

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying
Message Eighteen : The Son of Man and the Humanity
of Jesus for God's Building

I. Overview :

Ezekiel is a book full of humanity and the term son of man is used more than ninety times in this book. The Son of God is for life, while the Son of Man is for the building. For God's building we need the humanity of Jesus, which is His human life in resurrection. The wood in the holy building of God signifies the uplifted, divinely enriched humanity of Jesus. In order to have the humanity of Jesus for God's building, we need to experience the Spirit of Jesus, in which we may become "Jesusly" human, having the humanity of Jesus for God's building.

II. Truth and enlightenment :

Day 1 --

A. Describe that Ezekiel is a book full of humanity.

In chapter 1 Christ on the throne is a man. Upon the throne is a man. Even in His glory, Christ is revealed as a man. In chapter 43, when the glory comes back to the temple, the man is there. This man is the Lord Himself. In God's building, the primary material is humanity. This indicates that we need to be human; the proper humanity is the crucified, resurrected, and ascended humanity of Jesus.

B. What is the connection between Eze. 1:26 and Gen. 1:26?

The One sitting on the throne in Ezekiel 1:26 has the appearance of a man. And Genesis 1:26, which says that God created man in His own image and according to His likeness. In the incarnation God Himself became a man. Having the nature of man, He lived, died, resurrected, and ascended as a man, and now in heaven He is still the Son of Man.

Day 2 --

A. Expound that in the Bible there is a mysterious thought concerning the relationship between God and man.

God's desire is to become the same as man is and to make man the same as He is. This means that God's intention is to mingle Himself with man and thereby make Himself like man and make man like Him. The Lord Jesus is the God-man; He is the complete God and the perfect man. It is a delight to God that all His chosen and redeemed people would be God-men.

B. How do the four living creatures express the One who sits on the throne?

The four living creatures are reckoned not as individuals but as a group. These living creatures are the corporate expression of the man on the throne. As such an expression, they express this man not only in one direction but in the four directions of east, north, south, and west. This indicates that as the four living creatures we are not only the unique expression of Christ but also that we are the complete expression of Christ.

Day 3 --

A. What're the different functions "He being Son of God and Son of Man"?

The Lord is both the Son of God and the Son of Man. If He were not the Son of God, He could never be our life. If He were not the Son of Man, He could never be the essence of the building of God. The Son of God is for life, and the Son of Man is for building. In order to have life, we must believe that Jesus is the Son of God. God's building needs His humanity. We need Jesus as the Son of God, but God needs Him as the Son of Man.

B. Explain that the Lord lived a life in the four Gospels.

The main vision of Jesus in the four Gospels is that He lived a life that was human but in resurrection. Jesus was not a man living a natural life. He always put His humanity aside. He was in His humanity, yet He did not live a life of His humanity. Every day while He was on the earth, Jesus was in the flesh, but that flesh was in resurrection.

Day 4 --

A. How're we brought back to the proper humanity through His redemption?

We were created as men, but we were corrupted, poisoned, and damaged by the fall. Therefore, we need the Lord's redemption. Through the Lord's redemption we are brought back to the proper humanity. Actually, the humanity we have now is not ours but His, for we have the humanity of Jesus. The Lord's salvation is to make us proper human beings.

B. What would benefit our humanity from Christ's death and resurrection?

What Christ terminated on the cross was the fallen humanity, the fallen old man, yet the God-created humanity remained to be resurrected. In resurrection the divine element uplifted the regenerated humanity. Now after we have been regenerated to be a new man, we still have our humanity, but it is a resurrected, regenerated humanity.

Day 5 --

A. What humanity is what we need?

We must be Jesusly human, not humanly human. I am not referring to our natural and fallen humanity. We need another category of humanity—a new, holy human nature. Jesus is a man, but His humanity is of a different source than ours. By death and resurrection He uplifted this humanity. His humanity is not only new and holy but also uplifted.

B. What kind of human life should we live in the Lord's recovery?

For the testimony of Jesus we need the highest human life, a life lived out according to the divine life given to us by God. By the divine life we need to have a human life that reaches the highest standard. In our living we should have a glorious testimony of the Christ in whom we serve and honor.

Day 6 --

A. Explain what the Spirit of Jesus is? What elements are included?

The Spirit of Jesus is a particular expression concerning the Spirit of God, and refers to the Spirit of the incarnated Savior who, as Jesus in His humanity, passed through human living and death on the cross. This indicates that in the Spirit of Jesus there is not only the divine element of God, but also the human element of Jesus and the elements of His human living and His suffering of death as well.

B. Why do we need Jesus's humanity for the standing up of the church life?

Why does apostle Paul put all these human virtues in Ephesians 4:2-3? He mentions lowliness, meekness, long-suffering, and bearing one another in love. All these are human virtues, and they are all required for keeping the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace. They are all related to the oneness of the Spirit. It is not the Holy Spirit or the Spirit of God who is mentioned here, but the Spirit, who is the Spirit of humanity.

III. Conclusion :

When we put Gen. 1:26 and Eze. 1:26 together, we will see that God's original intention is to expect the man whom He created in His own image and according to His likeness being the same as the One sitting on the throne. But by the fall the corrupted humanity had been damaged and poisoned, so we needed the uplifted, resurrected humanity of Jesus to fulfill God's requirement. In order to have this humanity, we need the Spirit of Jesus; we must eat of Him daily to live because of Him, and drink of the Spirit to have supply from Him.