

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying

Message Twelve: Christ as the Center of God's Move on the Earth from His Incarnation through His Ascension to His Second Coming

I. Overview:

God's guidance to His people in a general way was by the cloud and the two silver trumpets, whereas His leading of His people in a particular way was through the Ark. Moses' word in Numbers 10:35 and 36 portrays a full view of God's economy from Christ's incarnation to be the Ark, the embodiment of the Triune God, through His ascension to His second coming. Psalm 68, as an exposition of Numbers 10, verse 1 reveals Christ as the center of God's move on the earth; verse 12, God's victory in Christ as the center, typified by the Ark; verse 18, Christ's ascension; verse 5-6, the building up of the dwelling place of God; verse 19, the enjoyment of God in His house; verse 24, the praising of God according to His New Testament economy; verse 28-29, the spreading from the temple into the city of God; verse 31, the gaining of the earth for God.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain how God gave His guidance and leading to His people.

God's guidance to His people in a general way was by the cloud and the trumpets, whereas His leading of His people in a particular way was through the Ark, a type of the crucified and resurrected Christ in His resurrection. Hence, the unique Leader of God's people is not any man but Christ. He is the Leader, and He leads us to the proper place of rest on the long and rugged journey of the Christian life.

B. Expound what is a difference between guidance and leading.

The term guidance is used with respect to the cloud and the blowing of the trumpets, but concerning the Ark we have used the term leading. Guidance is general; leading is particular. The cloud and the trumpet guided the children of Israel in a general way. However, the Ark did not render a general guidance but a particular leading to the people. Thus, the Ark became the leader, taking the lead to find a resting place.

Day 2 —

A. What did the children of Israel need to do for taking care of their sins?

God wanted the children of Israel to build Him a tabernacle so that He could dwell among them and they could contact Him and even dwell with Him. However, because they were sinful, they needed an altar to take care of their sins. In addition, they needed the table of the bread of the Presence for spiritual food, the lampstand for spiritual light, and the incense altar for them to pray to the Lord.

B. How was God moving on the earth today?

God could move on earth only after He had established a way, the tabernacle with the Ark, in which He could be with His people and in which they could contact Him and be with Him. We must be clear concerning these three points: (1) God is moving on the earth, (2) God's move is in and with the tabernacle, and (3) God's move is with Christ as the center in the tabernacle.

Day 3 —

A. Explain Psalm 68:11b the women who abide at home divide the spoil.

These women of Israel signify the weak ones. As believers today, we are the weak ones, those who cannot do anything except bear, preach, the glad tidings. To abide at home signifies not to be at work. The spoil signifies all the gains of the accomplishment, consummation, attainment, and obtainment of Christ as the reapings of the victory of His death, resurrection, and ascension.

B. Expound Psalm 68:13b shows us the meaning of the four items among the spoil.

The dove wings, signify the moving power of the Spirit, are covered with white silver. Silver signifies Christ in His redemption for our justification, which is indicated by the color white, the color of approval. The pinions are feathers at the end of a bird's wings, which give a bird the strength to fly and to soar. The greenish- yellow, glittering gold with which the pinions are covered signifies God's nature glittering in the divine life and glory.

Day 4 —

A. Explain Psalm 68:18 the spiritual meaning of those taken captive.

Those who were taken captive refer to the believers of Christ. Before we were saved, we were sinners and enemies of God, and we had been taken captive by Satan and imprisoned. We were “those taken captive.” But Christ defeated Satan and captured his captives, including us. Then, like a general leading his captives, Christ in His ascension to the heavens led us to the Father.

B. Why do we say that every saved person is a gifted believer?

We all were held captive by Satan in his prison, but we have been captured by Christ, presented by Christ to the Father, and then given to Christ by the Father as gifts. The gifts received by Christ have become the gifted believers. We should not believe the lie that we are not a gift or that we have not been gifted. Every saved person is a gifted believer.

Day 5 —

A. Expound Psalm 68:19 what’s this “good” with which God loading us every day.

This good, as the “good” mentioned in Romans 8:28, does not refer to material things such as a nice home or a new car; rather, it refers to the Triune God, to the dove wings gilded with silver and the pinions gilded with gold. This means that daily God is loading us with Himself, that is, the all items of the Triune God with His complete, perfect, all-inclusive salvation.

B. Explain Psalm 68:27 speaks of the princes of Judah.

Judah is the lion with the power and the scepter, and also the peace to God’s people. Whereas Benjamin typifies Christ mainly in His humanity, Judah typifies Christ mainly in His divinity. In His divinity, Christ is a lion with power and authority. In particular, Judah typifies Christ as the victory and the peace to God’s people. Judah, as the kingly tribe, is for God’s kingdom on the earth.

Day 6 —

A. Expound Psalm 68:27 what the spiritual meaning for princes of Zebulun.

Dwelling at the haven of the sea Galilee for a haven of ships, Zebulun typifies Christ as the “haven” of the evangelists for the transportation and spreading in the preaching of God’s gospel. The gospel has been accomplished, but there is the need of the spreading of the gospel by means of “ships.” On the day of Pentecost, at least one hundred and twenty gospel “ships,” all of whom were Galileans, set out to spread the gospel.

B. Explain Psalm 68:27 the meaning of the princes of Naphtali.

Genesis 49:21 tells us that Naphtali is a hind let loose and that he gives goodly words. Naphtali typifies Christ as the One who is released from death in resurrection, signified by the “hind let loose”, and gives goodly words for the preaching of His gospel. In resurrection Christ came to His disciples and charged them to disciple the nations.

III. Conclusion:

Moses’ word in Numbers 10:35-36 is quoted and explained in Psalm 68; in Ephesians 4 Paul also applied the word to the ascension of Christ. We see that Christ as the center of God’s move on the earth from His incarnation through His ascension to His second coming typifies His Ark is always victorious no matter where He goes. Today God is still moving on this earth in and through the church, and He is moving with Christ as the center of the church. We need to consecrate ourselves as a Nazarite to God, participate in the priests’ living and service, love Him like a pure virgin to become His bridal army, and have Caleb’s spirit fully followed the Lord to cooperate with Him so that He may gain the whole earth.