

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message Twenty-Three : The vision of the All-sufficient One— the divine view of God's people

I. Overview:

We should never underestimate the value of having a proper view of a certain matter; the view changes us and it affects our entire being. In order to have a vision, we need revelation, light, and sight. We need to see the vision of the All-sufficient One and have a divine view of God's people. The prophet Balaam heard the words of God and saw the vision of the All-sufficient One. This word indicates that the children of Israel were a holy people, a sanctified people set apart from the nations. Balaam's parables also indicate that in its standing the church is holy, in the sight of God the church is perfect, and in appearance the church is beautiful, fair. The more we praise the Lord for His people and speak well of them in faith, the more we put ourselves under God's blessing. Those who speak positively concerning the church receive the blessing. We need to see that the church is "Christly," "resurrectionally," and heavenly. In Joseph's first dream, he saw all God's people are sheaves full of life; in his second dream, Joseph saw all God's people are heavenly bodies full of light.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound the first parable of Balaam in Numbers 23:9.

The first parable was a blessing upon the children of Israel as a separate people, a particular and special class of people who dwell alone and who are not reckoned among the nations. Because this people will be blessed with abundant increase, no one will be able to number them. After uttering this great blessing, Balaam expressed his appreciation of Israel.

B. Explain the most striking lines in Balaam's second parable.

In Numbers 23:21: "He has not beheld iniquity in Jacob, / Nor has He seen trouble in Israel." How could Balaam speak such a word, since Israel was not perfect and since God could see all the iniquities of His people? The answer is that this word was spoken not according to the human view but according to the divine view. God's view is different from our view.

Day 2 —

A. Expound what revelation we can get through the words in Numbers 24:5.

Numbers 24:5 says, "How fair are your tents, O Jacob! Your tabernacles, O Israel!" God always sees through the valleys to the goal. We must learn to see through things to the goal, not only with insight but also with foresight. The church can never be defeated. We are wrong if we say that the church is always defeated. The church will eventually be victorious!

B. Explain briefly what characteristics from Balaam's three parables is.

The first parable reveals that Israel is holy; the second, that Israel is perfect; the third, that Israel is beautiful. Israel's beauty is indicated by the word fair. In the sight of God, Israel is holy, sinless, and beautiful. In standing she is holy, in kind she is perfect, and in appearance she is beautiful.

Day 3 —

A. How do we have a proper sight for seeing the church life?

If you praise the Lord for the church life and speak well concerning it, you will put yourself under God's blessing. During all the years I have been in the church life, I have not seen one person who spoke negatively about the church who was under God's blessing. On the contrary, all who have said that the church was poor, low, or dead have been under a curse. Those who speak positively about the church, declaring that the church is lovely and that it is God's house, receive the blessing.

B. How shall we be kept from falling from the blessing into the curses?

Even though the church may cause me trouble, I still love the church. The more I speak this positive way, the more I am under God's blessing. Whose word about the church is right, yours or the Lord's? In eternity, the church will be marvelous, glorious, and transcendent. Which do you choose to believe, the Lord's sight or yours? If we stand with the Lord's estimation of the church, we shall be kept from falling from the blessing into the curse.

Day 4 —

A. Expound what revelations of Joseph's first dream bring to us.

Joseph had two dreams. In the first dream Joseph saw sheaves in the field. This dream reveals that, at the most, Joseph was just a sheaf and that, at the worst, his brothers also were sheaves. God gave Joseph this dream, and in it he had God's view of his brothers; He seemed to say, "Joseph, in My eyes you are the same as your brothers, and they are just as good as you are. You are a sheaf; and they also are sheaves. The only difference between you and them is that I have chosen you to reign. But this does not mean that you are better than they are."

B. How can we apply the first dream of Joseph in the church life?

When you first come into the church life, you may say, "How wonderful the church life is! However, the more you love the church, the more "gophers," "turtles," and "scorpions" you will see. Then you will say, "Lord, the situation in the church is pitiful." At such a time you need a heavenly dream. When the dream comes, the Lord will tell you, "You are all sheaves of life in Me."

Day 5 —

A. Expound what we have seen in the second dream of Joseph.

In Joseph's second dream he saw the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowing down to him. This indicates that in the eyes of God all the condemned and accused people are full of light. The reigning aspect of the maturity of life never condemns others. Rather, it shepherds and appreciates them. Furthermore, they are heavenly luminaries full of light.

B. What vision did we get from these two dreams in Genesis 37?

In Genesis 37 there are two dreams. One is of sheaves full of life, and the other of the heavenly host full of light. This is God's view, the heavenly view, of His people. Because I have this heavenly view, I am greatly encouraged. I am not working with "gophers" and "scorpions." I am serving the sheaves, I am under the sun and moon, and I am walking among the stars.

Day 6 —

A. How do we exercise having God's eternal view to see the saints and the church?

I like to have an eternal view, not the view from the earth. I do not want to view things according to my limited sight. Rather, I would use the divine telescope to see through time, you will behold the New Jerusalem where there is nothing but sheaves and stars. In the New Jerusalem there are no "gophers" or "scorpions." There, everything is full of life and light.

B. How do we see God's view from the record in Numbers 33?

According to Numbers 33:1-49, there were a total of forty-two stations, from the land of slavery to the land of rest. The record of these forty-two stations does not mention anything about the failures of the people. In the eyes of God the record regarding them is positive. This indicates that, in His view, God always considers His people in a positive way.

III. Conclusion:

Balak, the king of Moab, hired Balaam to curse Israelites, but Jehovah wanted him to speak a word of blessing. Here we may know that the All-sufficient One, which is El Shaddai, reveals God as the Mighty One with an udder to supply His called ones with the riches of His divine being. Although God's people are positioned in heaven as the sun, the moon, and the stars, they are living on earth as sheaves, for sheaves grow in the field. Today we are these heavenly people living on earth to have an eternal view, not the view from the earth. If you say that the brothers and sisters are so bad, it means that you are extremely shortsighted. But if you use the divine telescope to see through time, you will behold the New Jerusalem where there is nothing but sheaves and stars. One day the heavenly dream will come, and your view will be revolutionized. You will realize that you dare not say anything negative concerning the church or the saints. On the contrary, you will say, "This is the church, and this is God's people. In God's eyes the believers are all sheaves. They are also the sun, the moon, and the stars."