

I. To see and have a proper understanding of the vision of God's sovereignty – Rev. 4:11; Lam. 5:19

It is crucial that we see a vision of God's sovereignty and have a clear view and proper understanding of God's sovereignty.

TO KNOW

- A. **God is sovereign:** Sovereignty refers to God's absolute and unlimited right, authority, power, and position. – Rev. 4:11; 5:13.
- B. **God is supreme:** As the sovereign One, God is above everything, behind everything, and in everything. – 1 Kings 22:19.
- C. **God has full capacity:** God has the full capacity to carry out what He wants according to the desire of His heart and according to His eternal economy. – Acts 4:24; Eph. 1:4-5, 10; Dan. 4:35.

TO EXPERIENCE

- D. **We need to accept and recognize this:** Like Jeremiah, we need to change our position and angle from ourselves to God and recognize God's eternal being and His eternal and unchanging government. – Lam. 5:19.
- E. **Which is the throne of God for the divine administration throughout the universe:** The book of Revelation is a book of God's administration, unveiling the throne of God for the divine administration throughout the universe. – Rev. 5:1; 7:9
- F. **And to experience God's sovereignty:** Romans 9:19-23 refers to God's sovereignty:
 - 1. **God is the Creator:** We need to realize that we are God's creatures, and He is our Creator; as His creatures, we should not resist His purpose or answer back to Him, the Creator. – Rom. 9:20-21; Jer. 18:5-6.
 - 2. **Men are His creatures:** Through His sovereignty, God created us to be His vessels, His containers, according to His predestination. – Rom. 9:22-23; 2 Tim. 2:20-21.
 - 3. **To contain God:** In His sovereignty God has the authority to make the ones whom He has selected and called vessels of mercy to contain Him in order that His glory might be manifested. – Rom. 9:23.

II. The two histories revealed in the Bible – The human history and the divine history – Joel 1:4; 3:11; Dan. 2:35; Rev. 11:15

The Bible reveals the universal history according to God's economy — the divine history within the human history:

TO KNOW

- A. **The two histories in the universe:** In this universe there are two histories: the history of man, the human history, and the history of God, the divine history; the former is like an outward shell, and the latter, like the kernel within the shell.
- B. **This shows God's move among men:** God's move among men is wrapped up with the course of human history.
- C. **This is revealed in the book of Joel:** In the Minor Prophets the human history is defined and signified by the four kinds of locusts in Joel 1:4, and the divine history is with Christ and His mighty ones, the overcomers, in 3:11.

TO EXPERIENCE

- D. **The conclusion was detailed in the Book of Daniel and Revelation:** The divine history within the human history is revealed in the Bible in considerable detail. – Dan. 2:35; Rev. 11:15.
- E. **We need to have a clear understanding of the process of divine history:** The divine history began from Christ's incarnation through His ascension to become the life-giving Spirit and then continues with His indwelling us through God's organic salvation to make us the bride of Christ. – John 1:14; 1 Cor. 15:45b; 6:17; Rom. 5:10; Eph. 5:27; Rev. 19:7.
- F. **And live in the divine history:** We were born in the human history but regenerated in the divine history; now we need to consider whether we are living in the divine history or living merely in the human history.
 - 1. **Human history:** If our living is in the world, we are living merely in the human history.
 - 2. **Divine history:** If we are living in the church, we are living in the divine history, for in the church life God's history is our history, and thus we and God have one history, the divine history. – 1 Cor. 6:17; Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20.

III. **World situations and God' move for the expansion of His recovery – Acts 17:26; Matt 24:14; Rev. 11:15**

The events of world history have been sovereignly arranged by God for Him to carry out His purpose.

TO KNOW

- A. **Interpreting world situations:** We all need a clear view from which to consider the world situation. – Eph. 3:11.
- B. **Under God's sovereign arrangement:** The world situation is under God's sovereign arrangement; God determined the appointed seasons and boundaries. – Acts 17:26.
- C. **To carry out His purpose:** For God to carry out His purpose, He has arranged the world situation; history is meaningful when we realize this. – Eph. 3:9.
- D. **World situations match God's move on earth:** All the major events in human history match God's move on earth.
- E. **We need to have this proper view described above:** Since the church comes out of mankind, we as God's chosen ones need to have this view of history. – 1 Cor. 1:2.
- F. **Understanding that God's move requires matching external situations:** Whether we speak of God's becoming flesh through incarnation, or of the spreading of the gospel, or of the raising up of the church life, or of the preparation of the bride, all these aspects of God's move require the proper environment.
 1. **For the accomplishment of redemption:** For Christ's ministry to be carried out, there was the need for the Roman Empire to be established to provide a situation in which redemption could be accomplished and the gospel could be spread. – Luke 2:1-7; John 19:17-21.
 2. **For the propagation of the gospel:** The Roman Empire was for the gospel; Germany was for the Reformation; Great Britain was for the spreading of the gospel and of the truth; and now the United States has become the center for the recovery.
 3. **For the Lord's return:** God will use the United States to spread His recovery so that the Lord may return. – Rev. 22:20.
- G. **Therefore, He is controlling world situations for the spreading of His recovery:**
If we keep up to date with what is happening today on earth, we will realize that God is controlling the entire world situation under the leadership of the United States for the spreading of His recovery. – Matt. 24:14.
- H. **Amid present world situations, we need to bear the burden for the Lord's move.**
We need to be more aware of God's sovereign arrangement of the world situation, more concerned about the crucial time in which we live, and more burdened for God's move in the present world situation. – Matt. 6:33.

TO EXPERIENCE

Experience: We need to clearly understand that human history, world history, is external and that the divine history, God's history in and with men, is internal. The divine history is the divine mystery of the Triune God in men. Therefore, among all the happenings we should pray: "O, Sovereign Master! Look into the situations! Set free Your economy! Accomplish Your purpose!" However, in dealing with negative matters and evil persons, God usually doesn't do anything; He expects us to do the only one thing He taught us - *Waiting on Him!*

Burden: God is full of grace. He desires to bless us yet it is hard for Him to find proper vessels and channels. Therefore, we need to pray, not until God "wills" but until we are "proper" for Him to bless us. Our effort has no place at all. It is until we are broken and become proper that God will have a way to work on us. Meanwhile, we should have a clear view that, from Christ's ascension to His return, the world history can be summarized as the race of the four horses. We have seen the first horse is the propagation of the gospel. God's economy is for the propagation of the gospel to accomplish His eternal purpose. This propagation of the gospel originated from Christ's incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. Under God's wisdom, human history in the last 20 centuries has been moved in a way suitable for the propagation of the gospel. As a result, we need to be more alert to God's sovereign arrangement for the world events, care more about the critical period of time we are in, and be more burdened for God's ultimate move in this ultimate world situation.

MSG 2: God's Sovereignty, the Divine History within the Human History, and the World Situation and God's Move to Spread His Recovery

I. A proper understanding of the vision of God's

- TO KNOW**
- A. **God is sovereign:** Sovereignty refers to God's absolute and unlimited right, authority, power, and position.
 - B. **God is supreme.**
[1 Kings 22:19] ...Jehovah sitting upon His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by Him, on His right hand and on His left
 - C. **God has full capacity:** God has the full capacity to carry out what He desires.
[Acts 4:24] ...Sovereign Master, you are the one who has made heaven and earth and the sea and all things in them
- TO EXPERIENCE**
- D. **We need to accept and recognize this:** Like Jeremiah, we need to recognize God's eternal being and His eternal and unchanging government
 - E. **Which is the throne of God for His administration in the universe.**
[Lam. 5:19] You, O Jehovah, abide forever; / Your throne is from generation to generation.
 - F. **And to experience God's sovereignty:**
[Rom. 9:20] But rather, O man, who are you who answer back to God? Shall the thing molded say to him who molded it, Why did you make me thus?
[Rom. 9:21] Or does not the potter have authority over the clay to make out of the same lump one vessel unto honor and another unto dishonor?

II. Understanding the human history within the divine history

- TO KNOW**
- A. **There are two histories in the universe.**
The human history (like an outward shell)
The divine history (like the kernel within the shell)
 - B. **These two histories are closely connected.**
 - C. **These were revealed in the book of Joel.**
The human history is signified by the four kinds of locusts in Joel 1:4.
The divine history is signified by Christ and His mighty ones in 3:11.
 - D. **The Conclusion was detailed in the Book of Daniel and Revelation.**
[Dan. 2:35]...And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.
[Rev. 11:15]...The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.
- TO EXPERIENCE**
- E. **Understanding of the process of the divine history.**
Christ's incarnation
[John 1:14] ...the Word became flesh
His ascension to become the life-giving Spirit
[1 Cor. 15:45b] ...the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit
His indwelling us through God's organic salvation
[Rom. 5:10] ...much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled
Making us the bride of Christ.
[Rev. 19:7] ...the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
 - F. **Choosing to exercise living in the divine history:**
We were born in the human history but regenerated in the divine history.
If we are living in the church and in the mingled spirit, we are living in the divine history.
[1 Cor. 6:17] ...he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit
[Gal. 2:20] ...it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me....

III. World situations and God's move for the expansion of His recovery

- TO KNOW**
- A. **A Clear view of world situations** ← (Human history)
 - B. **Under God's sovereign arrangement**
[Acts 17:26] And He made from one every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, determining beforehand their appointed seasons and the boundaries of their dwelling
 - C. **To carry out His purpose**
 - D. **To match God's move on earth** ← (Divine history)
 - E. **We need to have this proper view above.**
[Eph. 3:11] According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord
- TO EXPERIENCE**
- F. **Understanding that God's move requires matching external situations:**
Whether we speak of God's becoming flesh through incarnation, or of the spreading of the gospel, or of the raising up of the church life, or of the preparation of the bride, all these aspects of God's move require the proper environment.
[Luke 2:1-5] ...a decree went out from Caesar Augustus for a census to be taken of all the inhabited earth ... Joseph also went up from Galilee out of the city of Nazareth into Judea, to David's city, which is called Bethlehem ... with Mary, who was engaged to him and was pregnant.
[Mica 5:2] But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, / ... / From you there will come forth to Me / He who is the be Ruler in Israel; / And His goings forth are from ancient times, / From the days of eternity.
 - G. **Now, He is controlling world situations for the spreading of His recovery.**
 - H. **Amid present world situations, we need to bear the burden for the Lord's move.**
[Matt. 6:33] But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you
[Matt. 24:14] And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole inhabited earth for a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.