

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophecy -- Message Seven

I. Overview :

Over the heads of the four living creatures there is the expanse like crystal, which indicates that above them is a clear and expanding heaven. If we would have a clear sky, we need to deal with any offense in our conscience and maintain a pure conscience. The living creatures stretch out one pair of their wings and use the other pair to cover their bodies. As they go, the voice of their wings become the voice of the Almighty, of an army. When they stand still, they drop their wings to listen to God's voice. The throne of God for the divine administration throughout the universe rules over everyone and everything. The highest point in our spiritual experience is having a clear sky with the throne above it; this is the authority in the church. The likeness of a throne is like the appearance of a sapphire stone. The throne in the heavens is transmitted to the earth through and with the living creatures.

II. Truth and Enlightenment :

Day 1 --

A. Before and after we were saved, how was our sky according to our experience?

Before we were saved, our sky was dark, cloudy, and also narrow, without any expanse. With us there was hardly any heaven, hardly any sky. But one day we repented, confessed our sins, and received the Lord Jesus as our Savior. After we made a thorough confession, we had the sense that the sky above us was clear and also expanding.

B. Explain that what kind of sky a Christian has depends upon his conscience.

Your conscience is connected to your sky. If there is no blemish on your conscience, your sky will be clear. If your sky is not clear, this means that there is some offense on your conscience. In order to have a clear sky, we need to deal with any offense and condemnation in our conscience. The story of our sky is the story of our conscience.

Day 2 --

A. How to apply that as the creatures moved, Ezekiel heard the voice of their wings?

As the living creatures moved in a straight coordination, a voice came out. This voice was their testimony. From this we see that the voice of the testimony of any local church must come out of the proper coordination. The day of Pentecost, when Peter stood up with the eleven, they were like the four living creatures in Ezekiel 1.

B. Explain that the living creatures stretched two of their wings and used the other two wings to cover themselves.

This indicates that in the church life, in the coordination, we all need to learn to hide ourselves under the Lord's grace, the eagle's wings. There should be no manifestation of the self or of any individual. No matter how great our portion may be, we need to hide ourselves under the Lord's grace. We should never boast in ourselves but always boast in Him.

Day 3 --

A. What does it mean for the living creatures to drop their wings as they stopping?

When they stand still, they let down their wings, lowering them. When they hear a voice not out of their wings but out of the clear sky above their heads, they stop and let down their wings. This indicates that they know how to listen to God's voice. They know not only how to speak and sound forth their voice but also how to listen to God's voice.

B. How does Ezekiel 1 present us a marvelous picture portrayed the church life?

All the experiences of the things in the first twenty-one verses bring the living creatures to a point where they are under a crystal-clear, expanding, and stable heaven. Therefore, the living creatures have a proper move on earth and give a proper voice and testimony to the whole universe. Here they learn how to stop and listen to God's voice.

Day 4 --

A. How can we have the throne in our Christian life and church life?

As Christians and as local churches, we all should be under a crystal clear and expansive sky. Above the sky is the Lord's throne which is both in the third heaven and in our spirit. Hence, the Lord's throne is with us all the time. His presence can never be separated from His throne.

B. How should we be under the ruling and reigning of the Lord's throne?

Because we are under the throne, we do not need policemen and law courts to rule over us. When we are in darkness and thus are not under the throne, we can be quite loose, speaking what we want to speak, expressing what we want to express, and going where we want to go. But a person who is under the throne has no liberty to behave in such a way.

Day 5 --

A. Explain what the highest point in our spiritual experience is?

The Lord's presence is always with His throne. The throne above the crystal clear expanse indicates that whenever we have a "clear sky" in our Christian life and in our church life, we will be under the ruling of the throne. That means in everything we allow God to have the preeminence and are completely submissive to God's authority and administration.

B. How do we let God's eternal purpose accomplish in us?

If we have a throne in our spiritual life, God will not only rule over us but will also fulfill His purpose in us, with us, and through us. If you want God's purpose and plan to be carried out in you and with you, you must be a person, who submits to the throne, under the reign of God.

Day 6 --

A. How is the heavenly throne transmitted to the earth through and with the living creatures?

From what is portrayed in Ezek.1 we can see that the throne is transmitted to the earth through and with the living creatures. In this way the throne in the heavens becomes one with the earth, so we may say that the living creatures in Ezek.1 are the heavenly electrical lines. It is through them, by them, and with them that the heavenly throne is transmitted to the earth.

B. Why is the only authority the throne above a clear sky?

In the church there is no human authority. The authority in the church is the throne above the clear sky. As long as we are under a clear sky with a throne above it, there is no need for us to claim to have authority--the authority is simply there. We should never try to bring others under our authority. If we are under a clear sky with the throne above it, the genuine authority will be with us.

III. Conclusion :

The sky over the head of the living creatures is like awesome crystal, indicating that above them is a clear and expanding heaven; this means that they have a thorough fellowship with the Lord vertically and a clear fellowship with men horizontally, without anything between them and God, without anything between them and one another. In order to have a such fellowship, we need to have a good conscience and a pure heart. The kind of sky depends on often making a confession in the light, dealing with any offense and condemnation in our conscience, without any goals other than Him in our hearts. For God to have the throne in us means that He has the position to reign in us. We must exercise in everything submissive to God's authority and administration, thus the heavenly throne is transmitted to the earth through and with the living creatures.