] So they gathered them and filled twelve handbaskets with broken pieces from the five barley loaves which were left over among those who had eaten.
 - On the one hand, we may experience the limited Jesus in His incarnation as signified by wheat, the valley of death; on the other hand, we may experience the unlimited Christ in His resurrection as signified by barley, the mountain of resurrection. In order to experience the wheat, the limited Jesus, we need to apply the barley, the unlimited Christ; we follow the limited Jesus in the power of the resurrected Christ who empowers us that we can do all things in Him. Whenever we experience Christ as the wheat, we are assured that an experience of Christ as the barley will follow. For experiencing Christ as the grain of wheat, the limited Jesus, we must apply Him as the barley, the resurrected Christ. We cannot meet our needs in ourselves, but a portion of the unlimited resurrected Christ within us, a barley loaf, meets every need and may even produce a surplus; nothing can hinder or limit Him. When we come to a meeting, we should apply Him as barley to feed others by our prayer or our testimony. [Heb. 13:12-13] Therefore also Jesus, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate, let us therefore go forth unto Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach. [Phil. 3:10-11] To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if perhaps I may attain to the out-resurrection from the dead. [John 11:25] Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live.

If you would look to the Lord when you are so limited and perplexed, I am sure He will show you that He has been limited, put to death, and buried. He will show you that as such a One He lives in you. He will sustain you that you might be limited. He will support you that you might be put to death and buried. He will energize you to such an extent and strengthen you to be such a person. Then you will experience Christ as a grain of wheat.

<Excerpts from "The All-Inclusive Christ", Chapter 5, "The Goodness of The Land—Its Unsearchable Riches (2) Food (1)">

The resurrected Christ is unlimited. Apply Him to the situation. He can never be exhausted. By the power of the resurrected Christ you can follow the steps of the incarnated Jesus. With the life of the resurrected Christ, you can live out the life of the limited Jesus.

You have to go ahead by faith. Though your portion is seemingly so small and the demand is so great, you must realize that what you have is nothing less than the resurrected Christ. You can do all things by Him who strengthens you, because He is resurrected and knows no limit. Apply Him!

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