

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying
Message Eight: God's Speaking from between the Cherubim of Glory

I. Overview:

The Lord spoke to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his companion. Because Moses was intimate with God, he was on the mountaintop being infused with God under His glory and receiving the vision of the tabernacle as God's dwelling place on earth. When Moses went into the Tent of Meeting to speak with God, he heard the voice speaking to him from above the expiation cover that was upon the Ark of the Testimony, from between the two cherubim. The expiation cover on the Ark in the Holy of Holies equals the throne of grace in Hebrews 4:16; as believers in Christ, we have "boldness for entering the Holy of Holies in the blood of Jesus. The Holy of Holies today is in heaven, but is also in our spirit; whenever we we turn to our spirit, we enter into the Holy of Holies, where we meet with God who is on the throne of grace. When we are at the throne of grace, we behold the glory of the Lord and are transformed into the image of the resurrected and glorified Christ from glory to glory. In the new heaven and new earth, the entire city of New Jerusalem will be filled with the glory of God.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. What is the meaning of "companion" as Moses was a companion of God?

The word companion includes the elements of friendship, but it goes much further to include the thought of intimate association. A companion is an associate. If you and someone else are associates, you have a common interest, a common enterprise, in a common career. To the uttermost, God and Moses were partners in a great enterprise. They were both involved in the same "career."

B. What are the three groups we see in Exodus 24 & their distance from the Lord?

In Exodus 24 the majority of the people were at the foot of Mount Sinai, some were on the mountain far off from the Lord, and Moses was on the top of the mountain under God's glory. The seventy elders, along with Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and Hur, were on the mountain, in the Holy Place. Moses on the mountaintop was in the Holy of Holies, where the shekinah glory was.

Day 2 —

A. Explain the meaning and significance for the expiation cover.

The expiation cover, mentioned in Hebrews 9:5 and corresponding to the propitiation place in Romans 3:25, was the lid of the Ark. It signifies Christ as the cover of God's righteous law and also as the place where God meets with His redeemed people and speaks to them in grace. The pure gold of which the cover was made signifies Christ's pure divine nature.

B. What do these reveal that the two cherubim joined to the expiation cover and the form, the size, and the weight of that are not given?

That the two cherubim were one piece with the expiation cover indicates that God's glory shines out from Christ and upon Christ as the expiation cover to be a testimony. The form, size, and weight of the cherubim are not given, indicating that the glory of Christ's shining is immeasurable and mysterious.

Day 3 —

A. Why's God not meet with His people in any place other than the midst of His glory?

We have seen that the cherubim signify God's glory shining out from Christ. Thus, for God to speak to His people from between the cherubim means that He speaks to us in the midst of His glory. We can testify of this from our experience. Whenever we meet with God, we sense that we are in the midst of glory, a glory like that signified by the cherubim on the cover of the Ark.

B. Why's Exo.25:17 not tell us the thickness and weight of the expiation cover?

The fact that the thickness is not given and that the weight is not known indicates that the weight of Christ is immeasurable. No one can say how weighty Christ is. Experientially speaking, His weight is according to what we are able to bear. How heavy Christ is to us depends on how much of Him we are able to bear. I am concerned that some saints are able to bear only an extremely small amount of Christ.

Day 4 —

A. Explain the significance of the cherubim having faces, eyes, and wings.

The cherubim had faces and wings that this glory is not lifeless, but is something living. Christ's glory is living. We may even say that this glory has a face, eyes, and wings. From our experience we know that when God meets with us and speaks with us, we have the sense that glory is watching over us and that this glory is living.

B. Expound the spiritual significance of the blood being sprinkled on the cover.

It signifies His humanity for redeeming. Christ is not only as God, but also as man, even the God-man. As God, Christ shines in His divinity, but as man, He accomplished redemption in His humanity, signified by the blood. Now, because of Christ's divinity and humanity, we and God can meet and talk together in the redeeming and shining Christ.

Day 5 —

A. What do we get if we spend time with the Lord in the Holy of Holies?

When we spend time with the Lord in the Holy of Holies, we are infused by Him with all He is. We may illustrate this by the case of a young man who spends an hour in conversation with a famous university professor. After this hour spent in the presence of such a professor,...he may even unconsciously imitate the professor's way of speaking.

B. Why do we say that this propitiatory cover equals the throne of grace?

Upon this lid as the propitiatory cover, God can meet with the people who broke His righteous law without any governmental contradiction of His righteousness, even under the observing of the cherubim, which bear His glory overshadowing the lid of the Ark. Because the law with its demands is covered and God's glory is satisfied, God can speak with sinners, and these sinners can be at peace with God and receive grace from Him.

Day 6 —

A. Why will we hear God's voice whenever we come to the throne of grace?

Whenever you come to the throne of grace, the propitiation cover, you will immediately hear the divine voice. You will hear God's voice because you are in the oracle, at the throne of grace. It is here that we hear God's speaking, see His countenance, and enjoy His presence. It is here that we are one with Him in His economy.

B. Why do we say in eternal new city no need of the natural or man-made light?

The light in the Holy of Holies was God Himself in His eternal glory. In the same way, the holy city in eternity future will have no need of the sun or of the moon because God Himself will be the light. This signifies that in eternity there is no need of the sun, the natural light, or any man-made lamp because God Himself will be the light, and Christ will be the lamp, shining out God to enlighten the entire city.

III. Conclusion:

The end of Numbers 7 records, "And when Moses went into the Tent of Meeting to speak with Him, he heard the voice speaking to him from above the expiation cover that was upon the Ark of the Testimony, from between the two cherubim...." Among this verse, the most important thing is expiation cover, that is the propitiation place, also the throne of grace in Hebrews 4:16. How glorious it is that God can meet with us and speak to us in this place. Thus, the expiation cover with the blood of the sacrifices sprinkled on it portrays the Christ as the place where fallen sinners can meet with the righteous, holy, and glorious God. Hebrews 10:19 tells us that we have boldness to enter into the Holy of Holies by the blood of Jesus. In order to enter into such a place we must have boldness, and we have it by Christ's death and by His blood. By the blood of Jesus we have the boldness to enter into the Holy of Holies at any time, unlike the high priest in the Old Testament, who could enter into it only once a year.