

Vision of Praise

May 2011

From the editor

On March 11, 2011, the Great Earthquake hit the northeastern part of Japan. Its magnitude was 9.0, the fourth highest scale recorded in the human history in the world.

In the aftermath of the Earthquake and the accident of nuclear plant, we are overwhelmed by fear and pain. The world is in panic not knowing what is the right information. But in the midst of panic, the Lord says to us "Stand still and know that I am God." (Psalm46:10) We believe when we stand still and know that God is with us, the storm will be ceased. Here is all the answer.

For this crucial time, we believe that God has called each one of us to the *Church of the Wind* to stand on the promise of the cross. Let us share with you the message from pastor Peter, "The Revelation Unfolded" written just before the Earthquake.

The Revelation Unfolded

Peter

The book of Revelation is filled with dreadful images. The world after death is not a pictorial place where angels play the harp joyfully, but rather a frightening place making us shiver. While majestic praise resounds in heaven, the hell breaks out on the earth. As we turn page after page of the Revelation, the contrast of light and darkness becomes stronger and more dramatic. And in the end, the book presents the decisive picture of the last judgment: The Devil and his conspirators are locked in the lake of fire forever! Buddhists in the old painted hideous graphics on the hell, but what is drawn in the Revelation is scarier far exceeding our imagination.

For many Christians, though they accept it because it is in the Bible, the Revelation is the book to avoid. It is “mystifying” to say the least. Reading through the four Gospels and the Epistles by Paul, we have a good picture of the loving Jesus. But when it comes to the Revelation, it is completely different. What an eerie Figure the opening scene depicts!

His head and his hair were white as white wool, white as snow; his eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined as in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of many waters; in his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth issued a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

(Revelation 1:14-16)

The Figure was so bizarre that John later wrote, “When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead.” (Revelation 1:17) No one can stand facing the Figure. All our senses and strength are wiped away in this dimension. To enter into the dispensation of the Revelation is the encounter with the Unknown. What we have up to the point, no matter how rich or how poor, is of no use and no help here.

Incidentally, Mitsuko saw the same Figure in her vision a few months after her experience of the *White Dove* on December 3, 1987. When she had the vision, she too was scared to death and ran away! To this day, she remembers the heavy sound of footsteps of the Figure, and shivers.

In spite of our visceral dislike, however, we must face the book. No one can pass it over, because ours is the generation of the Revelation. Like it or not, we are already in this dispensation. We must realize that it is impossible to fulfill our faith without understanding the apocalyptic

message.

Hear what the Spirit tells us. Put all fears and prejudices out of our mind first. Pray that the Lord may open our heart.

The Revelation is not to frighten us unnecessarily. The central message is to wake us to the significance of worshipping the Lord God. Jesus mentioned in John's Gospel that we should worship God in Spirit and truth, and the Revelation reveals the ultimate worship. To realize this ultimate worship, we must go through much hardship. Just as Paul says, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God," (Acts 14:22 NAS) the Lord God will purify us so that we may be molded as true worshippers. In the beginning of the Gospel, John the Baptist declared Jesus to be the Refiner with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Matthew 3:11) And in the end time, John the Divine presents Jesus as the burning Figure. We all prostrate before Him.

Still the Figure mystifies us.

As for me, I have found the key to the book.

It is the *White Dove* and especially the "black and white cross" which is in the book of "The White Dove." When I found that it was the key, I jumped in joy. For a long time, I had been searching for it. I found no answer in many of theological books. I understood how John the Divine felt when he wept and wept, "because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside." (Revelation 5:4 NIV) The key, I knew, was somewhere. I wandered from here to there for a considerable time. At last I found it.

The mystery, which Christian church has not figured out for 2000 years, is finally unfolded through the beautiful *White Dove*.

The Revelation shows sharp contrasts of God and Devil, heaven and earth, light and darkness, one after another. We have the distinct demarcation of the two worlds because the Lord the Judge separates the righteous and the unrighteous. The latter is destined to be piled upon the dead bodies. No mercy is here.

It is one way to see the apocalyptic time through our emotion and intellect and feel sick in our stomach. There is another way to see it, however. Leap by faith, and fly with the White Dove, and we will discern a deeper and warmer meaning in the harshest judgment by the Lord. Even as John the Divine turned around to see the voice that was speaking to him (Revelation 1:12), I turned from many theological and traditional interpretations and saw the voice so tender and full of love:

In My eyes, lost life is not death.

Mitsuko received this word on the following day of the Great Hanshin Earthquake (January 17, 1995), which killed thousands of people. If we face Him straightforwardly, we will have life, too. I know it, because I have received the resurrected life, seeing Christ's redeeming love over the death and tragedy of the Great Earthquake.

Let us read part of "The White Dove: Vol. 2" where Mitsuko writes about the *interpretation* she received right after the Great Earthquake.

The following day of the Earthquake I prayed, because I remembered the *interpretation* that I received on December 31 of the past year. At that time when I asked the Lord what kind of year the coming year would be, I was given a thought that it would be a "year of life," and I

was full of expectation. However, the Great Earthquake hit us on the early morning of January 17. The towns were destroyed in an instant, and the unspeakable catastrophe was broadcasted on TV. I wanted to ask the Lord how it could be a “year of life.”

Lord, why did it happen?

Didn't You say this year would be a “year of life”?

Surely, it is the “year of life.”

The old has passed away

and the year of new life has come.

But the sacrifice is too great.

So many people's lives were lost.

I am so sad that I cannot hold back my tears.

In My eyes, lost life is not death.

(from “The White Dove: Vol. 2,” p. 81-82)

In the eyes of the Lord, lost life is not death. He sees beyond the death of our flesh. To know this truth is to know the secret of life and death.

In “The White Dove,” the more amazing mystery of the cross is revealed. Let me quote from “The White Dove: Vol. 1,” though a little long.

I saw in my eyes hundreds and thousands of tiny pieces of brilliant white light, which were changing into different shapes, sometimes like doves and other times like circles. “How beautiful! The light is shining unlike anything on the earth.”

While being fascinated by the beauty of the white light before my eyes, I began to see the light more clearly. When it became distinctly clear, I saw what appeared to be a black branch, which was twining around the white light. It looked almost like a brier or a twining black vine or an arm. I was startled and stunned by the beauty of its blackness, which looked as if weaving twill with the brilliant white light . . .

This morning I prayed in bed, “Lord, what were the white light and the black vine which I saw last night?” While I was praying, something became clear to me. It was about sin, and about the relationship between the Spirit and the flesh.

The white light, though entwined by the black vine, was never entirely covered with black. The light was rather stronger and had a power to be able to escape from the twining enclosure at any moment. When the white vertical line crossed the black horizontal line, I thought, “It is completed.” It was the completed shape, that is, the cross.

The cross signifies the relationship between the flesh and the Spirit, God and Satan, and death and eternal life. Our flesh is taken away to the cross by the Holy Spirit, and Satan is destroyed by the cross. Death is swallowed up in the cross, and eternal life overflows.

When the twining black vine becomes a straight horizontal line before the love of God, the white light can ascend straight to heaven. No longer having anything twining around it, the straight vertical line can go up freely to the world of God and eternal life.

This figure stands for our union with God and deliverance from our sin. Hooray!

The clear meaning of the shape of the cross is now revealed to me. The black horizontal bar, that is our physical body in the flesh, is needed in order for us to receive the salvation of the cross and to know the truly tender love of God. Jesus Christ showed it to us in order to give forgiveness of sin to all mankind as the Son of God.

I have always wondered why man continues to sin despite the fact that man's sin has already been taken away by the cross of Jesus Christ. Right after the *White Dove*, I understood that to have a physical body was the very sin, and that the ultimate destination of sin was death. I knew it, or I thought I did, without thinking much. Yet I was struggling because I did not understand how it related to me and what the cross meant to me. I blamed myself for not looking at my sins, or questioned myself about my past mistakes which came up to my consciousness one after another. Yet, I still did not understand, and I struggled even more. Now with this vision of the cross, I think I understood it to some degree.

Man born in the flesh is entwined with the black vine all the more by living in the flesh. Being entwined with the black vine, the white light cannot move. Blocked out by the darkness, man cannot see the white light. Although both the black vine and the white light are provided by God, man indulges himself only in the black vine. As long as man remains entwined with the black vine and enjoys it, the twining vine does not get loose. He cannot receive forgiveness as he is. Unless he bows down before God and touches the love of Jesus Christ, the black vine cannot be disentangled.

The shortcut is to look straight at the blood of Christ shed on the cross, that is, to believe in Him. The cross is

the ultimate testimony for the magnificent love of God. I simply could not understand it at the time.

It was because I had too many divine things: Mozart's music, Jose Carreras' songs, beautiful flowers, cute guppies, the stars and the moon, soft hearts of my students, and everything else, all of which revealed divine love to me. I was surrounded by such love everywhere that I could not turn my eyes to the cross of Jesus.

Divinity in nature manifests God's love, through which God reveals Himself and speaks to man in different ways.

However, nothing signifies the magnitude and depth of God's love and power like the cross. It is the ultimate form of God's love.

The cross is the testimony of God's love and also the revelation of the very truth of this world. The shape of the cross indeed means the reconciliation between man and God. It is forgiveness of sin or salvation, which is revealed when God's love and man's faith work together and which continues to be revealed even today.

How magnificent God is! He opens doors one by one for a person like me, who is always slow to understand and easily gets lost. I remember His words of yesterday when I cried out, "Help me!"

My prayer on February 25, 1988

God, why are You keeping silence?

It has been too long.

I have already spoken to you.

I am struggling now. I feel like I am rejected.

Am I on the right track?

Keep walking as you are.

Follow Me.

Do not hesitate.

*Accept the meaning of the cross as your own
which I have revealed to you.*

Do You mean that my sin is forgiven?

Yes, but it is not only that.

It is joy as well.

Receive the joy of the cross.

(from "The White Dove: Vol. 1," p. 219-221)

As long as we have the flesh, we have to go through the contradiction of life. Contradiction is integrated deep into life. Sorrow is right next to joy. Darkness is right behind light. Mitsuko saw this radical contrast as she describes, "The dreadful solitude clings right beneath my feet and to the soles of everyone else's feet." ("The White Dove: Vol. 2," p. 44)

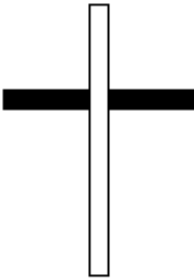
This truth we should not overlook. While praising the Lord in beautiful nature, we are unaware how many insects are crushed under our feet. Life stands on the sacrifice of other lives. If the dark shadow is called sin, we are in the predicament of committing sin. The Bible says that our flesh is sinful by nature. Without the flesh, however, we cannot exist. We are all children of the flesh. Because of our flesh we are smeared with sin, and fall from darkness to darkness.

The black and white cross reveals the profound nature of sin and the flesh.

In the deepest sense of the word, our sin is our attachment. We all are tied up with our own greediness,

thoughts, anger, and hatred. There is no freedom or light in the world of sin. The flesh only knows the world of entanglement. And the end of the entanglement is death, as it is said, “The wages of sin is death.” (Romans 6:23)

However, when the bright white bar of life stands up in the middle of the ugly black horizontal bar, the whole thing changes. In a blink of an eye, we see the completion of God’s redemption. Now the black horizontal bar shines beautifully being one with the entwining vine. Seeing the vision of the black and white cross, Mitsuko cried “Hooray!” Truly Christ’s redemption has brought the decisive victory over sin and the flesh.



The redemption is accomplished. Nothing to add, nothing to deduct. Perfect in everything.

And yet, as the author of the Hebrews says, “Now in putting everything in subjection to Him, He left nothing outside His control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to Him.” (Hebrews 2:8)

Wait. Wasn’t God’s redemption completed once for all? Is it not yet finished? What a discrepancy! The discrepancy, however, is for us to find the whole truth. Only by faith, we will find the true meaning of life in meditating the two aspects of the redemption.

The completed redemption is in the heavenly realm, and it is spiritual. The unfinished redemption is in the earthly realm.

Here we must have faith. When God’s faith is inserted between the heavenly realm and the earthly realm, we shall see the total redemption. The heaven will be united with the

earth; the Spirit with the flesh; the perfect with the imperfect. Thus Christ's redemption will be revealed in its totality.

This is the world of the *White Dove*. It is the true salvation for the whole world. And this is the message that the book of Revelation delivers to our generation.

On the earth, we have pains, sorrows and tragedies. Cry not, for the Lamb will redeem the whole creation along with its shadow. Behold the black and white cross. The vertical pure white bar of the cross is radiating God's mercy to the horizontal black bar of sin and death.

Our present world has entered the time of the Revelation. On the early morning of January 17, 2000, as soon as the *Revelation Praise* resounded in the *Kohitsuji no Mure* main office at the little corner of Nishinomiya, the curtain of the tabernacle hung from heaven to the earth went all the way up. Then the *Heavenly Praise* flew in like a flood. It was the sign that the time of the Revelation had come as far as I was concerned. I perceived it in the depth of my heart.

I am convinced that the time is now. We are witnessing the Revelation being unfolded before our eyes. The Lord will show us the reality of the Revelation more deeply. No need to be afraid, for it is for the fulfillment of the perfect redemption on this earth. The ultimate purpose of the Revelation is the worship in Spirit and truth. Follow only the Lamb, and we will be made the true worshippers.

The mystery of the black and white cross is disclosed in the Revelation. If we see the cross revealed in the Revelation, we are no longer afraid of the confusion on the earth. We do not fear even death. The death we lament is not the lost life, for the redemption swallows the death of the whole creation. Behold death through the Lord's eyes. We

are invited to this stage of the Revelation.

The other day, while speaking with someone, I said, “I think I will speak about the Revelation in the next worship.” Then that person said, “That’s good. I am no longer scared of the Revelation. In this time of judgment, the Lord will judge and take away all evil in me and in the world. I don’t have to be afraid.” I was happily surprised. The faith in the Revelation has been born in this person. That’s right. If we worship only the Lord, what are we afraid of? The contradiction and darkness in me is eradicated and redeemed by the white and transparent light standing in the center. When we know that our darkness is exposed in the light of Christ, we will gladly accept God’s redeeming love.

Our intellect and emotion cannot keep up with the dimension of the Revelation. Would you listen to the Lord, instead of aimlessly seeking your conviction? Follow the Lord by your faith. It is enough to believe that the Revelation was given by God. There is nothing to take away from it. And there is nothing to add to it.

Now the great redemption is being revealed, and the time is near when the true redemption will be shown to the entire world. The Revelation is the book of the cross. Therefore, the worlds of the Old Testament and the New Testament will be integrated together into Christ’s redemption and praise Him.

Unprecedented giant disasters may strike the earth. There may be major volcanic eruptions, devastating earthquakes, or anything of biblical proportion. Natural environment is drastically changing; viruses untreatable by today’s science are spreading; world economy, threats of military superpowers and rumors of nuclear wars are driving us into fear.

Fear not. This chaos and destruction is the sign of God's judgment, and this judgment is for the Christ's redemption to be realized. The darkness entwining around the black horizontal bar will be changed into something beautiful by the vertical bar of the light. Chaos in the world is the horizontal black bar that invokes the vertical white bar. The redemption of Christ covers the entire creation.

I believe this and tell you this. The new time has truly come.

Yesterday, I had a strange experience after we had visitors at the *Church of the Wind*: a man whom Mitsuko taught in a high school and his wife. The couple came to the church seeking for help because he was seriously sick. They both got baptized, and went home. After saying good-bye to them, I realized that something was different.

The visible world around me was all the same. When I opened the door to the office, staff workers were working as usual. Mitsuko was there as usual, and so was the *Church of the Wind* building. However, something was clearly different . . . It was very strange.

This feeling reminded me of the similar experience I had when I was a child. All of a sudden, without a sign, everything looked different. I remembered that strange feeling. The feeling I had in my childhood was similar to the one I had today, yet it was different. That night I noticed that the new time had come. What I felt in the daytime after the visitors left was the foretaste of it.

Everything is the same as before, yet nothing is the same. It is "the feeling" of the Revelation. I feel that I am seeing things from the Revelation, from the cross of the

Revelation. The world is the same, yet it is not. If the weather is fine, I will go fishing in late afternoon, say silly jokes to people I run into, and repeat the same old routine. However, the basis of my life has been changed. Therefore, everything is totally different.

If we open the eyes of our heart, we will see the newness of the Revelation, as it is said in the Revelation 21:5, “Behold, I make all things new.” All peoples are invited for the realization of the redemptive world. He who has eyes to see, let him open his eyes. He who has ears to hear, let him incline his ears. The praise of the Revelation is filling the blue sky, cities, countryside, and people of all ages.

Those who open their eyes to God’s revelation will overcome troubled waters of the Revelation. The year 2011 is the “Year of Peace.” As we had the Great Hanshin Earthquake in the “Year of Life (1995),” the total opposite from peace may take place this year. Extraordinary waves of troubled waters may destroy us. Ultimately, however, earthquakes, wars, and everything else will be made one in Christ’s redemption. For those who accept the black and white cross, disasters can no longer be disasters. The cross of Christ which works for good in everything will make disasters and even the black horizontal bar beautiful. God will directly show it to those who worship Him in Spirit and truth.

The year 2011 may be a devastating year. The Lord God will separate the sheep from the goats. This separation is His love. It is to perfect Christ’s redemption. The world of black sin will be redeemed when the pure white bar stands up in the center. In the dimension of the Revelation, all is redeemed.

Having this faith makes a world of difference. Blessed

are those who inherit the faith of the Revelation. This year, the world of redeeming love of Christ will be unfolded.

Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. (Luke 12:32)

The best is yet to come.

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