

REVELATION

\* I-II: UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD

I. **The Epistles of 1 and 2 Peter are on the universal government of God:**

- A. The subject of 1 Peter is the Christian life under the government of God, showing us the government of God especially in His dealings with His chosen people—1 Pet. 1:2.
- B. The subject of 2 Peter is the divine provision and the divine government, showing us that as God is governing us, He supplies us with whatever we need—2 Pet. 1:1-4; 3:13.
- C. God governs by judging; the judgment of God is for the carrying out of His government—1 Pet. 1:17; 4:17:
  - Because 1 and 2 Peter are concerned with the government of God, in these Epistles the judgment of God and of the Lord is referred to repeatedly as one of the essential items—1 Pet. 2:23; 4:5-6, 17; 2 Pet. 2:3-4, 9; 3:7.
  - Through various kinds of judgments, the Lord God will clear up the entire universe and purify it so that He may have a new heaven and a new earth for a new universe filled with His righteousness for His delight—2 Pet. 3:13.
- D. The judgment in 1 Peter 1:17, which is carried out by the Father, is not the future judgment but is the present, daily judgment of God's governmental dealings with His children:
  - The Father has regenerated us to produce a holy family—a holy Father with holy children—1 Pet. 1:3, 15, 17.
  - As holy children, we should walk in a holy manner of life; otherwise, in His government God the Father will become the Judge and will deal with our unholiness—1 Pet. 1:15-16; 4:15-17; Heb. 12:9-10.
- E. The disciplinary judgment in the government of God begins from the house of God—1 Pet. 4:17:
  - God judges everything that does not match His government; therefore, in this age we, the children of God, are under the daily judgment of God—1 Pet. 1:17.
  - God uses fiery ordeals to deal with the believers in the judgment of His governmental administration, which begins from His own house—1 Pet. 4:12, 17.
  - The purpose of this judgment is that we would live according to God in the spirit—1 Pet. 4:6.

II. **The preciousness of Peter's writings is that he combines the Christian life and God's government, revealing that the Christian life and the government of God go together as a pair—1 Pet. 1:17; 2:21, 24; 3:15; 4:17; 5:5-8:**

- A. The Triune God has passed through a long process in Christ and has become the life-giving Spirit to indwell us; this is for our Christian life—John 1:14; 14:17; 1 Cor. 15:45b; 6:17.
- B. At the same time, the Triune God is still the Creator of the universe and its Ruler—1 Pet. 4:19.
- C. Although we have been born of God to have a spiritual life and to be a new creation, we are still in the old creation—John 1:12-13; 3:3, 5-6; 2 Cor. 5:17:
  - For this reason, we need God's governmental dealings—1 Pet. 1:17.
  - In order for the Christian life to grow, we need the discipline of God's government—2:2; 4:17; 2 Pet. 1:5-7.

\* III-IV: HOW TO LIVE A CHRISTIAN LIFE UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD

III. **When the Lord Jesus was on earth, He lived a human life that was absolutely under the government of God, and He committed everything related to Him to God's government**—John 6:38; 1 Pet. 2:21-23:

- A. The Lord kept committing all His insults and injuries to Him who judges righteously in His government, the righteous God, to whom He submitted Himself; He put His trust in this righteous One, recognizing His government—1 Pet. 2:23.
- B. When God counseled Christ as a man, Christ's inward parts were one with God and instructed Him through His contact with God—Psa. 16:7; Isa. 50:4.

PRACTICE

IV. **As believers in Christ and children of God, we should live a Christian life under the government of God**—John 3:15; 1:12-13; 1 Pet. 4:13-19; 5:6-8:

- A. The Epistles of Peter reveal the Christ who enables us to take God's governmental dealings administered through sufferings—1 Pet. 1:6-8; 2:3-4, 19, 21-25; 3:18, 22; 4:1, 15-16; 5:8-9.
- B. We should pass the time of our sojourning in holy fear, that is, in a healthy, serious caution that leads us to be holy in all our manner of life—1:15, 17.
- C. We should be humbled under the mighty hand of God, which carries out the government of God—1 Pet. 5:6:
  - In verse 6 *the mighty hand of God* refers to God's administrating hand seen especially in His judgment—1 Pet. 1:17; 4:17.
  - To be humbled under God's mighty hand is to be made humble by God; however, we must cooperate with God's operation and be willing to be made humble, lowly, under His mighty hand—1 Pet. 5:6.
- D. We should commit our souls to the faithful Creator—1 Pet. 4:19:
  - God can preserve our soul, and His loving and faithful care accompanies His justice in His governmental administration.
  - While God judges us in His government, He cares for us faithfully in His love; as we are suffering His disciplinary judgment, we should commit our souls to the faithful care of our Creator—Matt. 10:28; 11:28-29.
- E. In the death of Christ we have died to sins so that in the resurrection of Christ we might live to righteousness under God's government—1 Pet. 2:24:
  - God's government is established upon righteousness; as God's people living under His government, we must live a righteous life—Psa. 89:14a.
  - The expression *live to righteousness* is related to the fulfilling of God's governmental requirements—1 Pet. 2:24:
    - We were saved so that we might live rightly under the government of God, that is, in a way that matches the righteous requirements of His government.
    - In Christ's death we have been separated from sins, and in His resurrection we have been enlivened so that in our Christian life we might live spontaneously to righteousness under the government of God—Rom. 6:8, 10-11, 18; Eph. 2:6; John 14:19; 2 Tim. 2:11.

\* I-II: UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD

I. **The Epistles of 1 and 2 Peter are on the universal government of God**

- 1 Peter is about the Christian life under the government of God in His dealings with His chosen people while 2 Peter is on the divine provision with whatever we need as we are under His divine government. God governs by judging, this judgment of God is for the carrying out of His government and is referred to repeatedly as one of the essential items for 1 and 2 Peter. Through the various kinds of judgments, the Lord God will clear up the entire universe and purify it that He may have a new heaven and a new earth for a new universe filled with His righteousness for His delight. The judgment in 1 Peter 1:17, which is carried out by the Father, is not the future judgment but is the present, daily judgment of God's governmental dealings with His children. The Father has regenerated us to be His holy children, we should therefore walk in a holy manner or else God the Father will become the Judge to deal with our unholiness. The disciplinary judgment in the government of God begins from the house of God in this age. He judges everything that does not match His government and we, His children, are under His judgment by fiery ordeals daily. The purpose of this judgment is that we would live according to God in the spirit. **The preciousness of Peter's writings is that he combines the Christian life and**. [1 Pet. 1:2] Chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father in the sanctification of the Spirit unto obedience and the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ:... [2 Pet. 1:2] Grace to you and peace be multiplied in the full knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. [1 Pet. 4:17] For it is time for the judgment to begin from the house of God... [1 Pet. 1:15-16] But according to the Holy One who called you, you yourselves also be holy in all your manner of life; Because it is written, "You shall be holy because I am holy."

II. **The preciousness of Peter's writings is that he combines the Christian life and God's government, revealing that the Christian life and the government of God go together as a pair—1 Pet. 1:17; 2:21, 24; 3:15; 4:17; 5:5-8:**

- The Triune God has passed through a long process in Christ and has become the life-giving Spirit to indwell us for our regeneration to be born of God to have a spiritual life and be a new creation. Yet we are still in the old creation and God is still the Creator of the universe and its Ruler, hence, we need His governmental dealings for our Christian life to grow. [1 Cor. 6:17] But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit. [1 Pet. 4:12-13] Beloved, do not think that the fiery ordeal among you, coming to you for a trial, is strange, as if it were a strange thing happening to you; But inasmuch as you share in the sufferings of Christ, rejoice, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice exultingly.

\* III-IV: HOW TO LIVE A CHRISTIAN LIFE UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD

III. **When the Lord Jesus was on earth, He lived a human life that was absolutely under the government of God, and He committed everything related to Him to God's government—John 6:38; 1 Pet. 2:21-23:**

- When God counseled Christ as a man, Christ recognized God's government, He committed all sufferings to God, submitted Himself and put His trust in this righteous God who judges righteously in His government. Christ's inward parts were one with God and were instructed through His contact with God. [1 Pet. 2:21-22] For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered on your behalf, leaving you a model so that you may follow in His steps; Who committed no sin, nor was guile found in His mouth. [1 Pet. 2:23] Who being reviled did not revile in return; suffering, He did not threaten but kept committing all to Him who judges righteously. [Psa. 16:7] I will bless Jehovah, who counsels me; / Indeed in the nights my inward parts instruct me. [Isa. 50:4] The Lord Jehovah has given me / The tongue of the instructed, / That I should know how to sustain the weary with a word. / He awakens me morning by morning; / He awakens my ear / To hear as an instructed one.

IV. **As believers in Christ and children of God, we should live a Christian life under the government of God—John 3:15; 1:12-13; 1 Pet. 4:13-19; 5:6-8:**

- The Epistles of Peter reveal the Christ who enables us to take God's governmental dealings administered through sufferings. We should: ①live our sojourning life in holy fear, healthy and serious caution that leads us to be holy in all our manner of life; ②cooperate with God's operation and be willing to be made humble, lowly, under His mighty hand which carries out the government of God in His judgment; ③commit our souls to our Creator who cares for us faithfully in His love as we are suffering His disciplinary judgment in His government. God's government is established upon righteousness; as God's people living under His government, we must live a righteous life to fulfill God's requirements under His government. In Christ's death we have been separated from and died to sins, and in His resurrection we have been enlivened so that in our Christian life we might live spontaneously to righteousness under the government of God. [1 Pet. 5:6] Therefore be humbled under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt you in due time. [1 Pet. 4:19] So then let those also who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls in well-doing to a faithful Creator. [1 Pet. 2:24] Who Himself bore up our sins in His body on the tree, in order that we, having died to sins, might live to righteousness; by whose bruise you were healed.

God will not live or dwell in a place that is unclean. Thus, God is cleansing, purifying, the universe. First He purifies us, His household. We are now the center of His cleaning work. Do you not sometimes say to yourself, “Why is it that the more I love the Lord Jesus, the more difficulties I have? My relatives are flourishing; they are doing very well. But my situation seems to get worse and worse.” Some saints have problems with their health; others are disappointed with their children. The reason we have difficulties is that God’s judgment begins from His own household. You and I are under God’s judgment.

*<Excerpts from “Life-study of First Peter”, Message 1, “An Introductory Word”>*

In verse 17 Peter urges us to pass the time of our sojourning in fear. This is a holy fear, as in Philippians 2:12. It refers to a healthy, serious caution for us to behave in a holy manner. Such fear is mentioned a number of times in this book because its teaching is concerning the government of God.

To pass the time of our sojourning in fear means to walk in a holy fear of God all the time. The words “pass the time” include every minute of our daily life.

Every minute of our sojourning must be in fear. This is related to the holy manner of life. In all our manner of life we need to become holy, separated from the world

*<Excerpts from “Life-study of First Peter”, Message 11, “The Full Salvation of the Triune God and its Issues (6)”>*