

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying

Message Twenty-Four : The Return of the Glory of God to the House of God

I. Overview :

God is the God of glory, Who appeared to Abraham; in the same principle, God calls the New Testament believers. In Ezekiel 43, the glory of God returned to the house; only the built-up church gives the Lord the standing to administrate His government and to move on earth. In the Gospel of John, we see the glory of God in the building of God; Ephesians 3 reveals that God is glorified in the church. The New Jerusalem has the glory of God, His expression; the church life today should also have God's glory, manifesting and expressing Him corporately in this marvelous divine attribute.

II. Truth and Enlightenment :

Day 1 --

A. How does God's glory transfuse into us to make us believe Him?

The God of glory came to us through the preaching of the gospel, and we were attracted and convinced and began to appreciate Him. During that time, the God of glory transfused some element of His being into us, and we believed in Him spontaneously. Once God has transfused Himself into us, we cannot escape; we must believe in Him.

B. What is the meaning of the crucial turn in Genesis 35?

Before this chapter, God was the God of individuals; here He is no longer just the God of individuals, but El-bethel, the God of the house of God. In the church life, we do experience God corporately and not only individually. We can only experience the God of the house of God in the church life.

Day 2 --

A. What are the similarities between Ezekiel and Revelation?

Like Ezekiel, Revelation covers the four matters of vision, judgment, recovery, and building, and it covers them in the same sequence that we find in Ezekiel. The vision of the Lord in Revelation 1 is followed by God's judgment, God's recovery, and God's building. Ultimately, the book of Revelation, like the book of Ezekiel, consummates with God's building with its twelve gates.

B. Explain the meaning of the place of His throne, the soles of His feet.

The place of the soles of the Lord's feet is the place of His throne. The throne is for God's government, administration, and kingdom; it is the place from which He can administrate. The soles of the Lord's feet are for His move on earth. Apart from the temple as the place of His throne and the place of the soles of His feet, the Lord has no base for His administration and move on the earth.

Day 3 --

A. Why would the glory of Jehovah leave the temple?

Our God is a jealous God; He will not tolerate idols. Because of the idols in the temple, the glory of God withdrew step by step, leaving the temple, the city, and the people. In the last step the glory of the Lord left the temple and the city, stopping on the Mount of Olives. The glory of the Lord stopped there and waited for a while, but eventually it left that mountain and went back to the heavens.

B. What were the two things that happened immediately after the tabernacle of God was completed?

The first thing that happened was that the glory of God filled the tabernacle. God's glory is simply God expressed. The second thing that happened was that the word of God was revealed in the tabernacle. God spoke to Moses in the tabernacle. In the New Testament, when the church of God was produced on the earth, the glory of God filled the church, and God spoke in the church.

Day 4 --

A. Explain that the glory of God returned only after the building of the temple was completed.

If we want to dwell in the church and manifest His glory in the church, the church must be complete. If the church today corresponds to all the details of the holy building of God covered in Ezekiel and thus is built up in every aspect, God will dwell in the church gloriously.

B. Why is the east gate the most important one?

The temple has three gates: one toward the east, one toward the south, and one toward the north. The gate toward the east is not only for the convenience of the people but also for the glory of the Lord. In the church life we need several gates, but the most important one is the east gate—the gate that is open to the glory of the Lord. The decisions in the church life must be made primarily according to the Lord's glory.

Day 5 --

A. How did John describe the Christ being God's glory in his Gospel?

When John wrote his Gospel, he used the picture of the tabernacle to tell people that the Word, who was spoken forth and who became flesh, was also a tabernacle. As such a tabernacle, God was expressed and could be received by men as grace and reality.

B. How can God's glory be manifested in us among people?

Before we were saved, we were full of pride and critical of others, even estranged from others. Then one day we received the gospel, and were regenerated. At that time there was no need for anyone to speak to us about our pride or to advise us to be reconciled with others. These responses were manifested in us because we met the Lord Jesus inwardly, and people seeing of God's glory being in us.

Day 6 --

A. How can we see the way of God being glorified in the church from Eph.3?

In Eph. 3, the apostle prayed that the Father would strengthen the saints according to the riches of His glory. This implies that the glory of God can be wrought into the saints, then returns to God. First, the glory of God is wrought into us; then it returns to God for His glorification. This is the way in which God is glorified in the church.

B. How is the Father's house built up?

In John 14:23 the Lord Jesus said, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him." Verse 2 tells us that in the Father's house there are many abodes, and in verse 23 we see that these abodes are built up by the Father and the Son's visitation to those who love Him.

III. Conclusion :

Upon His return to the temple, the Lord was very happy. The house had been recovered, and once again He had a place for the soles of His feet. Therefore, in 43:7 He said, "Son of man, this is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet." We saw the Lord's desire for His house, for the recovery of the church life. In order for the glorious God to dwell in the church, the church must be built up to become the dwelling place of God. The entire New Jerusalem will bear the glory of God, which is God Himself shining out through the city. The church life today should also have God's glory, manifesting and expressing Him corporately in this marvelous divine attribute.