

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day prophesying

Message Two: Becoming Pillars and Pillar Builders in and for the Building of God

I. Overview:

Jacob's dream unveils that God desires to have a house on earth, and His intention is to transform His called ones into stones, pillars, material for His building. The life and experience of Jacob reveal the way that we can be transformed into pillars for God's building. We need to continually depend on His mercy, enjoying Him as the All-sufficient God and shepherding until the end of our days. We need to behold God's face, seek His face and be transformed into His image. Solomon, the builder of the temple, is a type of Christ and Hiram, the builder of the pillars is a type of the gifted persons in the New Testament, who perfect the saints for the building up of the Body of Christ. That the work of building was not done by Solomon directly but by Solomon through Hiram who was brought from Tyre to King Solomon in Jerusalem. In order to be useful to God for His building, we must gain secular skills, live in resurrection, and come to the proper ground, the ground of the church.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 --

A. What is Jacob's dream in Genesis 28 to unveil the revelation of God?

Jacob's dream unveils that God desires to have a house on earth, and His intention is to transform His called ones into stones, material for His building. In the account of Jacob's dream, the stone, the pillar, the house of God, and the oil are outstanding items. God's house is the church today and will consummate in the New Jerusalem as the eternal dwelling place of God and His redeemed elect.

B. Explain in Genesis, the two kinds of pillars—the pillar of stone and the pillar of salt.

Solomon set up two pillars in the porch of the temple. The first pillar was named Jachin, and the second was named Boaz. The pillar of stone not only indicates building, but building in strength. The pillar of salt indicates shame, for a pillar of salt is useless for God's purpose. Lot's wife, who was one of God's called people, became a pillar of shame.

Day 2 --

A. Why is the thought of the pillar in Genesis that of testimony?

After Jacob had arranged a settlement with Laban, he took a stone and set it up as a pillar and this pillar was a testimony. Undoubtedly, when Jacob set up the pillar in chapter 28, his concept was also that of a testimony. Under the inspiration of the Spirit of God, he said that this testimony would be the house of God. According to 1 Tim 3:15, the house of God, which is the church, is the pillar. This means that the church as a whole stands on earth to testify God to the universe.

B. What is the significance of Jacob taking a stone as his pillow?

As men, we were made from the dust of the ground. Our human life, our natural human life and being, cannot be our rest. None of us found rest until we were saved. On that day, something divine, something of Christ, was wrought into us and became the solid support within us. This is our rest, our pillow.

Day 3 --

A. What does it mean that after having the dream, Jacob set up the stone for a pillar?

The stone upon which we lay our head must become building material. The very stone upon which we lay our head for rest must become a pillar; in other words, our experience of Christ must become a pillar. After coming into the church life, day by day we are setting up our experience of Christ to be a pillar. It is no longer just a pillow but a pillar.

B. What does it signify of the two pillars being made of bronze?

In typology, bronze always signifies God's judgment. That the two pillars were made of bronze clearly indicates that if we would be a pillar, we must realize that we are those under God's judgment. We should not only be under God's judgment, but also under our own judgment. Like Paul in Galatians says that I am not good for anything in God's economy; I am only qualified for death.

Day 4 --

A. How do we make exits for ourselves according to our experience?

We have four big exits: self-vindication, self-justification, self-approval, and self-excuse. Even when we are caught in a mistake, we still excuse ourselves. In the past, I have had a lot of self-vindication, self-justification, self-approval, and self-excuse. If we would daily crucify these four things, there would be no fighting whatever in our homes.

B. What do the nets of checker work and wreaths of chain work refer?

Are there also on these capitals nets of checker work and wreaths of chain work? The Lord showed me that this is the intermixed and complicated situation. The burden and responsibility borne by the pillars in the family, in the church, and in the ministry is always in a complicated and intermixed situation. In order to bear the responsibility in this complicated situation, we must live by faith in God.

Day 5 --

A. What does it signify in I King 7:20 says, "... there were two hundred pomegranates"?

The two hundred pomegranates! Around each capital was a projection, like a bulge. Encompassing the projection on each capital were two rows of a hundred pomegranates each. This indicates two times of a hundredfold expression of the riches of life. If you contact these elders who daily bear the responsibility in the intermixed and complicated situation, you will see that they express pomegranates, the riches of life.

B. Why do we say Hiram being a type of the gifted person in the New Testament?

Undoubtedly, the apostle Paul was a gifted person; he was the New Testament Hiram. The gifted persons are given by the Head to the Body to perfect the saints. That the pillars were not built by Solomon directly but by Solomon through Hiram indicates that today Christ does not build up the pillars directly but through the gifted persons. Thus, we must submit to the hands of the gifted persons.

Day 6 --

A. What does a hind signify according to the Bible?

A hind signifies a person who trusts in God in a desperate situation. Those who trust in God walk, not in the valleys, but upon the tops of the mountains. If you do not know how to exercise faith in God when you in a desperate situation, at that time you will creep in the valleys. You will never walk and skip upon the mountains. Only those who trust in God when they are in a desperate situation can leap upon the mountaintops.

B. What qualifications does Hiram as a pillar builder need?

Hiram was brought from Tyre to King Solomon in Jerusalem, the place where the temple was to be built. Jerusalem typifies the church. Both today's Solomon (Christ) and God's present building are in the church.

Thus,

in order to be useful to God for His building, we must gain secular skills, live in resurrection, and come to the proper ground, the ground of the church.

III. Conclusion:

Today the new way is carried out by the frame of the preaching of gospel, having the home meeting, setting up the neighborhood small group meeting and the district meeting. Practicing the begetting, nourishing, perfecting, and building up, a group of people being described as a pillar for the stones to the building up are the responsible brothers in the districts. From our experience and exercise for many years, the multiplication and propagation in the church depend on districts; the responsible brothers are the pillars. If you contact these brothers who daily bear the responsibility in the intermixed and complicated situation, you will see that they express pomegranates, the riches of life. They live in resurrection, enjoying the shepherding of the all-sufficient God, transformed and come to the proper ground of the church.