

2016 Winter Training : Crystallization-Study of Ezekiel (1) Guidelines for practicing prophesying in Lord's day meetings

Message One: Visions of God and the Unveiling of God's Purpose and the Desire of His Heart

I. Overview :

The heavens were opened to Ezekiel; he saw visions of God because he was in his spirit; God wanted him not only to behold with his eyes but also to hear with his ears; hence, He gave him an express word along with His leading and directing hand. Chapter 1 unveiled God's desire heart and His purpose, out of which is His economy. The One on the throne and the four living creatures both have the appearance of a man. The Bible as a whole, and the book of Ezekiel as a miniature of the Bible, reveal that God's eternal intention is to dispense Himself into His chosen people, making them the same as He is in His life, His nature, and His image but not in the God-head. This is the central point of the revelation of the Bible and also of the visions presented in the book of Ezekiel.

II. Truth and Enlightenment :

Day 1 --

A. How can the heavens be opened to Ezekiel ?

Ezekiel was in the land of captivity, but he was seeking God and contacting Him and was connected to the heavens. He was really mature in life. Whenever God finds a man on earth who is one with Him, the heavens are opened to him; the heavens could even come down to earth, enabling God's heavenly things to be seen by people on earth and to be fulfilled among them on earth. This is God's special visitation.

B. What is the meaning of that "Ezekiel the priest " was mentioned in Ezek. 1 : 3 ?

As a priest Ezekiel was one who lived in the presence of God, serving God and being mingled with God. Although he was in the land of captivity, he still lived in the presence of God and ministered before God. He was by the river Chebar, not in the holy temple, yet as a priest, he looked to God, prayed to God, contacted God, fellowshiped with God, and waited for God.

Day 2 --

A. Why seeing visions of God is the most important matter for a person who serves the Lord ?

Everyone who serves the Lord must be a person with a vision. Not all of us will have a vision directly from the Lord; some of us will see a vision indirectly through the help of others. If a person has a vision, his service is a service with a vision. The apostle Paul said that he was not disobedient to the heavenly vision.

B. Explain what a vision is and what we need in order to have the vision ?

Vision denotes an extraordinary scene. In the Bible vision refers to the scenery we see from God. Through His word God has opened the veil, but we must see the scenes contained in the Word. Whatever we see through God's revelation is a vision. In order to have the vision we need the revelation, the eyes, and the light.

Day 3 --

A. Explain Acts 10 : 9 - 16 shows us apostle Peter being brought into a trance ?

This is another principal of prayer. To pray is to pray ourselves into a trance. A trance means that we have gotten out of our self. We may be imprisoned in our self, but we need to pray out of that imprisonment. In a trance, in a situation in which we are out of our self, we can receive visions of God.

B. How is the sequence of the open heavens, the visions, the word of God, and the hand of God ?

God's hand always follows His speaking. Whatever He says, He does. However, if you minister many things and nothing happens, this means that you have a babbling mouth, but God's hand is not working, you have a babbling mouth, but God's hand is not working, you need God's almighty hand to work out what you are speaking. Today we need the heavens opened; we need the vision coming to us; we need the word of the Lord to come expressly to us; and we need the hand of the Lord to be upon us.

Day 4 --

A. What is the purpose for God's hand coming upon Ezekiel ?

God's hand upon man is also for leading man and for causing one to take action. The visions are for seeing; the words are for hearing; and the hand is for action. God's hand led and directed Ezekiel.

B. Explain Ephesians reveals that God's pleasure and the desire of God's heart ?

God's eternal purpose is of His will. God's good pleasure is His heart pleasure, which we may call the desire of His heart. The living, loving, and purposeful God surely has a desire. God is certainly the most living one, He surely needs the most pleasure. The good pleasure of God's will is the desire of God's heart.

Day 5 --

A. What makes us so happy ?

It is because we have the very God working within us both the willing and the working for His good pleasure. How do we know that we are living a life according to God's good pleasure? It is because of our sense of happiness. When we are happy, we are registering God's happiness within us. Our inward joy is an indication that we are living and walking according to His good pleasure.

B. Why can't we be in isolation from the vision in Ezek. 1 ?

The vision in Ezek. 1 shows us that we need to be corporate and that we need to be in coordination. Coordination is necessary for God's expression. We have pointed out that the four living creatures are for God's expression in Christ. In order for God to have a corporate expression of Himself in Christ, we need to be joined together with all the saints.

Day 6 --

A. What does the words in Ezek. 1 : 26 reveal ?

In Ezek. 1 : 26b we are told that the One on the throne looks like a man. Have you ever thought that the Lord on the throne is not only the mighty God but is also a man? Oh, the One who sits on the throne is a man! However, verse 28 speaks of the One on the throne looks like a man, yet with Him there is the appearance of the glory of Jehovah.

B. If we want to live out God and express God, we must be a man and have the appearance of a man. Why ?

Ezek. 1 : 5 says that four living creatures have the appearance of a man, and verse 26 says that the One on the throne has the appearance of a man. The crucial point here is that because man was created in the image of God in order to express God, only man is like God. A person must have the appearance of a man in order to live out the image of God and therefore express God.

III. Conclusion :

Ezekiel seeing visions of God lies in his standing in the position of a priest and seeking God, being connected to the heavens; he also carrying out his priesthood in the spirit, serving God and fellowshiping with God. He was thirty years old and had reached the age of life. Because his heart was a duplication of heavenly God's heart, the heavens were opened to him. As well, he prayed out of himself into a trance. In that trance he received visions from God. God wanted him not only to behold with his eyes but also to hear with his ears; He gave him express and special words as well as His hand led and directed him.