

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying

Message Ten : The major types and the prophecy concerning Christ in the book of Numbers

I. Overview:

We need to see and experience the five types and one prophecy concerning Christ in Numbers. In Numbers 17 the Aaron's budding rod typifies the resurrected Christ; the principle to every service lies in the budding rod. In Numbers 19 the red heifer and the water for impurity signifies the redeeming Christ; the ashes of the heifer were kept for the water for impurity for a purification of sin, or a sin offering. In Numbers 20 the rock typifies the crucified and resurrected Christ, and the water that flowed from the rock typifies the Spirit as the living water; today we need only to take the rod and speak to the rock. In Numbers 21, after the children of Israel sinned against God to be bitten by serpents; God told Moses to lift up a bronze serpent that by looking upon that bronze serpent all might live. The cities of refuge typify the embodiment of the redeeming God, into whom mistaken sinners can flee for refuge. If any sinner repents, God will regard him as a mistaken sinner and will forgive him; if anyone refuses the gospel and does not repent, God will regard him as a willful sinner, one who is destined to perish. In Numbers 24 Balaam's prophecy speaks of both the Star out of Jacob coming forth and a Scepter rising out of Israel referring to Christ.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. What does the budding rod of Aaron typify and it relate to serving God?

The budding rod of Aaron typifies the resurrected Christ. The principle to every service lies in the budding rod. The resurrection is an eternal principle in our service to God. God testifies again and again to His people that authority to serve God lies in resurrection, not in a person himself. All services to the Lord must pass through death and resurrection before they will be acceptable to God.

B. How do we experience resurrection in our spiritual service?

Resurrection means that everything is of God, not of us. It means that God alone is able and we are not able. Resurrection means that everything is done by God, not by ourselves. All those who think highly of themselves and hold a misguided judgment of themselves have never realized what resurrection is. If a man continues to think that he is able, even can do something, and that he is useful, he does not know resurrection.

Day 2 —

A. Describe what the red heifer signify and what its spiritual meaning is.

The heifer signifies the redeeming Christ and color red signifies bearing of man's sin outwardly. The heifer being without defect signifies that although Christ was in the likeness of the flesh of sin, He did not have the sinful nature. That the heifer was without blemish indicates that Christ was perfect. The heifer having never been under a yoke signifies that Christ was never used by anyone, especially for Satan.

B. Expound what in Numbers 19 the ashes signify and its spiritual meaning.

Ashes signify Christ reduced to nothing. These ashes were kept for the water for impurity; it was a purification of sin, or a sin offering. They refer to the remains of the red heifer, signifying that the Lord's redeeming death in resurrection is eternally efficacious. The ashes of the heifer being placed outside the camp in a clean place signifies that the efficacy of the Lord's redemption remains in the place of sinners.

Day 3 —

A. Why's today we only take the rod and speak to the rock to flow the living water?

To receive the living water from the crucified Christ, we need only to "take the rod" and "speak to the rock." To take the rod is to identify with Christ in His death and apply the death of Christ to our situation. To speak to the rock is to speak a direct word to Christ as the smitten rock, asking Him to give us the Spirit of life based on the fact that the Spirit has already been given.

B. Why did Moses lose the right to enter the good land?

In being angry with the people and in wrongly striking the rock twice. Moses failed to sanctify God. In being angry when God was not angry, Moses did not represent God rightly in His holy nature, and in striking the rock twice, he did not keep God's word in His economy. Even though being intimate with God, Moses lost the right to enter the good land.

Day 4 —

A. What do the three aspects of the bronze serpent signify in Numbers 19?

The bronze serpent first signifies the Lord Jesus. Second, it signifies the children of Israel, because they had sinned and should be judged. Third, it signifies the serpent Satan. In judging the children of Israel, God actually was judging the serpent. We also need to see that ultimately a Substitute was judged by God. This Substitute, Christ, was judged by being identified with the people for whom He was substituted.

B. Expound the principle of regeneration.

The principle of regeneration is that we see that we were identified with Satan as a part of Satan, and we see that the Lord Jesus has dealt with this identification on the cross; thus, we condemn this identification and receive the Lord's salvation with the result that we live and have the resurrection life operating in us. Only in this way can we enjoy resurrection and the resurrection life.

Day 5 —

A. Explain what the type of the cities of refuge is and how to apply it.

The cities of refuge typify Christ as the embodiment of the redeeming God, into whom mistaken sinners can flee for refuge. If any sinner repents, God will regard him as a mistaken sinner and will forgive him. Such a one may flee into Christ. But if anyone refuses the gospel and does not repent, God will regard him as a willful sinner, one who is destined to perish.

B. Explain what the cities of the Levites are and signify with their meaning.

In Numbers 35 actually God wanted the children of Israel to offer up some of their inherited possessions. This resulted in the producing of the cities of the Levites, from which some were separated out as cities of refuge. The cities of the Levites can signify the local churches; the cities of refuge signify Christ as our Savior, sparing us from the judgment of death and delivering us so as to recover our spiritual possessions.

Day 6 —

A. Expound what the star refers to in Numbers 24.

The star has several denotations: first, it appears in the night; second, it is heavenly; and third, it is bright. In speaking of the Lord Jesus' two appearances, the Bible refers to Him as a star. His first appearing was at His birth and a second one will be at His second coming. His rising in us today as the morning star points to His second coming.

B. Explain the meaning of the scepter in Balaam's prophecy of that out of Israel.

The scepter refers to Christ's being on the throne and obtaining the kingship to exercise His authority of the kingdom. Christ as the scepter will rise out of Israel to rule over this lawless earth. Today this earth is dark, also chaotic, without authority. When the Lord Jesus comes, He will appear as the scepter to be the authority of the universe.

III. Conclusion:

The cities of refuge typify the all-inclusive Christ as the embodiment of the redeeming God, into whom mistaken sinners can flee for refuge. As long as a sinner repents, God will regard him as a mistaken sinner and will forgive him. Such a one may flee into Christ. But if anyone refuses the gospel and does not repent, God will regard him as a willful sinner, one who is destined to perish. What a serious matter that is! There were six cities of refuge, three on each side of the Jordan; the distribution of the six refuge cities indicates that Christ is near and available. The Triune God has spread among men, to the very place where we are, to be a city of refuge for all those who make mistakes. That the cities of refuge were to be not only for the children of Israel but also for the strangers and sojourners among them signifies that the Triune God as the refuge for mistake-making man is for all mankind.