

**Outline of  
the Messages for the Full-time Training  
in the Spring Term of 2003**

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**GENERAL SUBJECT:  
THE DIVINE ECONOMY IN THE BOOK OF ISAIAH**

Message Ten

**The Vision of the Economy of God Hidden in Isaiah's Prophecy**

Scripture Reading: Isa. 22:19-25; Rom. 6:6; 11:17; John 15:5; Gal. 2:20; Col. 2:16-17

- I. Isaiah 13—23 covers the judgment of Jehovah upon the nations, including Jerusalem, and its issue, revealing that in the entire universe everyone and everything in God's house and outside of God's house should be "fired" and replaced with Christ as Immanuel:**
- A. All of God's chastising and judging is a firing; in His judgment God discharged, or "fired," everyone and everything, including the kings of the nations, Shebna the steward, and the vessels in God's house, and replaced them all with Christ.
  - B. The nations are used by God's enemy to disturb God's chosen people and to frustrate God from carrying out His economy; thus, God is compelled to judge them, and all His judgments issue in the ushering in of Christ:
    - 1. In the midst of war, famine, and death, man's need is the good news, which is Christ Himself as the jubilee of grace—Rev. 6:1-8; Luke 4:18-19.
    - 2. The only way to solve the problems in today's world is for Christ to come; all things are working together to bring our thought, our concept, and our understanding concerning human life and the human race to a deep aspiration for Christ to return—2 Thes. 2:7-8; 1 Tim. 3:16; Rev. 22:17, 20-21; 1 Cor. 16:22.
    - 3. Isaiah reveals the issue of Jehovah's judgment upon the nations:
      - a. Jehovah's judgment unveils Satan's kingdom of darkness behind the nations and his oneness with the powers of the nations—Isa. 14:4, 12-15; Eph. 6:12b; cf. Dan. 10:13, 20.
      - b. Jehovah's judgment upon the nations shows His sovereign and just rule over the nations—Isa. 13:17; 14:22, 24-25; 19:1; Rev. 1:5.
      - c. Jehovah's judgment upon the nations issues in the restoring and establishing of His beloved Israel—Isa. 14:1-3, 32b; 16:1-4; 17:7, 10; 18:1, 7; 19:19-25.
      - d. The ultimate issue of Jehovah's judgment upon the nations is to provide the all-inclusive Christ as the Savior to meet the need of the beloved Israel and the judged nations—16:5; 19:20b; 22:20-25.
  - C. God fired Shebna, a steward in the house of the king (22:15-19), and replaced him with Eliakim, a type of Christ (vv. 20-24; Rev. 3:7); God also fired all the vessels within His house to replace them with Christ (Isa. 22:25):
    - 1. God discharged everyone on the cross, and He is replacing everyone with Christ:
      - a. When God created us, He hired us, and when He put us on the cross, crucifying us with Christ, He fired us—Gal. 2:20.

- b. Whatever or whoever is not Christ God fires; God has replaced everything in His Old Testament economy with Christ—Mark 1:1-8; Matt. 17:3-5; Col. 2:16-17; Heb. 10:5-10; 11:5-6.
  - c. The real church life is a life in which all the saints are fired and replaced with Christ, making Christ everything in the church—Col. 3:10-11.
2. In the New Testament, Christ's replacing us is altogether a matter of a grafted life—Rom. 11:17:
- a. We are united with Christ, and in this union Christ replaces us; replacing demands union, whereas exchanging annuls union with Christ—John 15:4-5.
  - b. Because Christ joined Himself to us, uniting Himself with us, when He died on the cross, we died with Him and were terminated—Rom. 6:6.
  - c. Now in our organic union with Christ, He replaces us by living in us, with us, by us, and through us—Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:19-21a.
  - d. We live, yet not we, but Christ lives in us, and we live by the faith of the Son of God; this indicates a union with Christ—Gal. 2:20.

## **II. There is a struggle between man and God concerning replacement:**

- A. Satan was the first one to attempt to replace God, to expel God, and to take God's place in attempting to dethrone God—Ezek. 28:15-18; 1 John 3:4:
  - 1. In his arrogance Satan declared five times, "I will," indicating that his intention in his rebellion was to overthrow God's authority and to exalt himself to be equal with God—Isa. 14:12-14.
  - 2. Satan's ambition for position became the motivation of all the rebellions recorded in the Scriptures—cf. Gen. 11:4; Num. 12:1-2; 16:1-10; 2 Sam. 15:10-12.
- B. Now Satan is behind man, trying to do away with God and expel God; even when man wants to do something for God, he does it by putting God aside—Matt. 4:1-11; 16:22-24; 1 Cor. 3:12-15; Num. 18:1.
- C. Because of man's reaction, God, who had hired everyone, eventually fired everyone that He might replace everyone with Christ for Christ to become everything.
- D. On the one hand, we are fired, and on the other hand, we are not expelled; for Christ comes to live in us, with us, by us, and through us.
- E. Thus, the all-inclusive Christ as Immanuel (Isa. 7:14) replaces everything and becomes everything in God's economy (Col. 3:10-11).