



## The Korean Revival 2 (Jeremiah 33:1-3)

*“Moreover the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah a second time, while he was still shut up in the court of the prison, saying, <sup>2</sup> “Thus says the LORD who made it, the LORD who formed it to establish it (the LORD is His name): <sup>3</sup> ‘Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.’”*

I want to talk about how the gospel went from Korea to almost all corners of the earth. Korea is the second nation after America in producing the biggest number of missionaries. How did this happen in one generation?

I believe much of this is due to the travailing prayer of God’s people that birthed South Korea. In particular, I believe it was the Prayer Mountain that became a model of prayer and fasting and seeking God.

Today I want to talk about the vision of ‘the Holy Businessmen.’

### A. Breaking the Curse of Poverty

One of the major obstacle Korea had to overcome was the grinding poverty. Just after WWII and the Korean War, Korea was the second poorest nation in the world.

I grew up hearing unbelievable stories of human tragedy. My mum saw people dying of starvation in front of her – with bloated stomachs and making animal sounds. Many people lost their mind in the unbearable pressure.

The US government at the time refused to give loans to Korea – we had no collateral. West Germany had compassion for Korea because they knew the pain of war on their soil and being divided as a nation. And for a \$30M loan from Germany, Korea sent thousands of young Korean men to work in German mines and young Korean women to work as nurses in Germany.

### Tithing a Potato

So, when Ps Chae and Yonggi Cho started their tent church in the late 1950s when Korea was struggling with the curse of poverty. When the poor mountain village people got saved and become the tent church members, Ps Chae and Yonggi Cho taught them to bring their tithe to the church as their holy offering to the Lord. Their people laughed, ‘We don’t have anything. We can barely eat. What tithe?!’

Ps Chae and Yonggi Cho themselves were even poorer. Yonggi Cho travelled a great distance to translate for visiting American missionaries to make some pocket money. Ps Chae worked in the local brick factory, making bricks out of clay with her bare hands, so they could eat and keep the church going. (She didn’t tell anyone.)

They knew they can only break out of this poverty by God’s power. So, they taught their tent church, ‘You have something with which you survive, so bring one-tenth of it to the Lord. We have to break the poverty cycle, and God’s power and blessing are released only when we obey His word by faith.’

‘Trust me!’ Yonggi Cho cried, ‘None of your tithes will go into my mouth!’

But he had to break his promise because the next Sunday people brought one potato, one egg, one spring onion, etc. The tent church received these tithes from their people because this was how they break the spirit of poverty.

We have to teach new church plants in the mission field to tithe to break the cycle of poverty. Otherwise, we can condition them to look to the western church for money and provision, not to the Lord.

God began to bless the tent congregation. After real money (a few cents) began to appear in the offering bag!

One day, Yonggi Cho found out Ps Chae was making bricks to put food on the table! And he got angry, ‘Give it up right now, mother! I will bring in enough money for food and keep the church going!’ Ps Chae gave up her brickmaking work that very day. It was unacceptable to a man in that old Korean culture that you let a woman old enough to be your mother to do man’s work.

That night Yonggi Cho came back to church with a crestfallen face. He lost his translation job. He was told not to come back. Ps Chae's heart sank in fear. Now they had no income other than the small offering of the tent church congregation.

That week, the offering of the tent church suddenly doubled! And they could make their ends meet. They couldn't figure out where the doubling came from. They were the same old poor people. God was faithful!

### [Stealing the Lord's Tithe](#)

One Sunday in the middle of the service, Yonggi Cho had a prophetic spirit come upon him. And he zoomed in on their deacon - Mr Park, an ex-demonised alcoholic man with a paralysed wife and 10 boys. Now the whole family was in the church, saved, healed, and delivered, and serving the Lord. They too began to come out of poverty. They began a little corner store business and make a living, and was sending all 10 boys to school.

Yonggi Cho began to prophesy under the anointing of God, 'Deacon Park, My Son, why are you stealing from My tithes after I have blessed your business? Now the judgement of the Lord will be upon you, My son, and your business will shut down.'

Ps Chae's heart sank. 'O, no! Why such a frightening prophecy to a baby Christian!' She was afraid the family might stop coming to church after hearing such a scary prophecy. But to her relief, the man and his wife were repenting with tears under the conviction of the Holy Spirit. They confessed when God blessed their business and they began to make more money, they could not resist the temptation to keep back part of their tithe. Their tithe was not a big amount at all, but to them, it was a huge amount because of where they come from. True to the prophecy, their business failed in a few months, but the family took the discipline of the Lord humbly. And God blessed them again after they repented, and in a year, they started another business, and this time, they stayed faithful to honour the Lord with His tithes and offerings.

The Korean church learning to tithe and give, broke the curse of poverty in Korea. If you look at North Korea and the curse of poverty they are suffering under, you can see easily see what God has rescued South Korea out of. There was a time when the north was rich, and the south was poor.

### [B. Salt Elder - The Holy Businessman](#)

Salt Elder Kim is a man who represents the Korean revival generation who saw the power of God, not just save them, and heal them, but to raise them out of poverty to fund the gospel to the ends of the earth. Kim was a broken man, whom God used powerfully as a businessman when he put himself on the altar for the Lord's use.

### [Saved in the Mental Hospital](#)

Kim was a penniless teenager when he ran from North Korea and made it barely alive to the South by boat. He was determined to make money, and he eventually went into the salt business. And he saved and saved and saved for business funds, so he could make it big in the business world. He was burning with ambition for more and more money. And a friend introduced him to Johnny - a rich Japanese Korean businessman, and he offered Kim business opportunity in the trucking business. It sounded like an opportunity of a lifetime. The money that could be made in it was amazing. Kim took all of his savings, and borrowed from his family and extended family members, friends, business partners – promising them huge return and make them all very rich, and went into business with Johnny.

One morning, he went to work to find Johnny gone, and all the money he had invested gone with him. Only then he realised Johnny was a scammer. Kim fell for his sweet promise of success and money because he was blinded by burning ambition and greed.

He had lost all his savings, his family's savings, friends' savings, business partner's business savings – their businesses were ruined, and lives were ruined because of his foolishness. Kim did not go home for a couple of years – he could not face these people whose lives he ruined. He began to burn with violent anger against Johnny the scammer. He wandered the streets of the city for 2 years like a mad man, looking for his enemy. He decided he will stab him to death with the knife hidden in his jacket, and then kill himself.

But that man seemed to have evaporated from the planet, and Kim was so overcome with anger and distress, he became mentally ill and ended up in a mental hospital. There he met a strange psychiatrist, who said to him, 'You want to kill yourself – go ahead. It's not that hard. But if you have the guts to die, why don't you use that courage to believe in God?' Then he gave Kim a Bible and told him to read the gospel of John.

Kim had nothing to do, so he decided to read John's gospel. When he came across John 1:12, '*But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.*' Faith entered his heart and he received Christ as his saviour, and his heart was set free from the anger! And he was released from the mental hospital.

### [God Can Use Me?](#)

He encountered the power of God in Yonggi Cho's church and was baptised in the Holy Spirit. And he was learning to pray and fast – for his family salvation, for the new salt business God blessed him to start once again, etc.

One day Ps Chae and Yonggi Cho came to see him and appointed him to be a home group leader. And he thought, 'What?!' At the time in Yonggi Cho's church, home group leaders were ALL women! Men worked all day, so men did not want to put in the time and energy to lead home groups. And men mostly don't know what to do with a bunch of people meeting in a home. He was no different. But something that I've noticed about this man – part of his obedience to God included taking it seriously when the men and women of God in the leadership in the body of Christ came to him with a word, or prayer, or prayer request. That was an unusual quality like the Rechabites who obeyed their forefather's command to live in tents and to not touch alcohol – and God blessed them because they honoured their human father.

So, Kim said yes to his pastor's appointment, even though it was an embarrassing thing to be the only male home group leader in the church full of women home group leaders. This was in the 60s, so by now, they were in a brick building in a bigger town.

Then one day, the church rang him and asked him to quickly visit an unbelieving family in town. They rang for the pastors to come and visit, but the pastors were gone somewhere and could not be found, so they thought at least to send their male home group leader.

Kim had no idea what this was about, but he thought he'd better obey. So, he rounded up some of his home group people and went to the high-rise apartment where the family lived. When they went into the apartment, he noticed a well-built big man. He had black and blue eyes. So, he asked, 'Why are you all black and blue?' He said, 'My wife beat me up.' 'What! What kind of a family is this?' he thought. Then he saw another man, he too was all bruised. So, he asked, 'Why are you all bruised?' The man said, 'My sister-in-law beat me up. I am his younger brother.'

When they went into the main room, he saw a small woman on the floor with her hands and feet bound with a rope. The husband explained, 'That is my wife. She is so strong; she beat me up and beat my brother up.' So, they had to hold her down and tie her up, so her violence can be controlled. There were also some women from the neighbourhood there who were there watching the whole thing.

This was an unbelieving family. But they were at the end of their wits. And someone told them, that there is a church in town who prays for people like your wife. Sometimes they get helped. They were desperate, so when they found out that the pastors were gone somewhere, they couldn't wait, and they asked anyone to come and help them. So, the church office offered to send them their male home group leader.

When Kim and his people went into the room, the woman scowled at them and began to scream abuses at them. 'Why you bring these Jesus gang to this place!'

Kim thought, 'This woman beat up that big husband of hers?! And his brother! I am a small man, and one punch from her, I would fly out of the apartment and end up on the ground many floors down.' So, he got all his home group to sit near her and he sat in the last row well away from the woman.

The woman would look at each person with her scary eyes. And everyone turned their eyes away. They were afraid to meet her eyes. But before Kim could turn away his head, the woman's eyes met his eyes. And his heart went, 'O no!'

Then she pointed to the people and said, 'How come all these people have their eyes closed.' Then she pointed at him, 'Only that man has his eyes open, and fire is jumping out of his eyes!'

When Kim heard that from the woman, suddenly courage came upon him, and he got up and imitated the pastors and intercessors, 'In the name of Jesus, come out of the woman, you demon!'

She fell to the floor like a dead person.

'Now what do we do?' Again, he thought, just follow what he saw in the church, 'We sing! Sing 'fight the devil' songs!' We do not fight flesh and blood, but our weapons are mighty against the devil! We are the army of God, soldiers of the cross – they sang all the 'smash the devil songs' they could think of for half an hour. Then the woman got up, and she was in her right mind!

She wept and received Christ into her life, renouncing her sins. Salvation came to the family. Then the women from the neighbourhood who watched everything – 'Can you pray for me too! Me too!' Kim's home group were invited back to pray for the neighbourhood women and their family.

That's when Kim realised, 'Wow, God can use me????! God wants to use me.'

And he began to dream – he was a businessman; it was his calling. But he wanted to be a businessman who preaches the gospel with the power of God AND make so much money from his business so he can fund the gospel to go to the ends of the earth.

### [Honouring the Lord with His Money](#)

There were four defining events through which God moulded Kim to be His holy businessman.

#### **Event 1 – TRUST GOD**

When he started his salt business again, this time he was determined to honour Him in his business. The first thing he did was, each day when any profits came in (in those days everything was done by cash), he would take out the 10% from it and put it into a special drawer. He would do this every day without fail, and at the end of each month, he would put it into an envelope and present it to the Lord at the worship service as his holy offering of tithes.

Then God began to bless him, and his business got bigger and more complex, and his tithes became a substantial amount. One day he looked at the tithes being collected in his drawer, and he thought, maybe I should use the tithes to pay off my business debt quickly first. That will reduce the significant interest payment that cuts into my business profit every month. Then I can make up for this and give bigger bulk tithes.'

So, he took all the tithes collected for that month so far from the drawer, and added to his business savings, and put it into an envelope and in his jacket pocket, and made his way to the loan company on a bus. Then when he was about to get off the bus, he suddenly realised his jacket pocket felt too light. The entire money was stolen by a pickpocket!

At that very moment, he felt the Lord speak to him, 'Why are you touching My tithes? Once you set it apart for Me, it is Mine, and no longer yours. Do you not trust me to look after you and your business?' Kim repented right there on the bus, 'Lord, I have sinned against You. I touched Your holy tithes. I did not trust You and depend on You. It is right the whole thing was taken from me. I will never do it again, Lord.'

He vowed to the Lord, he will trust the Lord to bless him. And to drum it into himself no matter what temptation or pressure, he went straight to a carpenter, and got a wooden box made with a little hole where you can put money in, and he put a lock on the lid. He wrote on it, 'Holy Tithes' and put it there in his business. And he never transgressed the Lord's tithes ever again.

That was the first defining event as a businessman. He went on to be known as the king of tithing and building churches. He gave astronomically – to mission, churches, Bible schools, prayer houses, to the poor all over the world. He just wasn't able to outgive God who would throw money at him.

## Event 2 – SEEK GOD'S KINGDOM FIRST

By now he was an elder in the church with a growing salt business. One day he came to the Prayer Mountain to seek God's help for his business. This was before the Prayer House was built on it. It was still just a mountain now full of holes where people are crying out to God. They set up a tent for the gathering of people.

(Eventually, the Prayer Mountain got a rhythm going - people would gather three times a day in the main building to hear the message being preached, and to receive laying on of hands from the ministers, and pray with the prayer ministers. Later on, besides the ministers who were assigned to the Prayer Mountain, pastors and preachers and revivalists from all over the nation would be invited to minister there and preach and pray for people. People are free to pray and cry out to God in the mountain night and day, but they had the help of the ongoing preaching of the word and worship and prayer three times a day.)

Kim came to the prayer mountain to pray and fast for an additional salt farm to expand his business – 3.5km<sup>2</sup> of it. He had a vision for a bigger business. He was praying every day. After his meals, he would prayer walk claiming the salt farms by faith. After four days of prayer in the prayer mountain, God gave him the word, 'Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.' (Matt 6:33) He didn't know what God meant exactly. He was a businessman; he needed concrete and real advice. So, he went to see Ps Chae, who was by then fulltime looking after the prayer mountain and she was in the tent.

So, he asked Ps Chae, 'What do you think God means by 'seek His Kingdom first'? How can I do that practically?'

Ps Chae looked at him and said, 'Before you invest into your new salt farm, have you thought about giving an offering to build the Lord's Prayer House on this Prayer Mountain?'

He took it as the word of the Lord. He went home to discuss with his wife. They had already given significantly to the church building. The main church building project was going on at the same time in those days. But he felt God was speaking to him about the Prayer Mountain. At the time he had about \$2000 in his business savings for the new salt farm. That was a big amount in those days. You could buy a small apartment in Korea.

He said to his wife, 'Do you mind if we give half of our business savings by faith to the Lord to build the Prayer House in the Prayer Mountain, and move to a smaller rented place, and use the capital from the house to fund the new salt farm?'

His wife said, 'Why did you want to have so many children if you were going to live like this? Who will rent us their place with so many little children?' They had four children. He was the only child in his family for the past three generations, so he had produced a lot of children. He has a remarkable wife. She followed her husband's leadership without resisting.

So, when Kim brought half his business savings to Ps Chae as his offering to build the prayer house on the Prayer Mountain, Ps Chae was shocked. She didn't expect anything like that. Suddenly the Holy Spirit came upon Ps Chae, and she laid her hands on him and began to pray and prophesy, 'Lord, make him Your Salt Elder. Bless his business so that he will take the gospel to the ends of the earth. Use him to build Your church, bible schools, send missionaries. Use him to salt this world.' Kim thought she will break his neck with the zeal and power she was praying for him! She was so overcome by the Holy Spirit.

That's how Kim became the Salt Elder. God eventually gave him 5 times the size of the salt farm he has asked for.

I looked at his life story, and I am convinced the Salt Elder's faith and obedience at that very juncture and the prophetic blessing from Ps Chae in those humble days of the Prayer Mountain – set the prophetic trajectory of his life.

God was faithful to His word, and His word over him came to pass in every detail.

### Event 3 – I WILL DO ANYTHING

The third event in the Salt Elder's life that shaped him into the vessel God could use was through the fiery trial with his eldest son's illness.

Everything was going well in his life. He was the Salt Elder. God was blessing him. Then one day, his eldest son's school called him urgently. 'Come quickly. Your son, Sejun, suddenly collapsed in the school, and he cannot get up.' His son was in first-year high school. They rushed him to the hospital, the best doctors saw him. Their diagnosis was '*Rheumatoid multiple aspect conjunctivitis*' – there was no cure. The boy suddenly became crippled overnight, and no amount of prayer, fasting, faith, medicine, doctors helped.

Salt Elder confesses that he'd been through much testing in his work, business, family – but this was a pain beyond he and his wife could bear. Many times, they carried their son on their backs to places. Their boy would cry and ask, 'Why isn't God healing me?' Some people were saying, 'Is that God's blessing? Maybe the elder sinned.' Salt Elder would weep before God.

He cried out to God, 'I will do anything. I will go to an unknown island to preach the gospel and die there. Please, heal my son.' And he thought he should show the Lord he meant it, so he went to evening Bible school and put himself through 5 years of part-time training, and he graduated.

That evening when they were having a church leadership meeting, Yonggi Cho was sitting next to him. And suddenly the gift of faith come upon Ps Cho, and he said, 'Salt Elder, the Lord is going to heal your eldest son.'

Salt Elder didn't take it seriously. What else could his pastor say? He's heard it all past 5 years. So, he just let it pass. But then later he thought, 'No, I have to take God's servant's word seriously.' So, when he went home with his wife, he and his wife fell on their knees and embraced their eldest son, and cried out with their son to God with weeping and tears, and prayed for healing and commanded healing, and wept before God.

Meanwhile, Yonggi Cho was crying out to God in his prayer closet. He had the mountain-moving faith when he declared the Salt Elder's son's healing, but after the moment passed, his faith was shaking like a leaf. And he was so afraid that the family's faith will be even more shaken if the son does not get healed.

After 2-3 hours of prayer and tears and sweat, the Salt Elder's family was exhausted and spent. Then about 2 hours later into the night, their son said to them, 'Mum, Dad, I feel like my legs are getting strong. I think God is healing my legs.' With his parents' help, the boy slowly began to get up, and take steps and began to walk! They had a revival that night in their house.

Salt Elder looks back to that time, and says, 'I must be a man who needs a lot of breaking so I will learn humility and surrender. Before I was afflicted, I went astray, but now I obey Your statutes, O Lord. Psalm 119'

He has found three keys to the power of God – three keys to accessing God's power for your business, for your family, for your ministry, and for the miraculous.

1. Knees that bend before God.
2. Eyes that weep before God.
3. Hearts that break before God.

One day he literally bumped his mortal enemy - Johnny – the man who stole his life's savings and of his family and friends and caused him so much anguish. God allowed him to finally meet him after he was baptised in the Holy Spirit. Before that, he wasn't sure what he would have done. Kim took hold of his enemy's hands and said, 'You are the man I owe the most to in my life. If it weren't for you, I would not have met Christ and got saved and be so blessed by God. So, I have to repay you and tell you about Jesus who saved me, so you will also find Christ and be saved.'

The man cried and said, 'I am an evil person,' and insisted on giving him the key to his car. That's the best he could do to show his remorse. But the Salt Elder was so at peace and rest, and truly thankful for the man whose betrayal brought him to Christ.

#### Event 4 – THE HOLY BUSINESSMEN

One day while Yonggi Cho was praying in the Prayer Mountain, God spoke very clearly to him and said, 'I am going to raise up forty businessmen in your church. God's kingdom needs not only holy preachers, and also the holy businessmen who will fund the gospel to the ends of the earth.'

Then God suddenly said to him, 'Get out of this prayer room!' Yonggi Cho thought, 'O, no! The prayer room is going to collapse under the weight of the mountain.' So, he ran out of the prayer room, and a car came to a stop near him, and one of his elders got out of the car. It was the Salt Elder. He was praying in the Prayer Mountain to seek God's will for the next phase of his life.

God said to Yonggi Cho, 'This is the man who will raise up the holy businessmen, who will rise up to fund the gospel to the ends of the earth. Rise up and anoint him for the task.' Yonggi Cho got so excited, he ran over to the Salt Elder and laid his hands on him and prayed, 'Salt Elder, I appoint you to head up the businessmen's group who will rise up to fund the gospel to the ends of the earth!'

Salt Elder was dumbfounded by the suddenness of it all. But this was God's will for the rest of his life. God was answering the dominating prayer of his life. He was fulfilling the prophetic word he received from Ps Chae when he decided to seek God's kingdom first, and sowed into the Prayer Mountain.

He took up the challenge, and began to call the businessmen in the church together, and the 40 businessman millionaires were raised up from the group. These men's businesses exploded, and they gave powerfully to the gospel.

What did Salt Elder do as the chairman of the group? He says his task was simple. Provide lunch for these people, so they can stay back after the Sunday service and fellowship, and pray and share together. They would get ideas, and ideas moved into action, and actions birthed a movement.

One businessman was invited by a friend to attend one of the businessmen's prayer meeting in the church. He casually accepted, not expecting anything. But when he entered the room, the Holy Spirit's presence was palpable as the businessmen were crying out to God for anointing for their holy assignment.

And suddenly he heard the audible voice of God, speaking from Psalm 81:10, 'Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it...' And the phrase 'open your mouth wide' was reverberating inside of him, and some invisible power was forcing his mouth open, stuffing the supernatural faith into him! Ask for big things from your God!

That day he changed, and his business began to explode under God's blessing, and he became one of those holy businessmen called of God to fund the gospel.

These businessmen went to the mission field together, preached the gospel, pray for the sick, build relationships, and build churches, schools, and Bible colleges. The gospel goes forth powerfully when men and women who know how to use money and how to make concrete things happen, put their labour to the kingdom work.

One day the Salt Elder was praying for a Bible college that needed a building to facilitate their growing student body. They needed \$2.5M to build the facility. He was praying and asking God to move people's hearts to give so that the school can raise up ministers who will preach the gospel to the end of the earth. And Jesus appeared to him, and said, 'I have suffered and died for you. And why are you asking Me to move someone else's heart? Why isn't your heart moved for Me?' His heart was so deeply moved, and he gave \$2.5M to the building project straight away and joyfully.

The end-time revival will require God's end-time Josephs, men and women who are tested and tried and prepared by God, who will not be destroyed or corrupted by supernatural wealth, but those who will channel them for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ.