

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying

Message Four : The Lord's Jealousy over the Church as His wife

I. Overview:

If we enter into the deep thought of the Bible, we will realize that the Bible is a romance, recording how God courts His chosen people and eventually marries them. The divine romance is portrayed in the Song of Songs. When the Lord Jesus came, He came as the Bridegroom for the bride. The Lord Jesus regenerates the church so that the church may be His bride. At the end of this age, Christ will come to marry the overcomers as the bride, also a warrior to defeat God's enemy. In Numbers 5:11-31 the dealing with a wife over whom her husband was jealous typifies Christ's jealousy over His believers and the church. Christ's fighting army is composed of the overcomers, who are a fighting wife to match Christ. Our seeking and pursuing of anything other than Christ is spiritual adultery in the eyes of God. He wants us to love Him uniquely, singly, wholly. As a jealous Husband, God wants us to serve Him and Him alone.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Describe that the Bible is a romance of an universal couple.

If you have entered into the deep thought of the Bible, you will realize that the Bible is a romance, in the most pure and the most holy sense, of a universal couple. The male of this couple is God Himself. The female of this couple is a corporate human being, God's redeemed people, including all the saints of the Old Testament and the New Testament.

B. Why do we say that the entire Bible is a book of engagement?

In the Scriptures we have a record of how God courts His chosen people and eventually marries them. For eternity, the Triune God as the Husband will enjoy a sweet married life with His wife, His chosen and redeemed people. New Jerusalem will even be called the wife of the Lamb. The conclusion of the Bible is the marriage of God and His people.

Day 2 —

A. Expound how some women in the Old Testament typify the church's many aspects.

As a type of the church, Rebekah depicts the church being chosen out of the world and she portrays the church as the called one. As a type of the church, Eve depicts the producing and the nature of the church. Ruth typifies the aspect of the church being redeemed. The entire book of Ruth can be considered a story of redemption. , Zipporah portrays the church in the wilderness.

B. Describe the story of a divine romance in the book of Song of Songs.

According to Song of Songs, our relationship with the Lord should be very romantic. The poem, as a type, in this poetic book as the story of the love between a king and a country girl is a marvelous and vivid portrait, as the fulfillment, of the bridal love between Christ as the Bridegroom and His lovers as His bride in their mutual enjoyment in the mingling of His divine attributes with the human virtues of His lovers.

Day 3 —

A. Expound how the Lord regenerates the church so that the church may be His bride.

The Lord is the Bridegroom with the divine life and the divine nature. If we would become His bride, we must also have the divine life and the divine nature. For this, regeneration is necessary. Apart from possessing this life and nature, we could never become Christ's counterpart. In John 3 we see that regeneration qualifies us to be Christ's bride.

B. Explain the wedding garment being the uniform according to Revelation 19:7, 8, 14.

In Revelation 19:7 and 8 we see that the bride is clothed in fine linen, bright and clean. Then in verse 14 we see that the armies which follow the Lord into battle are dressed in fine linen, white and clean. These verses indicate that the bride's wedding garment will also be the uniform she wears as God's army to fight against His enemy. Therefore, to have the wedding garment is also to have the uniform.

Day 4 —

A. Expound Ephesians 6 revealing only remaining in the Body of Christ, then to fight.

The warrior in Ephesians 6 is a corporate entity. Only as a corporate entity, the Body, can we put on the whole armor of God. What this chapter reveals is not the believers fighting as individuals but a corporate army fighting the battle for God's interests on earth. Only by remaining in the army will we have the necessary protection.

B. What are the two garments of the overcoming saints?

The overcoming saints have two garments, one for salvation and the other for reward. The fine linen is the second garment, which qualifies them both to attend the marriage dinner of the Lamb and to fight with the Lord against His enemy. Thus, the wedding garment becomes the fighting garment. The bride's wedding garment will be the uniform that she wears as God's army to fight against His enemy.

Day 5 —

A. Expound that believers ought to be lovable and terrible at the same time.

The heavenly warfare is never abated before the Lord. Believers today have lost their loveliness before the Lord, and they have lost their terribleness before the enemy and the world. The Bible often mentions the terribleness of the Lord; He is terrible because He is holy. If we maintain our holiness and victory, we will see the enemy retreating and the world standing back.

B. Explain what the enemy is terrified

God's enemy, Satan, is terrified of such a church. Satan is not afraid of individualistic Christians, not even if they number in the thousands. But whenever the believers come together as the church in the aspect of the Body, Satan trembles. May we all see the vision that the church is not a matter of individual holiness or spirituality. On the contrary, it is a matter of being built up together.

Day 6 —

A. What is revealed in Numbers 5 the dealing with a wife for her husband's jealousy? Christ's jealousy over His believers and His church is revealed here. Are we chaste as a wife to Christ? If a wife appreciates any other man, she is on the verge of losing her chastity. Christ's fighting army is composed of His overcomers, who are a fighting wife to match Christ. In order to be a part of the Lord's fighting army, we must be chaste.

B. Explain jealousy is one of God's attributes.

The most jealous one in the universe is God. He wants us to love Him uniquely, singly, wholly. The jealousy of God is like the jealousy of a husband over his wife. We should let His jealousy be ours that we would care only for Him, love Him, and allow no one and nothing to replace Him in our hearts. Furthermore, our love for Him should be pure, our mind should be single, and our entire being should be focused on Him.

III. Conclusion:

If we enter into the deep thought of the Bible, we will realize that the Bible is a romance, in a most pure and holy sense. Throughout the centuries God has had a romance with man; thus, the Bible is a record of how God desires to court His chosen people and eventually to marry them. The entire Bible is a book of engagement, the main subject of the Scriptures is God's engagement to His people, and will conclude with a word concerning the universal marriage of God and His redeemed ones. 2 Corinthians 11:2 mentions how Paul betrothed us believers as a pure virgin to Christ. In Numbers 5 talks about the dealing with a wife over whom her husband was jealous, that is, Christ's jealousy over His believers and the church. Christ wants to gain a bridal army to defeat Antichrist with his army for bringing in the kingdom of God on earth.