

## **Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day prophesying**

### **Message Five: The Cleansing of Leprosy**

#### **I. Overview:**

Leprosy signifies the serious sin issuing from within man, such as willful sin, presumptuous sin, and opposing God with determination. In the biblical sense, sin is rebellion; sin as rebellion was inaugurated by the rebellious archangel Lucifer. Eventually, this sin entered into mankind through Adam. The cleansing of the leper in Leviticus 14 portrays the complete salvation God has prepared for us in Christ; the two living clean birds, cedar wood and scarlet strands and hyssop. The leper's shaving of his entire body, washing his clothes, and bathing his flesh a second time after waiting and watching seven days. The leprosy in the house is needed putting other stones in the place of the removed stones; the replastering of the house with other plaster is needed the renewing of the church with new experiences of the Lord's gracious works.

#### **II. Truth and Enlightenment:**

Day 1 —

A. Why do we say that leprosy is the outcome of a certain cause?

According to the Old Testament, leprosy is the outcome of a certain cause, and that cause is rebellion against God's authority, against God's deputy authority, against God's regulation, and against God's economy. We all must admit that we have rebelled against God's authority, against God's regulation, and against God's entire economy. In God's eyes we all became leprous. Whenever we do something against God, that thing is leprous.

B. Why did the Lord do the first thing cleansing a leper from the mountain?

When the Lord Jesus came down from the mountain where He decreed constitution of the kingdom of the heavens, the first thing He did was cleanse a leper. This leper represents the fallen descendants of Adam. The sin that was invented by Satan entered into mankind through Adam and made us all lepers. Leprosy now issues in many different kinds of sins, that is in many expressions of rebellion.

Day 2 —

A. How does the Lord cherish the leper portrayed in Matthew 8?

When He came down from the mountain, great crowds followed Him. And a leper, coming near, worshipped Him, saying, Lord, if You are willing, You can cleanse me. This leper should have been isolated, excluded, from the people of God. He should not have been touched by others, lest the contagious disease be passed on to them. Nevertheless, having sympathy in love for the leper, the Lord Jesus came nigh to him and touched him.

B. What do the two birds, cleansing of the leper, signify?

The two birds signify, on the one hand, that Christ died for us that our filthiness might be taken away and, on the other hand, that He rose for us that we might be delivered from our weakness. Christ died on the cross to take away our sins. This is typified by the first bird. Christ rose from among the dead for us that we might be delivered from our weakness by the power, strength, and energy of life.

Day 3 —

A. How do cedar and hyssop signify the humanity of the Lord?

Cedar wood signifies the honorable and high humanity of the Lord, which enables Him to be our Savior. Hyssop is among the smallest of the plants and signifies that the Lord was willing to be lowly in becoming in the likeness of men. On the one hand, as typified by cedar wood, the Lord has the highest standard of humanity; on the other hand, as typified by the hyssop, He was willing to be lowly that He might be available to us.

B. Expound the relationship between Leviticus 14:5 and Hebrews 9:14.

The earthen vessel signifies the Lord's humanity, and the living water signifies the living and eternal Spirit of God. Over an earthen vessel filled with living water a bird was to be killed. This signifies that Christ was killed in His humanity filled with the living, eternal Spirit. In Hebrews 9:14 we have the fulfillment of this type. This verse tells us that Christ through the eternal, living Spirit offered Himself to God.

Day 4 —

A. How can we be cleansed of our leprosy, of our sin?

In order to cleanse us of our leprosy, the Lord had to be incarnated, to become a human being. As typified by the cedar wood, His humanity was high and honorable. As typified by the hyssop, He was willing to be lowly in becoming in the likeness of men. Both were for the producing of the scarlet thread. Furthermore, the two birds typify Christ in two other aspects; without Christ in all these aspects, we could not be cleansed of our leprosy, of our sin.

B. How do we see Christ's resurrection, ascension, and glorification in this type?

In this one type we see the all-inclusive Christ, for here we have His redemption and resurrection, ascension, and glorification. The dying Christ became the living Christ through resurrection. Christ's ascension is signified by the live bird's flying, soaring, in the air. The Lord's glorification is signified by the scarlet, which implies kingship. Christ is glorified in His kingship. Christ was humbled in His incarnation, shamed in His crucifixion, and glorified in His kingship.

Day 5 —

A. How to apply the shaving the hair as dealing with difficulties of ourselves?

The hair, which is something grown out from a man's body, signifies the difficulties within ourselves. Therefore, shaving the hair means dealing with the difficulties of our own self. This is the work of the cross in dealing with our being. After one passes through the dealing of the cross, his whole being is cleansed in a practical way. This kind of dealing is not once for all; it must be repeated again and again to become thorough.

B. What does it signify of our hair in the Bible?

In the Bible each of the different kinds of hair has its own significance. The hair of the head signifies the glory of man, the beard represents the honor of man, the eyebrows speak of the beauty of man, and the hair of the whole body denotes the natural strength of man. Everyone has his boasts in certain areas; our own natural problems must be shaved with a razor, which means that they must be dealt with by the cross.

Day 6 —

A. What does the leprosy in a house signify and how to deal with it?

The house in Leviticus 14 typifies the church as our home and the leprosy in a house signifies sins and evils in the church. When the church is sick of a certain disease, the elders should first observe the situation. If the problem is becoming worse, the believers who have become involved in the disease should be removed from the fellowship of the church in order to stop the spread of the disease and to eliminate the disease.

B. What is the significance of the replastering of the house with new mortar?

The replastering of the house signifies the renewing of the church with new experiences of the Lord's gracious works. We need to have a new start in the church life, that is, to renew the church with new experiences of the Lord's gracious work by bringing in the riches of Christ in a new way. Then the church life will be renewed and all the members will be happy about the renewed church life.

### III. Conclusion:

Leviticus 13 humbles us. This chapter shows us that we are altogether leprous, that we are a totality of rebellion. There is rebellion in every part of our being. With us there is no submission, no subjection, no obedience. Therefore, we need to live a life of repentance and confession, a life of dealing with our shortcomings and eliminating them by the cross of Christ. Then we may live a holy life. So here we see that we are a totality of leprosy. This leprosy is sin, and sin is rebellion. Therefore, we need a continual repentance and confession. ( excerpts from Life-Study of Leviticus Message Forty-One )