

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day prophesying

Message Five : The Revelation, Experience, and Enjoyment of the Ascended Christ as a Merciful, Faithful, and Great High Priest

I. Overview :

In the Bible from Gen.14 we can see that the basic significance of a priest is not that a priest serves God but that a priest ministers God to man. When Abraham was able to slaughter the four kings, recover Lot, and gain the victory, Melchizedek appeared and ministered something of God to Abraham. Hebrews is a book on the priesthood in its three aspects. The first aspect is the Aaronic priesthood for solving the problem of sins. The second aspect is the kingly priesthood for ministering God into us. The third aspect is the divine priesthood for saving us to the uttermost. Christ is a merciful, faithful, and great High Priest, knowing how to care for us and His care for us being always positive. Ultimately, Christ is caring for God's need with interests and Christ's heavenly ministry consummates in the New Jerusalem.

II. Truth and Enlightenment :

Day 1 --

A. Explain the basic significance of the priesthood.

The first mention of a thing in the Bible establishes the principle for that category of things. Melchizedek establishes the principle of a priest, who came from God and ministered something of God to Abraham; the foundational story of the priesthood is that of a priest coming from God ministering something of God to God's people.

B. What did Melchizedek do by coming to Abraham?

As the priest of the Most High God, Melchizedek did not offer sacrifices to God for Abraham's sin; he ministered bread and wine to him. Bread and wine signify the processed God as our supply. Our High Priest, Christ, is according to the order of Melchizedek ministering the processed God to us.

Day 2 --

A. What are the three aspects of the priesthood according to the Scriptures?

The first aspect - the aspect of the Aaronic priesthood - is for offering sacrifices to God for our sins. The second aspect - the aspect of the kingly priesthood - is for ministering the processed God to us as our life supply. The third aspect - the aspect of the divine priesthood - is for saving us to the uttermost, and this saving rescues us especially from death and all of the environment of death.

B. How does the heavenly Christ minister in the heavenly tabernacle?

His purifying of sins is typified by the work of Aaron, while His sitting down on the right hand of the Majesty on high is according to the order of Melchizedek. His work on the cross on earth, typified by the work of Aaron, affords us forgiveness of sins. His ministry on the throne in heaven ministers to us the overcoming of sin.

Day 3 --

A. Expound the kingly priesthood of the priesthood of Christ.

Christ is a kingly priest. His status is kingly, royal. Although He is a High Priest, He did not come out of the tribe of the priests but out of the tribe of the kings - Judah. Kingship is His status and makes Him a kingly priest. Kingship is related to both righteousness and peace because kingship is a kind of rule and authority.

B. Explain that the second aspect of Christ's priesthood is the divine priesthood.

For Christ to be kingly is a matter of status, but for Him to be divine is a matter of constituent. Christ's being divine refers to His nature and He is divine because He is the Son of God. His divinity constitutes Him as a High Priest who is living and full of life so that He may be able to continue His priesthood perpetually. Thus, Christ's priesthood is the absence of death and the presence of life.

Day 4 --

A. How is He qualified to be a merciful High Priest?

Being merciful corresponds to the point of Christ's being a man, passing through all the human sufferings. He knows how to be merciful to man because He suffered in His human life some things we have not suffered. In order to be qualified to be a merciful High Priest, He became like us, sympathizing with all of our weaknesses.

B. How has Christ in resurrection brought forth many brothers to form the church?

He is the firstborn Son of God in resurrection, and we are His many brothers in resurrection to form the church. He and we are the same in life and in nature. He is the Head of the church, and we are the members of the church. This affords Him so much ground to be our High Priest.

Day 5 --

A. Describe how great our High Priest, Christ, in His work is.

He has made purification of and propitiation for our sins. He tasted death not only on behalf of every man but also on behalf of everything. Our High Priest, Christ, is great in His attainment, which is so high that He entered into the Holy of Holies in the heavens and was crowned with glory and honor.

B. How do we come forward to the throne of grace?

Since our spirit is the place of God's habitation today, it is the gate of heaven where Christ is the ladder that joins us, the people on earth, to heaven, and brings heaven to us. Whenever we turn to our spirit, say from the depths of our being, "O Lord Jesus," we enter into the gate of heaven and touch the throne of grace in heaven through Christ as the heavenly ladder.

Day 6 --

A. What should we know as to the High Priest's care for us?

Although Christ as the High Priest is taking care of us, often His way of caring for us is different from what we desire. The Lord may not answer a prayer for healing. We do not know what is good for us, but the Lord knows what is needed for our life on earth. The Lord's care for us is always positive.

B. Expound in I Kings 8:48 the three crucial things regarding God's economy.

The Holy Land, typifying Christ as the portion allotted by God to the believers; the holy city, signifying the kingdom of God in Christ; and the holy temple, signifying God's house, the church, on the earth. During the Babylonian captivity Daniel prayed toward the Holy Land, the

holy city, and the holy temple three times a day by opening his window toward Jerusalem; our prayers should be aimed at the interests of God.

III. Conclusion :

When Abraham heard his nephew, Lot, be captured, he fought for him right away, not to care about the previous offense but to lead home warrior 318 people in order to chase the four kings bravely and recover Lot. In the meanwhile Melchizedek appeared and ministered bread and wine to Abraham. We are just like today's Abraham, by Melchizedek, a priest of God, interceding for us in order to defeat the enemies surrounded us. How we need to slaughter some kings every day in our mind, emotion, and will, as well in our environment, families, schools so that we may become overcomers defeating enemies, then Christ as the Melchizedek will come to us, minister bread and wine to us in order to celebrate our victory.