

WCCC2011

For Thine is the Kingdom (1)

Christian Chen

Let us turn to the Gospel According to Matthew chapter 6:9 – 13.

*After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.*

*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*

*Give us this day our daily bread.*

*And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.*

*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

We know the theme of the conference this time is ‘For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen’. This is the so called Lord’s prayer. Actually the Lord is teaching us how to pray. He Himself does not pray this prayer, because there is a verse that says, ‘forgive us our debts as we have forgiven our debtors’. Luke also has a passage where the Lord teaches us how to pray. There it tells us what ‘debt’ means. Debt refers to sin. ‘Forgive us our sins as we also have forgiven other’s sins.’ He has no sins. He will not pray like this. Thus it is only our Lord teaching us how we should pray. Even though we call this passage the Lord’s prayer, yet this is the Lord teaching us how we should pray. In other words, it is our prayer. It is how the Lord teaches us to pray.

### For Thine is The Kingdom

At the very end of this prayer, the phrase ‘for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever’; if we are to look at the older manuscript, the earliest one of Matthew – called Alexandra the Great – does not have the phrase ‘for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever’. And if you look at the prayer in Luke, it also does not have this phrase. So many bible scholars said that phrase is not in the prayer. If you are to compare different versions of the bible, even the Darby version, this phrase is not in there. But in the New King James you will find this phrase. According to the oldest manuscript, this phrase is not found. But we know that in some of the main Greek manuscripts, this phrase is found. So we cannot immediately say whether this phrase is there or not.

But thank the Lord, this phrase ‘for Thine is the kingdom’ is found in the bible. If we have this phrase here, then it must have appeared somewhere else in the bible as well. This time my responsibility is ‘for Thine is the kingdom’. We know that there is this notion in the bible. So we need to read another

passage. I Chronicles 29:10 - 11 *'Wherefore David blessed the LORD before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed be thou, LORD God of Israel our father, forever and ever. Thine, O LORD is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.*

We know this is the prayer of David. If we are to compare these two passages; on the one hand, it was our Lord teaching us how to pray; on the other hand, it was David's prayer. In the prayer that the Lord taught, if you are to take away the phrase 'for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever, Amen' then the last sentence in the prayer is 'and do not lead us into temptations but deliver us from evil'. If the prayer was to end there, you feel the prayer is incomplete because it ends in a negative note; the temptations in the phrase 'do not lead us into temptations but deliver us from evil' come from the enemy. Evil also comes from the enemy. We know there is a voice in this world which said the kingdom is mine and is not His. The kingdom should be God's but one day the enemy said 'the kingdom is mine'. So when we fall into temptations, do we sing together with Satan and said the kingdom belongs to him? Even though we are weak and we fail; even though we fall, yet we need to admit that the kingdom is not Satan's. Jehovah still sits on the throne as King. We know that the kingdom belongs to the Father. So the Lord teaches us to pray, and if we are to follow His prayer, there is no difficulty at all.

Even if it is not in the original, this is a natural way to pray because in the very beginning it says 'may thy kingdom come'. We know the kingdom is to come. We know what it means for the kingdom to come; when the Lord's will is done on earth as it is in heaven; that is when the kingdom comes. And when we continue with the prayer, we know we will come into temptations. And when this happens, does that mean God is no longer the king? Many times if we really pray for Thy kingdom come, then very naturally we will be delivered from temptations. Very naturally we can overcome evil. So experientially this is very natural.

### David's Prayer

Let us we return to David's prayer; why did David have this prayer? We know that David, in his old age and right before He was about to pass the throne to his son, Solomon, he called the people together and talked about his own stories – those stories of his life that he would never forget. We know that David always had a heart to build a temple for God but God said you shed too much blood because you were a warrior. So God told David he could not build a temple in God's name.

You know there were two things in David's life; one thing was that he sinned. He refused to confess his sins. So Nathan came before David and told him a parable as if he was talking about somebody else. After David heard the story, he was very angry; he thought that this person in the story should not be forgiven. And Nathan said you are that person. This was something David would never forget. The

other thing was that God said you are not that person. He wanted to build the temple and he indeed did prepare himself to build the temple. He indeed was the man after God's own heart. He heard through Nathan that you are that person. He learned a lesson. Also in his life, he not only committed adultery but he also did the census. He obviously fell into temptations. This time God said, you are not that person. David wanted to serve God all his life and his desire to serve was very strong. Now he had conquered Jerusalem and he had gained many victories in the surrounding areas. If there was someone who was to build the temple, if there was someone who not only had the heart to serve but also had the power to serve, David felt he had to be that person. But God said you are not that person.

Under these circumstances, in the matter of service, man may easily fall into temptations. Very naturally you feel that if God does not want you to serve Him, you can start to get cold. You will still go to the meeting; you will still serve, but your heart zeal and fervor will not be as strong as before. And because of service, David faced this incidence; it was not somebody else who said you are not that person; it was God who said you are not that person. God had to choose another person. You can imagine David's feeling.

But thank the Lord, David learned a lesson. It was true that David was the king. David's kingdom can be seen in history. It was the golden age during the time of David and Solomon. And David was a man after God's own heart; David wrote many songs. David lived before God. David truly strived to please God in his heart. He felt that he could not live under a roof. He had wanted to build a temple for God so God has a place to rest. He had good intentions and he had a heart to serve God. But God said he was not that person. Thank the Lord, you see David did not step back; David did not grow cold when God said no. Instead, David had a prayer from the prayer; we could feel David's spirit. Now as time gradually passed, he remembered God told him that God would first establish David's household. And then in his household, there would be one called Solomon and he would be the one to build the temple.

Anyone who wants to build the temple of God first has to let God build up his household. David knew that only by God's grace and by God's work in his life, that one day someone in his household would be able to build the temple. That person was not himself. He was not that important. Indeed, he did build up the nation; he did bring the nation into the golden era. He was very important but in the matter of building the temple, God could use him and God could put him aside. As long as God could build up his house, David was satisfied. When David heard God said no, he was still very fervent for God's temple. In his old age, David gave up all his savings to build God's temple. This savings were of a king's savings. This savings was like the treasury of a nation. Now for God's sake and to build God's temple, David was to give his all even though God said you are not that person. Even though the glory was credited to another; this temple eventually ended up being called Solomon's temple; as long as David knew it was God's temple, it did not matter to him who built it; he still gave his all. Because David gave

up his all, he could also encourage all the people to give their all; and all the people did give all they had. The people rejoiced and David rejoiced. At that time, David had this prayer before the people. And when he prayed, what he had given as well as what all the people had given were before the Lord. His offerings prove that he had learned a lesson before God. He knew he was not that important before God. As long as one day all the people could help his son, since his son was still young, and as long as the temple could be built he would rejoice and his heart was satisfied.

### The Kingdom That David Knew

At that time, David had a prayer and you know then that David was one who knew God. David knew his kingdom not his kingdom, even though by grace, David was on the throne. He knew very well that every time he prostrated before God; when he bowed before God, God made all men bowed at his feet. He knew that very well in all his experiences. And now he had this prayer. This prayer represented what he knew. I Chronicles 29: 11 says *'Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom and thou art exalted as head above all'*. How do we explain 'Thine is the kingdom'? David said 'Thou do exalt Thyself as head over all'. This was the knowledge of David. David understood what it meant by 'Thine is the kingdom' from all the experiences throughout his life. Because 'Thine is the kingdom', David was nothing. Because 'Thine is the kingdom' God can use anyone to build His temple. In spite of this, he did not step back; he did not grow cold. If God's servant is not careful, he can easily fall into the enemy's trap. The reason there are so many difficulties in the church is because the servants of God are deceived by Satan. If you do not welcome me, someone will welcome me. Brother and sister, only when you can see the kingdom is Thine, then God can use someone else to accomplish His will and David would still rejoice. And because he rejoiced, he had this prayer; and he could say 'all things in heaven and on earth are thine, kingdom is thine, the universe is thine; thine is the kingdom and Thou do exalt Thyself as head over all'.

What does it mean every time we pray 'Thine is the kingdom'? It means not only that you know the kingdom; not only that you know in head knowledge but the kingdom can be practically experienced. The kingdom is so real that you can practically experience how that kingdom is. Many times we can objectively talk about the kingdom, but experientially it is very limited. Even though the truth of the kingdom is great; even though the kingdom is from eternity to eternity, yet in our short span of life, sooner or later, one day, we will know that Thine is the kingdom.

### Kingdom

There is one very interesting thing when you read about the kingdom in the bible. If you were to read carefully what the bible said about the kingdom, the word kingdom in the Old Testament is used eighteen times. I am talking about the spiritual kingdom; the kingdom that has to do with God. The first time the bible mentioned about the kingdom, it was about the kingdom of Nimrod. The kingdom of the world began from him. The kingdom of the world is to become the kingdom of our Lord and our Lord Christ. If we are to ask when the kingdom of the world began, it will be very clear if we read Genesis chapter 10; it is the first time the bible used the word kingdom; but we are not talking about that kind of kingdom. In the bible, the phrase 'the kingdom of God' was used eighteen times in the Old Testament; and fifteen times in the New Testament. But in the New Testament, from our Lord's mouth, He not only talked about the kingdom of God; but He also spoke of the kingdom of heaven. The kingdom of God was used seventy-two times in the New Testament. Kingdom of heaven was mentioned thirty-three times and all of these were referenced in the book of Matthew. In the New Testament, the kingdom of the Son was used twenty-three times. The Father's kingdom was used four times. So total is one hundred and sixty-five times.

When you read the Old Testament, especially when you listen to David's prayer, 'Thine is the kingdom', we obviously know the kingdom is from eternity to eternity. He is the king of the universe, so the bible has a phrase 'King of all the earth'. Not only that, sometimes He is referred to as King of all nations; this is found in Jeremiah, chapter 10. One time the bible mentioned He is the king of all the people on the earth. The New Testament said He is the great King; Jerusalem is the city of the great King. In Revelation 15, you find a very interesting phrase and that is He is the King of all ages. Spatially, He is the King of all nations; time wise He is the King of all ages. I Timothy also tells us He is the King eternal, immortal and invisible; the only wise God. Not only that, Timothy also tells us, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and the Lord of lords. No question about it, throughout the bible we see that He is King of all nations.

The kingdom is from eternity to eternity. The reality of the kingdom of God begins with the eternity past until the eternity future. But why is it in the New Testament, from the Lord's mouth, He mentioned the kingdom of God and kingdom of heaven? If we understand the stories of the Old Testament, we know the reality of the kingdom of God is that our God is not only in heaven, but one day He became flesh; and heaven came down to earth. When our Lord Who is in heaven became flesh, He is to establish His kingdom among the enemy, because even today, the earth and the outer space have fallen into the hands of the enemy. So the bible tells us that the earth lies in the hands of the enemy and that the ruler of the world blinded us. When Jesus was tempted, Satan told Him, if You worship me, I will give You all of these – the kingdom of the world and their glory.

So we know, when the entire world was lost, our Lord was born in Bethlehem 2000 years ago and became flesh. So you see heaven not only has the authority of the heavens, but now the heaven came to earth. Our Lord brought heaven with him to wherever He went. Thus John the Baptist said, heaven is at hand, you need to repent; the King of heaven is here, so you need to repent. Our Lord also said the kingdom of heaven is at hand, you need to repent. The kingdom of heaven not only has a king, but it also needs to have people. Now our Lord came to prepare the people. So He said the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Then He told the people of the world, the kingdom of God was already among you. Our Lord was already there among them.

Brother and sister, only when our Lord came to earth, became flesh; nailed to the cross; then rose from the dead; ascended into heaven; and God made him Lord of lords; the kingdom of heaven was officially inaugurated. We know in reality on the day of Pentecost on one hand, the church was born; on the other hand, Peter took the keys and opened up heaven. When Peter preached that day, three thousand people opened their hearts. Consequently, they entered into the kingdom of heaven. Because of some stories (which we will mention in a little while) in the Old Testament, we know the arrival of the kingdom began when our Lord became flesh. And when our Lord returns, at the end of the millennium, He will give the kingdom to the heavenly Father. So we see that the kingdom of God is from eternity to eternity.

### The Created Man

So brother and sister, for this reason, if we are to understand the meaning of Thine is the kingdom, we have to return back to the Old Testament. When we return to the Old Testament, there was a person who could tell us what happened in the Old Testament. Of course the book of Genesis begins with creation. Genesis 1:1 tells us 'In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth'; and then verse 26 tells us 'And God said, let us make man in our image after our likeness'. However, verse 2 says, 'and the whole earth became void and formless'. The fact that the earth became void and formless proves that something happened. And what happened?

I think the one who could explain Genesis chapter 1 the best was David. Let us turn to Psalm 8:1 '*O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth, who has set thy glory above the heavens*'. This explains Genesis 1:1. In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. Thus how majestic is thy name in all the earth; and He displays the splendor above the earth. Then we skip to verse 4, '*what is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visit him? For thou has made him a little lower than the angels, and has crowned him with glory and honor. Thou made him to have dominion over the works of thy hands: thou has put all things under his feet: All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; the fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passes through the paths*

*of the sea*'. And this portion speaks of how God created man. God said let there be light, and there is light. Just one sentence and it is done. When God created man, it was as if there was a counsel among the Godhead and then the blueprint was opened and God said let us make man in our image after our likeness. Once man was created, he was entrusted with a mission; he was to rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the beasts of the field and every living thing that moves on the earth. The fish of the sea and the bird of the sky were created on the fifth day; the beasts of the earth, the cattle and every living thing that moves on the earth was day six. These represented the handiwork of God.

But God did not rule over them Himself. God is the King of the universe. Even though He could rule over them Himself, yet God did not. God gave the authority to rule over them to man. Thus man accepted a mission and now naturally he has to take up the responsibility. Every man is one who serves God. So we clearly see that with regards to life, according to that blueprint, we are created according to His image. With regards to service, the Lord has entrusted a mission to man.

If we turn back to Psalm 8:4, he said '*What is man that thou are mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visits him? For thou has made him a little lower than the angels, and has crowned him with glory and honor*'. When God gives man the wisdom, it becomes our mind. God is love and when He gives us a little love when He created us, our emotion becomes like His. Our will is like His will. So when we are created, our soul was created according to His image. But more importantly, when He breathed a breath into Adam's nostril, because God is a spirit, He created a spirit within Adam. When the spirit and the body met, Adam became a living soul with a spirit. How do you explain this? David told us God crowned him with glory and majesty. God first created man in His own image and when man is like God, then man would be a manifestation of God wherever he goes. That is man's glory. That is man's majesty. He crowned him with glory and majesty. And God made him to rule over the works of His hand.

God did not rule over what He created. But He made Adam to rule over the works of His hand. He put all things under his feet. According to Genesis, God blessed Adam and told him to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth; then Adam was to rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky and every living thing on earth. One of the reasons that man can represent God's authority is that he was to be fruitful and to multiply over the earth. When life fills the entire earth, then it can subdue the earth. And when the earth is subdued, the lost territories would be recovered. So if we read very carefully, Genesis is very clear on this. So how do you subdue this earth? David used these words as 'thou have put all things under his feet'. So here we need to go back to Psalm 8:2.

From Genesis 1:1 – 26 and beyond, we have to ask one question. Why did God do this? It has to do with the story in between from verses 1 to 26 in Genesis. According to Psalm 8, it told us what happened in between these verses. Psalm 8:2 says, '*Out of the mouth of babes, and sucklings has thou ordained*

*strength because of thine enemies, that thou might still the enemy and the avenger*'. Many people still argue whether the world became formless and void or was the world already formless and void. Psalm 8 clearly tells us that the earth became formless and void. Here we see the adversaries and the revengeful. And how did the Lord deal with the adversaries and the revengeful? The Lord did one thing; He would establish His power 'from the mouth of infants and sucklings'; and then He would use the infants and the nursing babes to deal with the enemy. Then it says, 'what is man that you are mindful of him?' and 'has crowned him with glory and honor'. Now we know why He has put all things under his feet. Brother and sister, Psalm 8 cannot be clearer. David could say Thine is the kingdom because he understood what kingdom is. He understood from Genesis chapter 1 that God has to prepare a kingdom.

### The Kingdom Prepared for Man From the Foundation of the World

You may ask where in the bible can you find proof that God says He has prepared a kingdom. Let us turn to Matthew 25: 34. Here it talks about how all the people and all the nations will be judged when He comes back. He will separate the sheep from the goats. Let's not look at the specifics. But just look at one phrase *'then shall the King will say to them on His right, Come you blessed of my Father, and inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world'*. So here we see it speaks of a kingdom that God prepared from the foundation of the world and this kingdom is prepared for man. He says to the sheep, now you can inherit the kingdom. If you read the entire bible, which kingdom does this kingdom refer to? According to Psalm 8, if everything was to be at the feet of Adam, if he is to rule all God's creation, the birds of the sky, the fish of the sea and the cattle and the beasts etc, etc; it would be just like what Brother John Song said when he spoke of Genesis with regards as to the purpose that God created man. He said man can then be chief commander of navy, army and the air force. If we rule over the fish of the seas, then it is the navy; the birds of the sky is the air force and the crawling things on earth is the army. So very clearly, if all things were under Adam, then God wanted Adam to be the king of the kingdom. When Adam was under subjection at the feet of God, then all things are under subjection at his feet. There is only one authority in this world; only God is the authority. Outside of God, there is no other authority. No one can be authority; only when you are under God's authority, then God will put all creation under your feet.

Brother and sister, interestingly, for the one seated on the throne of David; for the one who saw that 'Thine is the kingdom', now God opened his eyes and let him see the entire chapter 1 of Genesis opened up before him. Now he understood. So why did God create man? There is a reason and where is that reason found in the bible? It is in Psalm 8:2 and also in Genesis 1:2 – 26. These verses tell us there was once a tragedy in the universe. Originally, Satan was the archangel but then Satan the archangel rebelled and a third of the angels rebelled with him. God cast them down to earth from the Eden in the heaven and

then the outer space and all creation rebelled as well. Thus the earth became formless and void and the Spirit of God hovered over the earth. This is what we read in Genesis 1:2 and now we understand.

### The Origin of Satan

Then there is a question that we often ask, why did God create Satan? God did not create Satan. God created an angel but then later the angel rebelled. All the angels should say Thine is the kingdom. But one day the archangel became proud. He could not say Thine is the kingdom; He wanted to be equal with God and the tragedy happened. Brother and sister, today we all know how the kingdom of darkness is and the turmoil that Satan caused. So much suffering comes from Satan and so much tragedy comes from him.

Now we have another question, if Satan brings us so much harm, why does God not just squish him? If God would just squish Satan, there will be no more problems. We often help God solve problems. So you remember when Jesus asked the disciples when He saw the five thousand what they could do? The disciples always had a good solution for our Lord. Just disperse them; the problem would be solved if you just disperse them. So if God just squishes Satan, the world will have no problem. But there is this question. Can God squish Satan? Of course He can, God is the creator; Satan is the created being. It is not difficult at all if the creator were to use His creation power to destroy the created. So the enemy knows His power. Angels also know His power. When we talk about His kingdom, everything is His. He can give and He can take away. I created you and I can destroy you. God is a God of all ages. He is the Lord of all nations. He is the King of the entire earth. He is the King of the universe.

### God's Wisdom

If God is to show forth all His power, will that be difficult? It will not be difficult at all. But here is the problem. The enemy would say You are the creator and I am the created; it is not difficult for You to destroy me. That is why when Saddam Hussein of Iraq got defeated, he celebrated it as his victory. So to celebrate, he built roof of the Muslim temple in the form of a missile. He felt that when the United States fought with Iraq, it was like an adult beating up a small child. As long as the small child was still standing up, it was a victory. Moreover the elder Bush at that time lost the re-election; so Saddam Hussein thought he himself won the war. When the young Bush became president, it was time for revenge. Why would Saddam feel so proud? Why did Saddam become a hero? It was because if an adult beats on a child, the child should lose.

So brother and sister, do you see? Of course God can squish Satan. The creator can squish the created. But this only shows forth his strength. God not only wants to show His power but He also wants to show His wisdom. So He told Nebuchadnezzar when he became crazy and lost all his reasoning, 'Until the

time you recognize that heaven rules, then the kingdom will be returned to you.’ And how did God explain this to Nebuchadnezzar? It was that God wanted Nebuchadnezzar to know something. God’s kingdom is not only about power; God is King not just because He has power. Today many kings are also powerful. There was a person in history called Mateo Ricci. He was a Jesuit, and he was sent to china. He tried different ways to go see the emperor, and finally one day the emperor told him he wanted to see him. Ricci was very happy. Even though he was a foreigner, yet in China when you went in to see the emperor, you had to kneel down before the emperor. How would you know you were in front of the emperor of China? How did you know this kingdom was China? Once you got into the palace, someone would call out bow down and everyone had to kneel down. You have to kneel down three times and you have to lower your head to the ground nine times. But when Ricci was almost at the front, he noticed that the throne was empty. He wrote in his diary, I am so stupid, I am so dumb. I thought there was a person sitting on the throne and I could kneel down three times and bow nine times without problems. This kingdom was very powerful but God’s kingdom is not like this one.

In ‘Thine is the kingdom’, not only does this kingdom manifest His power, but also His wisdom. How does God show forth His wisdom? When He created man, He made man a little lower than the angels. The creator is much greater than the created. God is so much greater than Satan; there is no way to compare. But now God created man a little lower than the angels. Angels are created and so are men. Man was not created higher than the angels but a little lower. Angels are also created; no matter they are good or bad angels, man was created a little lower than they are. God’s purpose is to use a created being to deal with that created being. If he is able to overcome the enemy, then the victory is a complete victory. That is God’s wisdom. God did not deal with the enemy himself.

#### How Can Man Overcome Satan

God created man and made him a little lower than the angels. Now we ask, if it is lower, how can there be victory? How can he deal with the enemy? So in the garden of Eden, there were two trees. God wanted man to choose between these two trees. If he chose the tree of life, man would turn back as if he was a child. If he ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he would become an independent adult. He would then be completely independent of God. He would have the knowledge of good and evil but he would be completely independent of God. Do you understand, with regards to creation, man was created a little lower than the angels? But if man is to defeat the enemy, he needs to accept the fruits of the tree of life. Because in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, the Word is God. The Word became flesh, life was in Him. So the life in the tree of life symbolizes the life of Christ. If man accepted that life, that life is a life of dependence; that life is a life of obedience. Brother and sister,

this life is like the life of the babes and the nursing infants. This life will create in man a power, and this power will shut the mouth of the adversaries and the revengeful.

Brother and sister, here we see infants and the nursing babes. Do you know when man is first born is very different from when an animal is first born? When a baby is born, his IQ is zero, but when a calf is born, it is not. When the calf is born, it can stand up the first day and it can nurse from the mother's milk. Have you ever seen a baby the first day he was born, he can stand up and said Hi to his mom? The mom would have fainted. A baby shark is born with its mouth full of teeth and the mother shark will send the baby shark into the sea by itself the first day it is born. Because it already has all its teeth, the mother shark does not worry about him. But have you ever seen a newborn with a mouth full of teeth? No. So you see this life is a life of dependence. So a newborn has to cry when he first born. Any new born has to be spanked first so he can cry.

How does a newborn Christian live? Every time we pray, it is our cry. Crying is saying we are not capable. That is how Christians grow up. Do not forget this is the principle of the tree of life. So any time we take of the fruit of the tree of life, we turn back as if we are a child. And Jesus said then we can enter into the kingdom. Why is that? Because then we can overcome the enemy; we can deal with the enemy; and the enemy and those revengeful can shut their mouth. Brother and sister, do you see, because of this reason God will put all things under Adam's feet. Because the life that he accepted should be the life of the tree of life. That life is a life of dependence and of submission. When our Lord came to this earth, this was His kind of life. He said 'apart from the Father, I can do nothing. However the father does, that I do. For whatever the Father does these things the Son also does in like manners. My teaching is not my teaching. It is the teaching of my father'. Brother and sister, here was a life of dependence. He said, Abba Father, not My will but Your will be done. It is only this kind of life, even though a little lower than angels on the outside, but because of the submission, brings shame to the enemy.

The enemy even though he left God, yet he still lives; he left God and yet he still have riches, and he has the glory of the entire kingdom. So we need to remember that now we clearly see, the original purpose of God is to prepare a kingdom for man. This kingdom is where all creation would be subjected under his feet. And when all the creations are under his feet, this life is to grow; not only grows upward but also horizontally. You see God said to man 'be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth'. And when this life filled the earth, no matter where you go, you will subdue the earth and Satan will be put to shame. And then eventually the entire earth will be recovered.

### The Eternal Will of God

So brother and sister do not forget that even though on the surface, it is as if all creations are put under Adam's feet, but in fact, it is Adam, bringing all the creations under the feet of God. And when this

happens, is not God the head of all things? Is not 'Thine is the kingdom'? So it is very clear, even though, originally God established such a kingdom for Adam, yet it is the kingdom of God. The kingdom of Adam in reality is to recover all lost territories through him. Is there a basis of all these in the New Testament? Of course there is, so now let us turn to Ephesians 3:10 *'To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in the heavenly places might be known by the church, the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord'*.

What is the church? The church is the human race which has been redeemed. The human race fell and now they are redeemed. And when they received Jesus Christ, the cross not only represented salvation; the cross not only says Jesus is our savior; but because Peter told us Jesus was nailed to the tree, and John told us that it was in a garden that Jesus was hung, that tree to us is the tree of life. When we accept Jesus Christ into us, on one hand we accept Jesus Christ as our savior; on the hand we receive the life of Christ into us. So we turn back as infants and we are built up. And the Holy Spirit built a power in us. When we depend on God and completely submit under God; you can deal with the enemy with this power in you and when you overcome the enemy. The bible tells us *'To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God'*. They are very amazed and they are speechless. Not only did they see the power of God but now they see the manifold wisdom of God. So this is in accordance with the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus.

Psalm 8 shows us the eternal purpose of God. What He could not obtain from Adam, God now completely gets it in Christ and the church. So brother and sister, you see when the church stands on the side of God and shut the mouth of the enemy, then God gained all the glory; and the church is blessed and the shame goes to the enemy. Brother and sister, now we know that God's purpose of creating man is to prepare a kingdom for them. So when we truly subject ourselves under God, He causes all creations to be under man and then Adam brought all creations unto God. Then we can say 'Thine is the kingdom'; and all those that were lost are now recovered. But do not forget, what is the life that fills the earth? What is the life that can subdue the earth? Even though man is a little lower than the angel, but thank God, when man can overcome the enemy, then God gained all the glory.

#### All Things Under God's Feet

Yes, God has the power and all things were created by Him; all the galaxies and all the planets; there is not one thing that does not listen to Him. Scientists can prove that. All creations are under His feet and they listen to Him. Do you know the background of the story of the GPS that we now use every day when we drive? It shows all creations listen to God. At the very beginning Newton gave us some hints of how it was and according to his calculations, there would not be any GPS today. Why is GPS so

accurate today? Because there was a person named Einstein. If you did not have Einstein, you would not have GPS today. But it is not Einstein that was great, but it is the universe that Einstein discovered that is great. And because God rules the universe, all creations listen to Him.

Even though today Satan rebelled against Him, yet we know one thing: the stars, the planet and the skies are all created by God. Before God created man, God also created angels, and all of heaven is full of praise. Before He created man, the bible tells us all the stars are singing; it is just like the worship and praise in Revelation chapter 4. It proves all the kingdoms are Thine; all creations are under His feet. The scientists can prove that. But the problem is here, if all the creations do not have their own will, then God can use them as chess pieces and move them here or there. You can close the door at home and you can be the emperor. You can say I want to put my sofa here; I want to put my computer here; my TV is going there. I am the king. Brother and sister, it is true that God is the King of the universe but this only manifests His power. God is indeed great and as King, God not only wants to show His power, but He also wants to show man His wisdom; His manifold wisdom. Today, the angels and the universe can learn many lessons from this wisdom.

God not only wants man to obey; God wants man to admire. To obey is one thing, to admire is another. Obedience has to do with power. Many times the obedience is like the way a slave submitted to the master. Today you need to obey your parents because their power is great. They do not give you money and you cannot live. So you need to obey them. Your obedience is like that of a servant. You feel you are like a chess piece to your parents and they can put you here or there. So many people when they were young they wanted to run away. When Ezra was young, he wanted to run away. We asked him why do you not leave and he said I do not know how to cross the street. Do you understand? Yes, there is this authority. Is your obedience to God like that of a slave? So many times when the wife obeys the husband, the obedience is like that of a slave. We are like that because we do not know the kingdom of God. If we know how God is, then we know He not only wants man to obey but He wants man to admire. If it was just a chess piece, He can easily rule over them. But He wants greater glory, and for this reason, He created man. And when He created man, man can say yes and man can say no. He was created a little lower than the angels. If he accepts the fruit of the tree of life, he can respond to the heavenly father a yes. He obeys out of his heart willingly and he is not forced to obey. You can then see the great comfort that the father has. When a child is young, he feels his father has power, but when the child gradually grows up, he feels that the father is losing his strength. Before when he was disobedient, the father grabbed his ear. But today, he can grab his father's ear because he is stronger than the father. But brother and sister, today you can see the child still obeys; and he obeys out of admiration. In the life of the father, even though the child sees the father growing old, yet he knows the father has wisdom and if he listens to his father, he can gain much wisdom. You are free now; and you can choose freely on your

own and you have your own family. But let us remember when the child gradually grows up and the father's strength grows weak, and the father cannot take care of the child, yet if the father has true authority, not only does the child see in him the power but also the wisdom.

Brother and sister, this is the manifold wisdom of God. We know the creation of God. When He created man, He created man in His image. In the whole universe, God is the only One Who has a free will.

Why does God create man in His image? If God does not give man free will then everything will be very simple. He only needs to put the cherubim with the fiery flame surrounding the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and no one will fall. So brother and sister, you see God took a big risk. But He has wisdom; He has power. When Adam brought all creations under his feet, Adam could say no; Adam could follow Satan; but he would rather leave the world behind him and he said yes to the heavenly father. And when he obeyed God this way, God put all creations under his feet. Adam would then bring all and come before God's feet; and recovered all the territories that were lost because of Satan's rebellion.

Thank God; this is the Psalm of David. This is the one who once said thine is the kingdom. He knew what kingdom is.

#### Man Rebelled Against God and Became Independent

But sadly we also know Adam failed. He was supposed to follow God. But he ate of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil and he became a big man. He became so big that he could be independent of God and he still could live. You see, the descendants of Cain began to have music, art, weapons, and shepherding. All human civilization started from there. Why was that? It was because man became smart, intelligent and big, and they did not need to depend on God anymore. And when they grow up, they move to another apartment; because they are independent. All the children in the east coast want to come to the west coast to study when they grow up. And all the children from the west coast want to go to the east. It is a very obvious thing; they do not need the parents because they are grown up now.

Before, they listened to the advice of the parents because the parents have money, and they do not have money. But now they have money and they do not need the parents and your parents have to depend on them. Ever since man fell, there are independent people everywhere. Brother and sister, you can be independent; you can be free. But what does freedom really mean? Freedom means you are free to choose not to sin. I want to ask you all young people who moved out of their home; did you really gain the freedom? No, you have not gained the freedom. On the contrary, you actually are bound by sin; you become slave to sin. This is what the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil brings to man.

But thank our Lord, if we accept that life, the life of the tree of life; if we depend on him; if we obey him; when we come before the Lord's feet, then we bring all creations under His feet. We do not have authority. But we submit to His authority and admit that 'Thine is the kingdom'. Brother and sister, now

you see, not only do you offer up, but all the people offer up. Do you know what the problem of the church is today? We want all the people to consecrate. But how do you lead all these people to consecrate? You have to bring yourself and put yourself on the altar. Thank the Lord. When David did not accept the temptation; when he did not get cold; when he did not take a step back and followed the flesh but prostrated before God's feet, then it is 'Thine is the kingdom'. Brother and sister, not only did he himself consecrate but he led the whole nation to consecrate. When all the money and the people of the nation were before God's feet, then David had a prayer, thine is the kingdom. Brother and sister, here was a person who not only knew in his head what the kingdom of God is. In the Old Testament, there is not even the phrase 'the kingdom of God'. But thank our Lord, you see on one hand David understood from God's words what the kingdom is. On the other hand, through his experience, even though it was in the Old Testament, he already experienced what was meant by 'Thine is the kingdom'. In the Old Testament, there was only one throne called the throne of David. Solomon did not have his own throne; Solomon sat on David's throne. Brother and sister, this was the lesson that David learned. It was because David let God be the King that he could sit on the throne. That was why He could say 'Thine is the kingdom'. May God be gracious to us.

Let us pray.

*Lord, we want to commit these words into Your hands. If You find them good, please use them. Especially for the young people; for those who come to this conference the first time, do explain all these words in a simple way to them. Open our eyes. Be gracious to us in this conference. We thank Thee and pray in Jesus' victorious name. Amen.*