

## **Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message Eight: Preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom and Discipline All the Nations for the Spread and Development of the Kingdom of God**

### **I. Overview:**

This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole inhabited earth for a testimony to all the nations. The kingdom of God is a divine sphere for God to work out His plan; it is a realm where God can exercise His authority to accomplish what He intends. Through the gospel of the kingdom, God brings people under the ruling of the heavenly authority so that they may become His kingdom, those who are ruled by His authority. God commands everyone to repent for the kingdom, so asked us to go and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Triune God. And the Lord charged us to teach the newly baptized ones to observe all that He has commanded us, behold that He is with us all the days until the consummation of the age. In His resurrection the Lord is present, and we have His authority, commission, and position to disciple the nations for the spread and development of the kingdom of God.

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

Day 1 —

A. Expound the purpose of the gospel is to have the kingdom.

In the preaching of the gospel, the kingdom of God is often neglected. When the Lord Jesus preached the gospel, He spoke concerning the kingdom of God, and He told them to repent for the kingdom. The gospel is preached for the kingdom, and the kingdom is a divine sphere for God to work out His plan, a realm where God can exercise His authority to accomplish what He intends. The kingdom of God is the goal of the gospel.

B. State the matter of authority is mentioned in the very beginning of the Bible.

Genesis 1 shows that God gave man the authority to have dominion over all the living things in the sea, in the air, and on the earth. The way Satan stole man away from God was to seduce man to rebel against God, to usurp God's authority. When man sinned, he did not merely violate a rule; even more, he revolted against God, rebelled against God, and put God's authority aside, denying God's authority and rejecting God's rule. Just as Satan rebelled against God, man also rebelled against God. One can say that man and Satan acted as a team to rebel against God.

Day 2 —

A. Explain what the difference between the gospel of grace and kingdom is.

According to the gospel of grace, God is pleased to freely grant us grace, and we can receive this grace simply by believing. However, this gospel is also the gospel of the kingdom through which God desires to bring us under the ruling of the heavenly authority so that we may become His kingdom, those who are ruled by God's authority.

B. Why do we say that the kingdom is the all-inclusive gospel?

The New Testament speaks of the gospel of life, the gospel of grace, and the gospel of salvation. However, all these are different aspects of the kingdom. The kingdom is the center, the hub, and all the

other items may be considered the spokes, which are centered on the hub. If we do not know the kingdom, we do not know the gospel in a full way. If we want to know the gospel in a full way, we must realize that the kingdom is the all-inclusive gospel.

Day 3 —

A. Explain the word in Matthew 3:2, regarding the spiritual meaning of repenting.

To repent is to have a change of mind issuing in regret, to have a turn in purpose. In John the Baptist's preaching, repentance, as the opening of God's New Testament economy, involved making a turn for the kingdom of the heavens. This indicates that God's New Testament economy is focused on His kingdom. For this we should repent, change our mind, make a turn in our life-pursuit; now our pursuing must turn toward God and His kingdom.

B. Expound the meaning and application of repentance in Mark 1:15.

The Greek word "repent" means "have a change of mind." To repent is to have a change of mind with regret for the past and a turn for the future. On the negative side, to repent before God is not only to repent of sins and wrongdoings but also to repent of the world and its corruption, and to repent of our God-forsaking life in the past. On the positive side, it is to turn to God in every way and in everything.

Day 4 —

A. Compare Matthew's account of the resurrection is very different from John's.

According to John's record, after His resurrection the Lord met with His disciples in a room where the doors had been shut. The disciples were frightened, being afraid of the Jews. The Lord came to them as life, and told them to receive the holy breath. In Matthew's account, the Lord charged the disciples to go to a mountain in Galilee to meet Him and He said, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." Matthew's concern was for the kingdom, and the kingdom requires authority.

B. Expound the word in Matthew 28:19, what the significance is.

Notice that the Lord did not charge the disciples to preach the gospel, but to disciple the nations. The difference between preaching the gospel and discipling the nations is that to preach the gospel is simply to bring sinners to salvation, but to disciple the nations is to cause the Gentiles to become the kingdom people. We have been sent by the Lord not only to bring people to salvation, but also to disciple the nations. This is a matter of the kingdom.

Day 5 —

A. What are the truth in the two aspects of the baptism?

This baptism has two aspects: the visible aspect by water and the invisible aspect by the Holy Spirit. The visible aspect is the expression, the testimony, of the invisible aspect; whereas the invisible aspect is the reality of the visible aspect. Without the invisible aspect by the Spirit, the visible aspect by water is vain; and without the visible aspect by water, the invisible aspect by the Spirit is abstract and impractical.

B. State more of the spiritual meaning regarding the baptism.

To baptize new believers into the death of Christ, into Christ Himself, into the Triune God, and into the Body of Christ is to do just one thing: on the negative side to terminate their old life, and on the positive side to germinate them with a new life, the eternal life of the Triune God, for the Body of Christ. Hence, the baptism ordained by the Lord here is to baptize people out of their life into the Body life for the kingdom of the heavens.

Day 6 —

A. What is the Lord's promise we see in Matthew 28:20?

In Matthew 28:20 the Lord told His disciples, "Behold, I am with you all the days until the consummation of the age." The heavenly King is Emmanuel, God with us. Here He promised to be with us in His resurrection with all authority all the days until the consummation of the age, that is, until the end of this age.

B. Explain the mystery of the Divine Trinity revealed in the Gospel of Matthew.

Matthew tells us about the Triune God being processed. It reveals that He entered into a virgin's womb and was born as a man to be Jehovah, God with us. Then He went through death and resurrection and eventually sent His disciples to "go," bringing Him with them, to transmit and dispense Him into all the nations. Whoever would believe into and receive such a transmitting and dispensing One would be baptized into the Triune God. In this way they would become the reproduction, duplication, multiplication, and increase of the Triune God.

### III. Conclusion:

General Christians are familiar with the gospel of grace, forgiveness of sin, but Matt. 24:14 says, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole inhabited earth for a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come." The emphasis of the gospel of grace is on forgiveness of sin, God's redemption, and eternal life, whereas the emphasis of the gospel of the kingdom is on the heavenly ruling of God and the authority of the Lord. This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole earth for a testimony to all the nations before the end of this age. Hence, that preaching will be a sign of the consummation of this age. Today, the problem is that who really knows the gospel? who can preach the gospel? who can receive the commission of the gospel? No doubt this commission and responsibility is coming upon the churches of Lord's recovery. In order to preach the gospel, we must be in the church to exercise living the kingdom life, to manifest the reality of the kingdom, and to preach the gospel of the kingdom baptizing people into the name of the Triune God so that they may become the duplication and multiplication of the Triune God.