

# The immutable word proceeding into the void

*Notes prepared by Jonathon Wills for state-wide communion ministry Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2023*

From the beginning the Lord has been declaring the word of His everlasting covenant and bringing it to pass in the void. Gen 1:2. Isaiah chapters 40 through to 48 establish this point. To paraphrase from Isaiah, the Lord is saying, 'I am the Lord God and there is no other. I am the First and the Last and the Maker of all things. I the Lord formed the earth and created man on it. With My hands, I stretched out the heavens and commanded all their host. I declare the end from the beginning and from ancient times things that are not yet done. My counsel shall stand and I will do all My pleasure. Indeed I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it. The Lord is My name; and My glory I will not give to another nor My praise to idols. I am your Redeemer; I am your Saviour.' The key message is '**hear the word of the Lord**'. The alternative to hearing the word of the Lord is idolatry.

The word of the Lord has been proceeding in righteousness since the beginning. To show the immutability of the counsel of His will, the word does not return without accomplishing the purpose for which it was sent. Every word of God is pure, immutable, unstoppable, and stands forever. Isa 40:8, 1Pe 1:25. The word is '*a sword bathed in heaven*' that polarises, separates and gives to each person according to their works. Isa 34:5. Whether they be the works of faith (patient endurance in the principle of the seed) reaping eternal life or the works of disobedient self-seeking (which is idolatry), reaping wrath and judgment. Rom 2:5-8.

## **Making room for new creation**

Before the creation of the heavens and the earth, there was only the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. There was nothing else. It wasn't Yahweh in the middle of nothing. Yahweh was all there was. They were fully satisfied in Their fellowship. There was no emptiness and no room for any other expression. Motivated by love alone, They made covenant together saying, '**Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness**'. Gen 1:26. This word marked the beginning of the Everlasting Covenant – the initiative to create and bring to glory a great multitude of sons who are born of Their life and are participants in Their fellowship. Their love and pure giving was expressed in this initiative. **The tree of life would be mankind's connection and provision**. And every person would be given the dignity to choose their predestined sonship (prepared in Christ).

The void was established by offering and for offering. The offerings of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit firstly established the void (Gen 1:2) and as They continued to offer, established the beginning of creation and then everything that would take place within the creation. The word, through the order of headship, proceeds into the void multiplying the grace of life so that the resurrection life of Christ is ours to live each day. **By offering, the word** of the everlasting covenant proceeds into the void, calling into existence and giving form to the things that have not yet been seen. This principle is clearly seen in the establishment of each new day.

## **The word is finished and proceeding**

The key point to note with regards to the word of the Lord is that it is both finished and proceeding. While the whole counsel of God was finished when They spoke it, that same word is now proceeding within time so that what is finished in God is revealed in us (and the void is filled with the righteousness of God). We note that the creation was finished over the course of seven days by the proceeding word of the Lord. It didn't all happen at once. The word proceeded into the void, beginning as light, and then progressively revealed the perfect will of God by giving

form and purpose to all things. Each thing was given a time and a season and a place. While the creation was finished in the beginning, the word of the Lord continues to proceed as the light of life into the void, giving form to each new day.

We see this principle of the progressive revelation and fulfilment of the immutable and finished word of God in Deuteronomy 29:29. 'The secret things (hidden, concealed) belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed (proceeding from the mouth of God) belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.' (walk in the obedience of faith)

This is illustrated in the statement 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.' Gen 1:26. While this statement encapsulates the entire counsel of God and marked the beginning of the Everlasting Covenant it was not heard until the sixth day of creation. God isn't making it up as He goes. What's already spoken and finished is revealed through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit at just the right time. The wise man said, there is a time and a season for everything. Ecc 3:1.

### **Our idolatry – speaking into the void**

With this proceeding word of righteousness in view, let's now consider our idolatry. In the place where the immutable word of God sounds forth and proceeds, in that place, we now presume to speak, having been provoked and deceived by Satan to do so. In the void where the immutable word of God is proceeding and being progressively revealed, we, through the idol of what we think life should be, now presume to speak. How utterly foolish! This idolatry leads us to worry, presumption, arrogant boasting, and impatience. The burden of carrying these leaves a person weary, fearful and sick.

### **Who told you? Who spoke in the void where the word proceeds forever?**

Let's remember the Lord God's response to Adam when Adam said that he was afraid and hid because he was naked. 'Who told you that you were naked?' Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?' Gen 3:11. This is an important question – 'Who told you?' In other words, 'who presumed to speak in the void where the word of My finished and immutable counsel proceeds at the tree of life?' Satan didn't tell him he was naked. Adam was the one now speaking. This was Satan's lie to Jesus when he tempted Him to speak and command the stones to become bread. Luk 4:2-3. All Satan's words are lies. Joh 8:44. The truth is not in him. He speaks from his own resources but cannot generate anything of substance. His only access to power is through us. When we do not believe the word and disobey God, Satan gains access and we give him power. Satan can only generate alternate possibilities from the void, with which he tempts mankind to speak.

In the place where the immutable word of God was proceeding and fulfilling all righteousness, Adam now presumed to speak, having believed Satan's lie. And the fruit of Adam speaking into the void was nakedness; a separation from the life and fellowship of the tree of life; darkness. This is the opposite to the formative power of the word that ministers the light of life to all who believe. John 1:4.

The temptation of Satan is to motivate us to go in the wrong direction when we are in need and when we bring our needs to God in prayer. His temptation is to provoke us to 'script for God' so that He answers us according to our request (idol). When we do this, we script for the Father the course of action that Satan proposed.

## Isaiah 48

Let's consider this further in Isaiah 48.

**'I have made you hear new things from this time,** even hidden things (that are finished in the foreknowledge of God), and you did not know them.<sup>7</sup> They are created now (as they are spoken) and not from the beginning (the seven days of creation); and before this day you have not heard them, lest you should say, **'Of course I knew them.'**<sup>8</sup> Surely you did not hear, surely you did not know; surely from long ago your ear was not opened. For I knew that you would deal very treacherously, and were called a transgressor from the womb.' Isa 48:6-8

'I have declared the former things (the finished foreknowledge of God) from the beginning; they (the word of the immutable will of God) went forth from My mouth (in righteousness), and I caused them to hear it. Suddenly I did *them*, and they came to pass. (progressively revealed)...<sup>5</sup> Even from the beginning I have declared *it* to you; before it came to pass I proclaimed *it* to you, **lest you should say,** 'My idol has done them, and my carved image and my moulded image **have commanded them.'** (spoken it and brought it to pass) Isa 48:3-5

In Satan's deception he says, 'You can speak! You make it happen. Don't wait for God. What's happened to that seed, you can't see it, it's gone, God didn't do what He said. Plant a seedling instead! I've even got a few advanced seedlings potted, ready to go. Different varieties.'

The idol that speaks is us (you and me). Idolatry means that we are replacing God with a projected image of ourselves that we create and worship. We are the blacksmith and the craftsman and we are also the crafted object. The idol being worshipped is the reflection of who we want to be and the life we want to live. This reveals our iniquity as we live according to our own way, as a creature of instinct. Isa 53:6, 2Pe 2:12. In this trading mode, we will covet the things belonging to God's mandate and capacity. Men will attempt to take dominion based on what seems best to them and women will craft the perfect life for themselves demanding others serve it.

### Impatience, worry and arrogant presumption

The seed of tomorrow is sown, but we can't see it until it is brought forth in the void. You can't get there before its time. It is sanctified and set apart by the Holy Spirit. The Psalmist said, **'You have hedged me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me.'** Psa 139:5. We can't go back to yesterday and we can't go forward to tomorrow until its time. The delay between the proclaiming of the word and its fulfilment (at the right time) is for us a trial of faith but it is also the front line for Satan's violence and deception. It makes it a time of vulnerability for us. Let's consider several points of pastoral application around this vulnerability that are the cause of much fear, weariness, weakness and sickness. These are: Worry, presumption and impatience. Let's consider two illustrations that shows how the fruit of idolatry is worry and presumption.

### Spying out the Promised Land

When the Lord sent twelve men into the land He had promised to them, they presumed upon His mandate. The Lord had already said, 'I am giving you this land'. Their mandate was to spy it out because they were going to need to possess the land. Moses gave them all the specifics of what to look for as they scouted the land. With this report, they would seek the Lord and proceed to possess the land. 'Be of good courage and bring back some fruit'. Num 13:1-20. They were to be servants of the word that had been laid down to them and to reveal the one who had sent them. This is just like Jesus, who spoke the word of the Father and revealed the Father and not Himself. Joh 12:49-50, Joh 14:10. The enemy is overcome by the obedience of faith and not by our instinctive observations and plans. Instead of being servants of the word, they became

empowered by the word and took it to mean - have an opinion on whether we should go in or not; take dominion over this. Deceived by Satan, they began to speak from their own resources/idolatry. As a result of this arrogant presumption (sorcery) they were overcome by fear and gave a bad report as they worried and speculated about 'tomorrow'. This was in place of trusting God's immutable and progressively revealed word which was sown as a seed and whose outcome was assured.

Jesus said, 'Do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.' Mat 6:34. James also said not to boast about tomorrow by saying, 'Today or tomorrow we will go...*trade* and make a profit.' Such boasting in arrogance is evil. Jam 4:13-15

The idolatrous sorcery of the unbelieving ten spies spread throughout the whole nation. They spoke 'as the world' and not the men of faith they had been chosen to be. The words of grace are not on the lips of the world. The outcome of this idolatry was – the whole nation wept all night, they complained, they thought that dying would be better than obeying ('If only we died in Egypt or in the wilderness'), they speculated saying, 'they are going to kill our women and children' and they agreed to appoint a different leader to take them back to Egypt. When Joshua called them to faith saying, 'the Lord is with us and He said this land is ours' and to stop fearing, they sought to stone him. Num 14:1-10.

Idolatry causes us to become weary and fearful. We become wearied by our idols – it takes effort to prop them up, to keep selling the projections, to keep interpreting the thoughts, words and actions of others. It is exhausting and it causes us to become sick. Isaiah says, 'You are wearied in the multitude of your counsels; ... let them stand up and save you'. Isa 47:13.

### **Rebekah's idol speaking with sorcerous intent**

Rebekah's idol spoke with sorcerous intent when she said, 'Now therefore, my son (based on the reasoned argument I've presented you with), **obey my voice**: arise, flee to my brother Laban in Haran. And stay with him a few days, until your brother's fury turns away...and he forgets what you have done to him; then I will send and bring you from there. **Why should I be bereaved...** (suffer the death of the one that I love)'. Gen 27:43-45. Rebekah had taught Jacob to obey her voice and to be manipulated by her sorcerous trading and idolatry. She insisted that he obey her because she didn't like how she was feeling. Her idol of a perfect and ideal life wasn't working out as planned.

Rebekah then offers to Isaac her same sorcery, but with a different angle. '**I am weary of my life** because of *this* (the daughters of Heth)...if Jacob marries one of them as well...**what good will my life be?**' Gen 27:46. Rebekah attributes all her distress to Esau's wives and demands Isaac fix it, because she is weary of her life. Esau's wives were a grief to Isaac and Rebekah but they were not to blame for Esau wanting to kill Jacob. Instead of personal accountability evidenced by humility and the fear of the Lord that will lead to wisdom and repentance and faith, Rebekah's idol speaks from her own resources; meaning, she makes things up. 'It's all their fault.' 'If that hadn't happened everything would still be ok.' Always attributing the reason for fear and weariness to the actions of others. A self-proclaimed victim, but actually the perpetrator of the violence, Rebekah should have stopped the lies and the sorcery and been quiet before the Lord. She should have prayed and she should have spoken with Isaac.

It was Isaac who cut Jacob free from Rebekah's sorcery and ministered faith for Jacob to meet the Lord personally on the matter. He connects him to the word of the Lord and the blessing spoken

to Abraham and from Abraham to Isaac himself. He instructed Jacob to walk blameless before the Lord. Gen 28:3-4, 17:1-2. The journey of Jacob's recovery begins with this word of headship that is free of idolatry and sorcery. Isaac commended Jacob to the word of His grace which was able to build him up and give him an inheritance among the sanctified. Act 20:32.

### **Inherent in the word is the faith to wait**

Every person has a participation in the proceeding word. Satan is saying, you can participate however you want and looks to misappropriate the space God created for us so that we try and bring things to pass instead of waiting, in faith. Inherent in the word is the faith to wait. *The obedience of faith belongs to our daily pilgrimage.* There is only one way for a 9 year old to get to 10 years and then to 12 years. They need to be patient and participate in each day. They need to learn to wait upon the Lord and to learn the perseverance that belongs to faith. Perseverance needs to do a very necessary work in us. Jam 1:3-4. Rom 5:3-5. This is how we come to know ourselves in relationship to Yahweh at the tree of life. When we do, there is no void in us.

However, when we step outside of our fellowship with Yahweh at the tree of life (which Satan says you can do, because that's what he did), we get lost in identity verification, doing all sorts of things to verify who we are. This is because we can only know ourselves in relationship with Yahweh. The outcome is weariness. We fear lack, weakness, loss of control etc. When we perceive these lacks within ourselves we try and do something about it to save ourselves.

Many of us find waiting hard. In an overstimulated world, many of us find the absence of stimulation difficult. Many choose entertainment of all kinds to fill the void instead of being still and in His presence. Our propensity is to 'fill the space' instead of embracing the trial of faith and the work of perseverance. The Lord wants to teach us in the quietness and stillness, to see things through His eyes. Those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength and will rise up with resurrection life. Isa 40:31. James was clear, the testing of our faith produces patient endurance. We are to then **let patience have its perfect work** so that we would be mature, complete and not lacking anything. Jam 1:3-4. Patience is doing something. We need to learn to join the patience of God instead of working against it. Jam 5:7-8. If we don't let patience have its perfect work, we lack in the maturity of our sonship and we speak as immature sons. Psalm 25:14 says, 'The secret of the Lord is found by those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant.'

### **Abraham believed. He did not doubt – waver in unbelief**

We must firstly choose our sonship and then obtain it through patient endurance as we embrace our daily participation in the offering and sufferings of Christ. It is from this 'choice fellowship' that we can speak by faith (just as Abraham did) and not by idolatry or sorcery' ...with respect to the promise of God, **he did not waver in unbelief** but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.' Rom 4:20-21

Abraham spoke by faith. This is the testimony of those who are overcoming Satan and his sorcery and trading. We overcome in the fellowship of Christ's offering and sufferings. When we are speaking a word of faith by testimony, Satan is being disempowered. From this place of fellowship he cannot touch us, nor exercise any power over us. It is here that the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith. Rom 1:17. The word proceeds into each new day and is progressively revealed in us by faith.

Hebrews 3:7 says, 'Therefore, as the Holy Spirit (who hovers over the waters) says: "Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts."