

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying
Message Twenty-Three :
The Holy Temple and the Holy City In the Holy Land

I. Overview :

The holy temple and the holy city, which typify the church, are the issue of the Holy Land, which typifies Christ; the church is the issue of the enjoyment of the riches of Christ. The good land is situated between the waters of the Mediterranean Sea on the west and the waters of the Dead Sea and the Jordan River. The picture portrayed by the allotment of the land shows that all the Israelites will enjoy Christ, but their nearness to Christ will not be the same. Among them, the most important are the priests and the Kings. At the end of Ezekiel God obtains a holy temple and a holy city in the Holy Land; the name of the city from that day shall be "Jehovah Is There".

II. Truth and Enlightenment :

Day 1 --

A. Explain how important the land is; apart from it, there can be no temple.

Without the land there cannot be a temple. The temple, which typifies the church, is the issue of the land. If we do not have the experience of Christ, it is impossible for us to have the same time church. The church is the issue of the enjoyment of the riches of Christ. Before we can have the recovery of the building, we need to have the recovery of the land. The recovery of the land signifies the recovery of the enjoyment of Christ.

B. Expound that the Israelites built up the temple because of the recovery of the land and how about the believers in Christ?

By enjoying the riches of the land, the children of Israel were able to build up the temple to be God's habitation on earth and the city of Jerusalem to establish God's kingdom on earth. Likewise, by enjoying the unsearchable riches of Christ, the believers in Christ are built up to be Christ's Body, the church, which is Christ's fullness, His expression.

Day 2 --

A. What does it signify that the land is surrounded by two seas and a river?

The good land is surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea and the Dead Sea and the river Jordan. These two seas and a river all signify the death of Christ. This indicates that the enjoyment of Christ is closely related to His death. The enjoyment of Christ must be in the sphere, the territory, of His death. That the good land rose up from the waters bordered it on either side indicates that it is on elevated, uplifted land.

B. What's the significance of the Mount Hermon on the north of the land?

On the north side of the good land, there is no river as a border; instead, there is Mount Hermon. According to Psalm 133 the dew comes down from Mount Hermon and descends upon the mountains of Zion. This signifies that grace comes down from the heavens and descends upon all the local churches. This elevated land with Mount Hermon signifies the resurrected Christ, who has ascended to the heavens.

Day 3 --

A. Explain these four kinds of people in nearness to the Lord.

The nearness of the tribes to Christ determined their importance. The most important people were the priests, who were the closest to Christ and who maintained the fellowship between the people and the Lord. The Levites were next in nearness to the Lord, and they maintained a service to the Lord. Then the workers for the city were the third closest to the Lord. In addition, there was the royal family with the king and the kingship.

B. How should we desire to be priests and kings?

We should desire and exercise not only to be priests but also to be kings. Revelation 1:6 says that the Lord has made us a kingdom, priests to God and His Father. We must be priests, the sons of Zadok, and the kings who are very close to the Lord. As kings and priests, we also have been predestined to be very close to Him.

Day 4 --

A. Describe the city of Jerusalem in Ezekiel 48:30-35?

This city will be the dwelling place of the restored Israel with God in the earthly part of the millennium. As such, it typifies the overcomers in the church and the overcoming saints of the Old Testament, who will be the New Jerusalem as the mutual abode of God and the overcomers in the heavenly part of the millennium, which is the manifestation of the kingdom of the heavens.

B. Explain the history of Israel being a full type of the history of the church.

The history of Israel began with Israel's corporate experience of the passover during the exodus from Egypt and will continue until the Lord's second coming, at which time Israel will be restored and will build the earthly Jerusalem. The history of the church also began with the Passover, and will go on until the millennium, in which the overcoming saints will be the heavenly Jerusalem. After the one thousand years the heavenly Jerusalem will be enlarged to become the New Jerusalem in the new heaven and the new earth.

Day 5 --

A. Why do we say that in New Jerusalem we all are one ?

Revelation 21:21 shows us that in the New Jerusalem there is only one street. No matter what direction we come from and no matter what gate we enter through, we will all be on the same street. On this street there is the one flow, the one river, with the one drink and the one tree of life. In this city we all are one.

B. What is the meaning of God being in the temple and the city?

God obtains a holy temple and a holy city in the Holy Land. God dwells in the temple, and He dwells also in the city. In the temple God has fellowship with His people, and in the city God reigns among His people [indicating] that in the temple and the city God has come down from heaven to live with man. The temple and the city typify the church in the present age as the center for the fellowship with God and for the reigning of God.

Day 6 --

A. Explain the meaning of the divine title of Jehovah.

"He that is who He is, therefore the eternal I Am". As Jehovah, He is the One who was in the past, who is in the present, and who is to come in the future. He is everything. Whatever we need, He is. He is thousands of items to us because He is everything and He is in every time. The Lord is the great I Am.

B. Explain the meaning of the divine title of Jehovah-shammah.

This means "Jehovah Is There", or "Jehovah is present". The presence of God today is God Himself as the Spirit. The presence of God as the Spirit is for dispensing. Thus, Jehovah-shammah is God Himself for dispensing. This typifies the Triune God moving with them and dispensing Himself for their enjoyment.

III. Conclusion :

By enjoying the riches of the land, the children of Israel were able to build up the temple to be God's habitation on earth and the city of Jerusalem to establish God's kingdom on earth; likewise, by enjoying the unsearchable riches of Christ, the believers in Christ are built up to be Christ's Body, the church. In Col. 2:7 Paul says, "Having been rooted and being built up in Him"; according to the concepts in the good land, what we still lack of is to be joined to Christ, the all inclusive One, in our daily walk in big things or small matters. To enjoy the riches of Christ, the priests are the closest to Him. We should get up early in the morning, like the sons of Zadok to come near to Him, minister to Him, and stand before Him.