

Guidelines for practicing prophesying in Lord's day meeting

2016 Winter Training : Crystallization-Study of Ezekiel (1)

Message Two : The Spiritual History of a Normal Christian -- the Wind, the Cloud, the Fire, and the Electrum

I. Overview :

A storm wind coming from the north is a sign of the blowing of the Holy Spirit upon us. That Spirit has blown to cause people to repent of their sins, to believe in the Lord Jesus for their regeneration, to give up the world in order to follow the Lord, and to be desperate in heart and burning in spirit to serve the Lord. The cloud is a figure of God as the Spirit abiding with His people and covering them in order to care for them and show favor to them. The fire signifies God's burning, purging, purifying, sanctifying power. Electrum is an alloy of gold and silver; gold signifies the nature of God, and silver signifies redemption. The spiritual history of every Christian should be a story of the wind, the cloud, the fire, and the electrum. Every time this cycle is repeated, more our experience and enjoyment become His testimony, which is the present revelation of Jesus Christ.

II. Truth and Enlightenment :

Day 1 --

A. What is the significance of a storm wind from the north in Ezek.1:4 ?

Psalm 75 : 6-7a indicates that God is at the north, which is commonly regarded as up. God, who is at the north, is always up. The fact that the stormy wind came from the north means that it came from God. The dwelling place, the habitation, of God is the source of all spiritual things. The stormy wind came from the north, from the habitation of God.

B. When does the storm wind blow according to our experience ?

A storm wind comes to us from the Lord not only at the time of our conversion but also after we have been saved. Actually, a stormy wind blows upon us at every turn in our spiritual life. This stormy wind is God Himself blowing upon us to bring a storm into our life, into our work, and into our church.

Day 2 --

A. Explain what the spiritual significance of the cloud in Ezek.1:4 is.

The cloud in Ezek. 1 : 4 is a figure of God covering His people. We may use the word brooding and say that the cloud was God brooding over His people. The cloud, therefore, was nothing other than the brooding God. God comes as the wind, but He stays as the cloud. By staying as the cloud, He covers us, overshadows us, and broods over us to give us the enjoyment of His presence.

B. How is the cloud mentioned in relation to the wind in Ezek.1:4 ?

First, the Holy Spirit as a wind touches us and moves us, causing us to turn to the Lord, to see our corruption, and to repent and confess our sins. Then we have the sense that God is like a cloud visiting us, overshadowing us, and covering us. We may sense also that the grace of God is upon us, covering us like a canopy.

Day 3 --

A. What is the spiritual significance and meaning of the fire seen by Ezekiel ?

The fire seen by Ezekiel signifies God's burning and sanctifying power. Everything that doesn't match God's holy nature and disposition must be burned away. When God visits a person, His holy fire will come to consume the negative things in him. The more the fire of the Holy Spirit burns in us, the more we will be purified and enlightened.

B. What are the things that God wants to burn in us as He is the consuming fire ?

Our God is a consuming fire. The source of the fire is the blowing wind with the covering cloud. Under His covering we are exposed by His shining and we would confess our need for His burning to burn away our self, our old nature, our disposition, our worldliness, and our attitude, goals, aims, motives, and intentions. One such burning is better than a thousand teachings.

Day 4 --

A. Explain that Rev. 22:1 speaks of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

The One on the throne is not just God and not just the Lamb but the Lamb-God, the redeeming God. In Genesis 1 God was solely God, but in Revelation 22 He is our redeeming God, our Lamb-God. These help us to understand the significance of the electrum in Ezekiel.

B. Explain the spiritual significance of God as the light and the Lamb being the lamp of the city.

God as the light needs a lamp, and the Lamb is the lamp of the city. Without the bulb, our touching of the electricity may electrify and kill us. In like manner; without the Lamb being the lamp, God's shining over us would "kill"

all of us. However, the divine light shines through our Redeemer. This light has become so lovable, and we even walk in this light.

Day 5 --

A. How do we experience the wind, the cloud, the fire and the electrum everyday ?

When you wake up in the morning, you may sense that the wind of the Spirit is blowing upon you and that a cloud is overshadowing you. Then as you spend some time to pray, you may sense that a fire is burning within you to consume your corruption and many other negative things. Eventually, you may sense that within you there is something bright and dignified--the glowing electrum.

B. Why is that the more we pass through God's wind, cloud and fire, the more the Lord is manifested in us in a dignified way ?

When He is manifested in such a way, we sense that He alone is precious, majestic and glorious. Like the disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration, we see "no one except Jesus Himself alone". The only one in view, the only one in the scene, is the lovely, glorious Lord Jesus. Then we can do nothing other than bow before Him, worship Him, exalt Him, crown Him, and pour out everything to Him. In this way we gain the Lord, and He gains us.

Day 6 --

A. What visions in Ezek.1 should we pay attention to ?

The visions in the book of Ezekiel begin with God. The visions, which began from the north, where God is, show us God in His will, work and relationship with man. In addition to the wind, the cloud, the fire and the electrum, the visions include the four living creatures, the high and dreadful wheels, a sky as clear as crystal, God's glorious throne, and the man upon the throne.

B. How is it used to portray what Christ is for all the positive things in the universe ?

For example, the sun symbolizes Christ as our light, and food symbolizes Christ as our sustenance. The Lord used a vine to describe Himself and the pasture as an illustration of Himself. The whole universe is a picture of Christ. If we see this, we will realize how rich, profound, unlimited and unsearchable Christ is.

III. Conclusion :

This should be the spiritual history of a normal Christian. The wind signifies the powerful spirit and comes upon us at every turn in our spiritual life to move us to repent and turn to God. The cloud signifies God's overshadowing and presence to bring us His grace and glory. The fire signifies God's burning and sanctifying power to purge our unholiness and unrighteousness, even our motives and intentions. The issue is the glowing electrum, which is the radiant expression of the redeeming God. This kind of repeated experience with enjoyment makes us become His testimony and revelation. We may experience the marvelous story everyday in our morning revival.