

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying

Message Ten: The Jubilee (1)

I. Overview:

The year of jubilee in Leviticus 25:8-17 is recorded as a prophecy in Isaiah 61:1-3 and is fulfilled in reality in Luke 4:16-22. In the year of jubilee there were two main blessings. Returning to one's possession and being freed and returning to one's family signify that in the New Testament jubilee the believers have returned to God as their lost divine possession, have been released from all bondage, and have returned to the divine family. Jubilee means having all things pleasant and satisfying to our heart, and we being free from anxiety, at ease, excited, and exultant. We must receive the Lord Jesus as the real jubilee in us; if we have Him, we have God as our possession and can be delivered from the bondage of sin and Satan to have real freedom. The proclamation of the jubilee in Luke 4 governs the central thought of the whole Gospel of Luke, and the parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15 is an excellent illustration of the jubilee.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 –

A. Sketch the situation of the Sabbath year and the Jubilee.

The Israelites were brought into the good land of Canaan, and each family was allotted their portion of the land. Every seventh year the land did not have to yield its produce, and in that year the Israelites and the land were to rest. This was the year ordained by God as the Sabbath year. Then after seven Sabbath years there was the fiftieth year which was a year of jubilee to them. The year of jubilee signifies the conclusion of our fallen human life.

B. How does God's New Testament salvation bring fallen man back to the Jubilee?

In the fall man lost God as his possession and sold himself into slavery under sin, Satan, and the world. God's New Testament salvation, accomplished by God's grace based on His redemption in Christ, brings fallen man back to God as his divine possession, releases man from slavery under sin, Satan, and the world, and restores man to enjoy the Jubilee in God's grace.

Day 2 –

A. Have the people living in the world lost the Jubilee from the view of Eph. 2:12?

Ephesians 2:12 says that people living in the world today have no hope and are without God. Whether rich or poor, noble or base, civilized or barbaric, everyone is the same; all have no hope and are without God. Not only so, people today have fallen to such an extent that they have sold themselves to sin and Satan, having completely lost his freedom and his own possession and become a slave.

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B. Why must we receive the Lord Jesus as the Jubilee if we want to be truly free?

If we want to be truly free and able to enjoy God as our possession, we must receive the Lord Jesus as the real jubilee in us. If we have Him, our possession is recovered and our freedom is returned to us. The Lord Jesus has released us so that we may have God as our possession and be delivered from the bondage of sin and Satan in order that we may have real freedom.

Day 3 --

A. Explain the meaning of the word jubilee.

In the jubilee, all things are pleasant and satisfying to our heart, and we are free from anxiety, at ease, excited, and exultant. In English the word jubilee denotes a rejoicing, a joyful shouting. The Hebrew word for jubilee is yobel, which means a "joyful noise," "a shouting with the blasting of a trumpet," and "a proclamation." It is a proclamation of the gospel, the good news of great joy.

B. Why is the jubilee an age of ecstasy of the New Testament age?

The jubilee is an age of ecstasy. The New Testament age is an age of ecstasy, and a Christian is a person in ecstasy. We should be beside ourselves before God but soberminded before men. We may shout for joy and still be soberminded. If we, as Christians, have never reached a point of being beside ourselves or being crazy, we are not up to the standard.

Day 4 –

A. How can our human life be always pleasant and satisfying to our heart?

Our human life is not always satisfying, and our environment is not always gratifying. Everything can be satisfying to us only after we have gained the all-inclusive Christ as our enjoyment. In Philippians 4 Paul indicates that he knew Christ and experienced Him to such an extent that everything was to his satisfaction. It is Christ within who enables us to be calm and free.

B. How can we have the jubilee in us today practically?

According to the dispensation, Christ has already come, so the age of jubilee is here, but we do not have the jubilee in us unless we have allowed the Lord Jesus to come into us. Thus, according to experience, Christ must come into us to be our jubilee; unless we allow Him to live in us and unless we live by Him, we are not practically living in the jubilee.

Day 5 –

A. Why is God man's possession?

From Genesis 1:26 and Romans 9:21-23 we can see clearly that man was created by God to be His vessel. A vessel as a container is empty by itself; hence, it needs content. The content of a vessel is its possession. Man is a vessel of God; hence, if man does not have God, he is empty and poor. A man's real possession is not land or a house, but is God.

B. Describe the people in the world today almost being sold to sin.

Sin dominates man. Today people in the world, no matter who they are, are under the domination of sin. Some people have a higher degree of intellect and thus are controlled by their reason. For the sake of society, their relatives, and their friends, they are not reckless outwardly, but they are still reckless in their mind. Who is not sold to sin in his heart? We have all sold ourselves to sin.

Day 6 –

A. What revelation does Paul indicate in Ephesians 1:13-14?

Paul indicates that to be saved is to return to our inheritance, to return to God, to come back to God and enjoy Him anew as our possession. God is our inheritance, and after we are saved, the Spirit of God is in us as the pledge, the guarantee, the proof, and the security of our inheritance. In Greek the word for pledge or guarantee also means "sample." A sample is a foretaste, guaranteeing the full taste in the future.

B. Why is our whole life a jubilee from the day of our repenting by receiving the Lord Jesus to forever?

The jubilee in the Bible is the age of the gospel, which is this age. Once we repent and turn to God by receiving the Lord Jesus, we obtain God within. This is the beginning of our jubilee. From that day onward, our whole life is a jubilee, and we enjoy the jubilee forever. We can continually enjoy God as our possession. We thank and praise the Lord that our jubilee will be richer and richer from now unto eternity. This is the meaning of the possession of the jubilee.

III. Conclusion:

The Jubilee can be said to be the greatest feast of God for the Israelites, and it is only once every fifty years; especially for those who lost their possessions and were enslaved, they are really shouting with a joyful noise and full of rejoicing. When the New Testament age comes, the Lord Jesus has fulfilled the Jubilee in reality through Luke 4:18, making the entire New Testament age the acceptable year of jubilee and an age of grace in ecstasy. But we do not have the jubilee in us unless we have allowed the Lord Jesus to come into us. Thus, according to experience, Christ must come into us to be our jubilee. Not only so, even if we have believed into Christ and have allowed Him to come into us, unless we allow Him to live in us and unless we live by Him, we are not practically living in the jubilee. If we live by Christ in a certain matter and allow Him to live in us, we enjoy jubilee in that matter. The believers' enjoyment of the jubilee in the age of grace, that is, their enjoyment of Christ as God's grace to them, will issue in the full enjoyment of the jubilee in the millennium and in the fullest enjoyment in the New Jerusalem in the new heaven and new earth.