

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message Thirteen : A Vital Sketch of the Divine Revelation in the Books of Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers concerning God's Economy with His Chosen and Redeemed People

I. Overview:

We can present a vital sketch of the divine revelation in the books of Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers concerning God's economy with His chosen and redeemed people, including they being purchased, redeemed, and saved from the bondage of the fall; enjoying Christ, receiving revelation, and being formed into an army to fight for God, to possess the all-inclusive Christ as the good land. In Genesis God's people were chosen, in Exodus they received the divine revelation concerning God and His dwelling place and in Leviticus God trained His people to worship and partake of Him and to live a holy, clean, and rejoicing life. The book of Numbers is a record of God's chosen and redeemed people being formed into a priestly army to fight for God and to journey with God so that they may be prepared by God to possess the all-inclusive Christ as the good land.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain the vital sketch of God's economy with His people in the books of Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers. We may use four slogans to summarize certain crucial aspects of this vital sketch: a) God's chosen and redeemed people are purchased, redeemed, and saved from the bondage of the fall. b) They are enjoying Christ, receiving revelation, and being built up in the Triune God. c) They are formed into a priestly army to fight for God and to journey with God. d) They are possessed by God to possess the all-inclusive Christ as the good land.

B. How can these four slogans apply to the saints in the Old and New Testament?

The Old Testament saints were saved from bondage in Egypt, and we have been saved from the bondage of Satan. Having been saved, we are now enjoying Christ, have also received the divine revelation and are being built up with the processed Triune God. Furthermore, we are being formed into a priestly army. Finally, we have been prepared by God in every way to possess the all-inclusive Christ as the good land.

Day 2 —

A. How do these three books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers unveil God's economy?

Although this word economy may not be used in Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers, the typology in these books unveils God's economy. God's economy is to gain a group of people not only created by Him but also regenerated, sanctified, transformed, and conformed to the image of Christ as the embodiment of the processed Triune God. Eventually, this people will be brought into glory, into the expression of the Triune God.

B. Expound the divine revelation being through the enjoyment of the divine provisions.

The divine revelation was through the enjoyment of the divine provisions as tasted in the supply of the heavenly manna and the living water flowing out of the smitten rock. The divine revelation was also through the experience of being an army that shared in God's fighting against His enemies. Eventually, in Exodus 19 God's chosen and redeemed people reached and arrived at the mountain of God to serve the Lord upon this mountain.

Day 3 —

A. Explain the law being given that we might have a portrait, a description.

We know from the first chapter of Genesis that in His work of creation God accomplished many things. However, Genesis 1 does not reveal what kind of God our God is. The law was given that we might have a portrait, a description, of God and thereby understand what He is. For this reason, God considers the law as His testimony. As a testimony of God, the law is a type of Christ. Christ is the living portrait of God, His living definition and description. Therefore, Christ is the real testimony of God.

B. Explain the law revealing what kind of God our God is.

The law was given not for us to keep, but to reveal what kind of God our God is. As the testimony of God, the law is God's expression, a revelation of God to His people. As the word of God and the testimony, the expression, of God, the law is a type of Christ as God's Word and God's expression. The reality of keeping the law is to live God and express God.

Day 4 —

A. Illustrate the Israelites being built up together with God.

That God's people were to be built up together with Him is indicated by the materials which were to be used for the building of the tabernacle. For instance, the boards of the tabernacle, like the Ark, were made of acacia wood overlaid with gold. The boards of acacia wood are a type of God's people, and the gold overlaying the boards is a type of the divine person. Thus, the boards of acacia wood overlaid with gold signify God's people being built up together with God to be His dwelling place.

B. How do we see a picture of the Divine Trinity in the tabernacle?

With the tabernacle we have the Triune God—with the Son signified by the furniture, the Father signified by the gold, and the Spirit signified by the oil—and humanity, signified by the acacia wood. This is a revelation of God's people being built up with the Triune God to be His dwelling place on earth. The entire tabernacle was God's testimony. This means that the tabernacle was a portrait of the Triune God.

Day 5 —

A. Expound the Numbers as a whole revealing how to be formed into an army to carry out the holy war.

In order to be formed into a holy army, God's people must first be numbered according to maturity in life, and were also built up into one body. After that, then they journeyed with God. In their journey with God, the children of Israel had the presence of God, signified by the cloud in the day and by the fire at night. The cloud and the fire were both the expression of the Triune God. In this journey they were led by God Himself.

B. Testify the Christian life is a life of passing through a great and terrible wilderness.

In this wilderness we have all kinds of trials and sufferings, but we also have the divine care and supplies. Moreover, because we, like the children of Israel, are often "naughty children," in addition to God's care and supplies we also have His discipline. On their journey through the wilderness, the children of Israel passed through forty-two stations to enter into rest in the good land promised by God.

Day 6 —

A. How do we experience fighting with God, overcoming His enemy, building up with Him as His dwelling place?

As the priestly army carrying out the holy war, God's chosen and redeemed people bore with them God's dwelling, the Tabernacle of the Testimony with the Ark of the Testimony. As long as the church bears the testimony of God, the church is God's dwelling place. The Tabernacle of the Testimony signifies God's chosen and redeemed people built up with Him as His dwelling on the earth.

B. What does it reveal to us as the second generation of God's people were raised?

The second generation did not pass through as much as the first generation did, but they received the benefit of what the first generation experienced. I believe that the older generation told the younger generation about all they experienced, enjoyed, and suffered. This speaking was part of the raising up, or the building up, of the second generation. What the first generation experienced was passed on to the second generation.

III. Conclusion:

We have seen the divine revelation in the books of Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers concerning God's economy with His chosen and redeemed people. In the end of Genesis 50, one of God created men was put in a coffin in Egypt. In Exodus, we were brought in God's salvation with the blood of Passover Lamb as redemption, having the flesh of Lamb as an action; like the children of Israel at Wilderness eating the heavenly manna, with which being reconstituted. They also had the presence of God with them, the Ark due to the law was become the Ark of the Testimony, and the forty-eight boards of the tabernacle were made of acacia wood overlaid with gold, signifying the mingling of God with man. In Leviticus there were the offerings, sacrifices, and priesthood for living a holy, clean, and rejoicing life. In Numbers God's people were formed into a priestly army to fight for God and overcome with God, to possess the good land enjoying the all-inclusive riches for the building up of His dwelling place.