

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying  
Message Eight: The Development of the Kingdom of God

**I. Overview:**

The Gospel of Luke is a narrative of the ministry of the incarnated Jesus as a record of whom on earth; Acts is a record of the succeeding ministry of the resurrected and ascended Christ in heaven carried out through His believers on earth, and spreads Himself as the development of the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God is the main subject of the apostles' preaching in Acts, and it is also the spreading of Christ as life into His believers to form a realm in which God rules in His life. The churches produced by the propagation of the resurrected Christ are the kingdom of God on earth today. Paul entreated the believers who were continuing in the faith to realize that through many tribulations we must enter into the kingdom of God, because the whole world opposes our entering in; Paul's proclaiming the kingdom of God was the propagation of the Christ.

**II. Truth and Enlightenment :**

Day 1 —

A. What are the Luke's Gospel and Acts related with?

Luke's Gospel ends with the Lord's ascension into heaven, and his Acts begins with it. His Gospel is a narrative of the ministry of the incarnated Jesus on earth. His Acts is a record of the succeeding ministry of the resurrected and ascended Christ in heaven carried out through His believers on earth. In the Gospels, the Lord's ministry on earth, carried out by Himself. In Acts, the Lord's ministry in heaven, carried out through His believers.

B. How can we say that the kingdom and the church are a pair, also go in parallel?

Acts shows us that the kingdom and the church are a pair. The kingdom as God's reign in a particular way in the sense of life goes in parallel with the church. Without the kingdom there is neither the beginning nor the conclusion of the church life. The church life is intimately related to the kingdom because the kingdom is the life pulse of the church. Therefore, the kingdom is absolutely crucial to the church life.

Day 2 —

A. What is the kingdom of God, the gospel of the kingdom of God?

The kingdom of God is not material but spiritual, which is the Savior as the seed of life to be sown into God's chosen people to develop into God's ruling realm. It also makes this realm over which God can rule as His kingdom in His divine life. To announce the gospel of the kingdom of God is to preach the kingdom of God as the gospel, the good news.

B. What are the conditions to see the kingdom of God without observation?

When the Pharisees questioned the Lord about the coming of the kingdom of God, He answered that the kingdom of God does not come with observation. This shows a strong indication that the kingdom of God is actually the Savior Himself. We need spiritual eyes to see spiritual things, to see the kingdom of God. Actually, this kingdom is a wonderful person. The spiritual reality of this person is actually the kingdom of God.

Day 3 —

A. Do they understand Lord's speaking about God's kingdom during 40 days?

It is not likely that during the forty days after His resurrection, He gave the disciples something new concerning the kingdom. Rather, He may have repeated what He taught them in the Gospels. But in John 20 they received the wonderful person of the resurrected Christ into them as the life-giving Spirit. As a result, they were able to understand the Lord's speaking concerning the kingdom of God.

B. What does it reveal In Mark 4:26-29 the Lord told the parable of the seed?

This parable reveals that the kingdom of God is a matter of life, the life of God, which sprouts, grows, bears fruit, matures, and produces a harvest. The kingdom is not a matter of lifeless organization through man's wisdom and ability. The kingdom in its reality is a matter of Christ as the seed of life sown into us and growing in us unto maturity.

Day 4 —

A. Expound that the kingdom of God is a kingdom of the divine life.

Just as mankind is a kingdom of the human life, so the kingdom of God is a kingdom of the divine life. If we were not human beings, we could not understand the kingdom of human life. We know the kingdom of God by the divine life because God's kingdom is a kingdom of the divine life. As those who have received the divine life, we not only know what the kingdom of God is; we become parts of this kingdom.

B. What do we require to know and enter into the kingdom of God?

Knowing the kingdom of God requires spiritual perception, insight. Those who are lacking in spiritual perception may think that to enter into it means to go to heaven. The kingdom of God is the ruling, reigning of God with all its blessing and enjoyment. To enter into this kingdom people need to repent of their sins, believe in the gospel so their sins may be forgiven and they may be regenerated by God to have the divine life.

Day 5 —

A. Why do we say that the kingdom of God is the expansion of God?

The kingdom of God is the expansion of God, whose embodiment is Christ. This expansion of Christ is the churches. The churches are the expansion of Christ as the One who came to sow Himself as the seed of the kingdom of God. In the Gospels Christ was the seed of the kingdom. In the book of Acts we have the propagation of this seed to produce the churches as the kingdom of God.

B. How can entering into the kingdom of God be through many tribulations?

To enter into the kingdom of God is to enter into the full enjoyment of Christ as the kingdom. The whole world opposes the entering of God's people into the full enjoyment of Christ as the kingdom. Throughout the centuries, religion has particularly been used by God's enemy to keep God's people from entering into the full enjoyment of the kingdom of God. For this cause it is through many tribulations that we enter into the kingdom of God.

Day 6 —

A. Explain in Acts 19 Paul's prevailing ministry stirring up Satan's uproar.

In Acts 19 Paul's preaching was prevailing and caused people to talk about the idols in that city. The craftsmen were concerned that their business would come into disrepute. Behind the idol worship were demons who instigated the uproar against the apostle to disturb and frustrate the preaching of the gospel. This was Satan's fight against God's spreading of His kingdom on the earth.

B. Why is our ministry truly prevailing there being bound many opposition?

Our ministry is to propagate the resurrected Christ as God's kingdom. But today every city is the kingdom of the devil. Hence, the prevailing ministry for the propagation of Christ is a battle for God's kingdom. If our ministry is truly prevailing, there is bound to be opposition.

We all need to realize that a battle is raging between God and Satan.

### **III. Conclusion:**

From the general subject of these messages, we see the result of propagating the resurrected, ascended, and all-inclusive Christ and its goal is for the development of the kingdom of God. The kingdom is mysterious and its nature is divine; we never understand with our natural minds unless the divine life and divine light bring revelation for us. How God is longing for a group of people becoming His ruling spheres to conquer the rebellion from Satan in order to fulfill His purpose. In order that the kingdom of God spread we need to repent and repent again turning to Him to keep our hearts as good earth to let Him as the seed of life growing up, bearing fruits in us. Let Him have the first place, give Him the highness, and submit to His sovereignty in us.