

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message Two : Christ as the Son of Man, the Second Man, and the Last Adam Fulfilling God's Intention in Creating Man

I. Overview:

We want to look at the three aspects of what Christ is. First, He is the Son of Man. In order to accomplish God's purpose, it was necessary for Christ to be a man. In His incarnation Christ is the Son of Man, and after His resurrection and ascension, He is still the Son of Man at the right hand of God. He is also the second man. As the first man, Adam is the head of the old creation, earthy out of the earth; as the second man, Christ is the Head of the new creation, of God out of heaven. He is the last Adam, which implies that through the cross the old creation was terminated, and in resurrection He became the life-giving Spirit to germinate the new creation. Christ's incarnation and God-man living fulfilled God's intention in His creation of man. Christ's God-man living constituted Him to be a prototype so that He may now be reproduced in us and live again in us.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound how there are only two men in the entire universe.

Out of the earth denotes the origin of the first man, Adam, and earthy, his nature. As the first man, Adam, including all his descendants, and the second man, Christ, His origin is God and nature is heavenly, comprising all His believers. We believers were included in the first man by birth and became a part of the second man by regeneration.

B. What does it imply that Christ is the last Adam?

Christ being the last Adam implies the termination of the first man. The last Adam is the conclusion of Adam, the first man. Christ being the last Adam means that He terminated Adam, whereas Christ being the second man indicates that He is a new beginning. To be terminated is to be crucified; to be in the new beginning is to be in resurrection.

Day 2 —

A. Expound what the difference between image and likeness is.

Image refers to the inward being, and likeness, to the outward appearance. Man was made in God's image to be His duplication and after His likeness to be His expression. God's purpose in creating man was that man would be His duplication in order to express Him. In order for this purpose to be carried out, it is necessary for man to receive God and contain Him as the tree of life.

B. Explain that Gospel of Luke reveals what human life the God-man lived.

Gospel of Luke is a revelation of the God-man who lived a human life filled with the divine life as its content. As the One who lived such a life, the Man-Savior had the divine nature with the divine attributes, that is, with the divine love, light, righteousness, and holiness. The divine nature with its attributes was expressed in the Man-Savior's human nature with all the human virtues.

Day 3 —

A. Why does the Man-Savior's incarnation make our human virtues being rescued, restored, and recovered?

Our love, brightness, righteousness, and holiness have all been damaged; the Man-Savior's incarnation was not only to rescue our virtues from the fall but also to restore and recover our virtues from the damage of the fall. Something may be rescued without being restored, or may be restored without being recovered. Our human virtues need to be rescued, restored, and recovered.

B. Explain the Man-Savior's way of saving us.

In order to save us, He, the very God, came into man, bringing God's attributes into man's virtues. While He was on earth, He lived the life of a God-man, with the divine attributes filling His human virtues. Eventually, He died on the cross and was resurrected. In His resurrection He became the life-giving Spirit. Now as the life-giving Spirit He enters into us to bring God into our being and to fill our virtues with God's attributes.

Day 4 —

A. Why do we say that our will represents our whole being?

In one sense our being is represented by our mind. The mind, however, represents our being only in thought; the will represents our being, or our soul, in its doings. You may have thought about many things, but how many of those things have you done? The point we are making here is that our mind represents our being in thought, and our will represents our being in action, in deeds.

B. Describe the Lord's God-man living on earth.

In the living of the Lord Jesus, man's mind, will, and emotion became the organs to contain God's life. We may compare these organs to the fingers of a glove. Just as the fingers of a glove contain the real fingers, so the Man-Savior's mind, will, and emotion contain God's life. In a similar way, the Lord's mind, will, and emotion are organs containing God's mind, will, and emotion.

Day 5 —

A. Testify through our experience that by calling on the Lord His help arrives.

When we call on the Lord's name, realizing that He is the life-giving Spirit dwelling within us, we shall sense Him moving in us and mingling with us. We experience this because the One who moves in us and mingles with us is the life-giving Spirit as the extract of the all-inclusive Christ. Simply by calling on the Lord's name, we can sense this extract moving in us.

B. Explain the steps of the reproduction of the God-man.

The first step in the reproduction of the God-man is that we be reborn of the pneumatic Christ in our spirit with His divine life and nature. Regeneration and transformation are two steps in the process to reproduce the God-man. The Man-Savior as the God-man is the unique prototype. This reproduction takes place by the regeneration of the pneumatic Christ in our spirit and through the transformation by this same pneumatic Christ in our soul.

Day 6 —

A. Explain that God had no intention to ask man to do anything for Him, but what He only wants us to do.

He only wants us to love Him, to open ourselves up to Him, and to let Him live from within us. From the very beginning when God created man, God had no intention to ask man to do anything for Him. God's intention was to create a vessel to contain Him and to express Him, so God only wants an opening of the vessel. If the vessel is open, God can fulfill His purpose.

B. Expound how we can be rescued from a peculiarity.

Without the Lord filling you as a vessel to work out something from within you, your whole being is a peculiarity. The only solution to our problems is the filling up of the Lord within us. And this depends upon our loving Him and keeping ourselves open to Him all the time. You will be a living vessel absolutely calmed down so that your Master has the absolute free course to fill you up.

III. Conclusion:

In His daily living, the Lord Jesus accomplished the greatest thing in the universe that is, expressing God in His humanity. The Lord never does anything by Himself in His God-man living. He does not do His own work, does not speak His own words, does not do anything by His own will, and does not seek His own glory. The Gospel of Luke presents a life of the Lord with the highest standard of morality. The Lord's living was a matter of the human virtues filled, strengthened, uplifted, and enriched by the divine attributes. The Lord's love is a love that is not only of man, nor of God, but of God-man, the love of the One who lived a human life filled with the divine life, and also strengthened, uplifted, and enriched by the divine love. This wonderful love is the divine love and the human love composed, mingled; this love is the God-man living of the Man-Savior. Such a living is also the life we should practice.