

## **Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message Six : The Conflict of the Two Kingdoms and the Work and Responsibility of the Church**

### **I. Overview:**

The two trees in Genesis 2:9, as signs of God and Satan, are two sources; the outcome of the two sources becomes the two kingdoms, the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan. There are two kingdoms on earth, the kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of God in the light; these two kingdoms are now confronting each other on earth. Because the Lord Jesus, the heavenly King, has come to establish the kingdom of God among men on earth, the two kingdoms are in conflict; a battle is raging, and there is the need for us to fight the battle. The purpose of spiritual warfare is to bring in the kingdom of God. The work of the church is to bring in the kingdom of God; the church bears the responsibility of bringing the kingdom of God to the earth. The church, which comes into being under the rule of heaven, by reason of her submission to the heavenly rule, deals with God's enemy. The church should pray and utter prayers of warfare in order to bring in God's kingdom and to drive out God's enemy.

### **II. Truth and Enlightenment:**

Day 1 —

A. Why does man become a citizen in Satan's kingdom, subject to the rule of Satan?

Man took the tree of knowledge into him, meaning that Satan entered into man. After coming into man, Satan began to saturate him, poison him, and take full possession of him. Thus, man became corrupted and darkened. To be darkened and corrupted by Satan means to be placed under the authority of Satan. Man became a citizen in Satan's kingdom, subject to the rule of Satan.

B. Explain how the believers have the inward reigning of the Lord Jesus.

When we repent and believe in the Lord Jesus, He immediately comes into our spirit. The Bible tells us clearly that the Lord Jesus Christ is with our spirit. From our spirit He is growing and spreading within us, taking possession of more ground in our being. By occupying more ground within us, He actually reigns within us.

Day 2 —

A. Expound how much the universe was affected by the fall of the angels and man.

God desired that His creatures would accept His authority; however, both kinds of creatures rejected His authority. Nevertheless, God did not call back His authority. God would not let this rebellion continue; He will establish His own kingdom. The Bible calls the kingdom of God the kingdom of the heavens because the angels in the heavens rebelled as well.

B. Explain how the Lord established God's kingdom.

He did it through submission. Whatever the Lord did on earth was entirely based on submission. He did nothing that opposed God's authority. Everything was in submission, in perfect cooperation with the authority of God. In this realm the Lord set up the kingdom of God and executed His authority. The church today must also allow God's authority to have a free way and manifest His kingdom through submission.

Day 3 —

A. Explain Where the Spirit of God is in power, there the kingdom of God is.

The Spirit of God is the power of the kingdom of God. Where the Spirit of God is in power, there the kingdom of God is, and there the demons have no ground. By the Lord's word in Matthew 12:28, we see that the battle fought for the kingdom; the Lord said that He cast out demons by the Spirit of God and that this is the coming of the kingdom of God. Wherever the Spirit of God exercises His authority over the opposing situation, that is the kingdom of God.

B. Explain the word in Matthew 12:28 indicates a spiritual battle.

The "house" here signifies the kingdom of Satan, and "the strong man" is Satan, the evil one. The fallen people under Satan are his vessels, his instruments for his use. Apparently, the Lord was only casting out the demon; actually, He was fighting, binding the strong man. This shows us that if we would build the kingdom today, we must first bind the strong man.

Day 4 —

A. Expound the work of the church on earth today.

The work of the church on earth is to bring in the kingdom of God. All the work of the church is governed by the principle of the kingdom of God. The saving of souls is under this principle, and so is the casting out of demons and all other works as well. Everything should be under the principle of God's kingdom. We must stand on the position of the kingdom of God whenever we work, and we must apply the kingdom of God to deal with the power of Satan.

B. State God's kingdom would not come by itself but by the prayer of the church.

If the coming of the kingdom of God was automatic, the Lord would never have taught us to pray in this way. But since the Lord asked us to pray in this way, He simply showed us that this is the work of the church. Yes, the church should preach the gospel, but much more, the church should pray to bring in the kingdom of God. The principle of God's work is to wait for His people to move. Then He will move.

Day 5 —

A. How does the church bring in God's kingdom?

In order to bring in God's kingdom, the church has to pay the price to be restricted by heaven and come under heaven's rule. It has to be the outlet for heaven, and it has to allow heaven's authority to be expressed on earth. It has to put on the whole armor of God and stand against the stratagems of the devil. Since the church has such a tremendous responsibility, Satan will do all he can to attack the church.

B. Explain the relationship between God's will and our prayer.

God's will is like a river, and our prayer is like the channel. If our prayer is big, the accomplishment of our prayer will also be big. If our prayer is limited, the accomplishment of our prayer will also be limited. If there is no prayer, the kingdom will not come. If the channels are blocked, the water cannot flow through.

Day 6 —

A. Explain the word in Matthew 6:10 indicates the prayers being for God's kingdom.

The Lord shows us that His prayer is for the unlimited spread of the kingdom of God on the earth and in the whole universe. Of course, in order to carry out such a plan of God, there is the need for God's people to pray sufficiently. The true prayers of God's people are for His kingdom. You and I may pray for numerous things, but the ultimate purpose is for God's kingdom.

B. How can we utter the prayers of warfare?

So every praying person should be one who is in the heavenly realm, touching God's throne, and therefore, able to pour down prayers from heaven. As you are above the earth, the air, and the power of darkness and are seated together with Christ on the throne of God in the heavenlies, the prayers that you utter are prayers of warfare.

### III. Conclusion:

The two trees in Genesis 2:9, as signs of God and Satan, are two sources; the outcome of the two sources becomes the two kingdoms, the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan. The entire human race is a kingdom not merely of the human life but even more of the satanic life. Because the Lord Jesus, the heavenly King, has come to establish the kingdom of God among men on earth, the two kingdoms are in conflict so that a battle is raging. Today, the work of the church is to bring in the kingdom of God; the responsibility of the church is to continue the warfare that Christ fought on earth; the church must continue the victorious work that Christ has carried out against Satan. The church needs to utter prayers of warfare in order to bring in God's kingdom and to drive out God's enemy. Such prayer indicates that we are standing on God's side and are opposed to God's enemy. Fighting prayers drive away the power of darkness, bring in God's authority, and enable God to have His will done on earth.