

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message Twenty-Four : The necessity of spiritual warfare and God's people formed into an army ready for battle

I. Overview:

We need to realize the necessity of spiritual warfare; in order to possess Christ as the good land, we must fight against and defeat the satanic forces. In the typology of the Old Testament, Canaan has two aspects. On the positive side, Canaan, a land of riches; on the negative side, Canaan signifies the aerial part, the heavenly part, of the dark kingdom of Satan. There is an exceedingly real spiritual warfare in which we must engage; thus, the church must be a corporate warrior fighting the battle to gain the all-inclusive Christ and for the establishing and spreading of the kingdom of God so that Christ may come back to inherit the earth. The Lord Jesus has already won the battle, and the work of the church on earth is to maintain Christ's victory. In order to engage in spiritual warfare, we need to know the Body, know the ascension, and reign in life. At the end of Numbers 27, God's people had been formed into an army ready for battle; had become a new army, had formed, constituted, disciplined, trained, and qualified, all were the younger ones, and had one accord. God's army was prepared and ready to take the good land under the blessing of God in His Divine Trinity and also under the blessing of Moses.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain what the three wills in the universe are.

In the universe there are three wills: the divine will, the satanic will, and the human will. God's will, being self-existing, is eternal, uncreated. As created beings, the angels also have a will. One of these angels, an archangel, was appointed by God to rule the universe. Because of his high position and his beauty, this archangel became proud. This pride gave rise to an evil intention, which became the satanic will.

B. Expound how man can turn from the satanic will to the divine will.

Through repentance man can turn from the satanic will to the divine will, from Satan's side to God's side. The first commandment in the gospel is to repent. The next two commandments are to believe and to be baptized. To repent is to have a turn from the satanic will to the divine will. From the day we were saved, our Christian life has been a life of warfare.

Day 2 —

A. Explain what the significance of the defeating these three kings is.

The kings of Arad, of the Amorites, and of Bashan were the "gate guards" on the east of the Jordan, guarding the land of Canaan, the kingdom of darkness, for Satan. In order for the children of Israel to enter into the good land, they had to pass through the territory controlled by these kings and had to fight against them, destroy them, and take over their territory. This signifies that in order to enjoy the unsearchably rich Christ, the church must defeat and take over the territory of the enemies.

B. Explain in Daniel 10, we see something regarding the spiritual struggle in the air. According to Daniel 10: 10-17, the evil prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood the sent angelic messenger for twenty-one days. The evil prince of the kingdom of Persia must have been an evil spirit, who followed Satan in his rebellion against God and who was commissioned by Satan to help Persia. While Daniel was praying for all those days, a spiritual struggle was taking place in the air between two spirits. The crucial point is that behind the scene a spiritual struggle, which has not seen with physical eyes.

Day 3 —

A. Expound the church in spiritual warfare being defensive, not offensive.

Ephesians 6:10-12 indicates that the work and responsibility of the church is spiritual warfare. The opponents in this warfare are not flesh and blood, but spiritual beings whose dwelling is in the air. Verses 13 and 14 tell us that we should stand, not that we should attack. The spiritual warfare is defensive, not offensive, because the Lord Jesus has already fought the battle and won the victory.

B. Since the church needs to stand for God, what manner of living should we have to accomplish this task?

Since the work of the church is to stand for God and not give any ground to Satan, what manner of living should we have to accomplish this task? All our sins and unrighteousness must be dealt with, our consecration to God must be thorough, our soul-life must be put to death, and our natural man must be abandoned.

Day 4 —

A. How do we prove that God was not finished with the children of Israel?

This is proved by the renumbering in Numbers 26. At the time of the first numbering, there had not been any trouble or reduction in number through God's punishment. The renumbering took place after much trouble and reduction through judgment. Regardless of what the enemy had done and regardless of the people's failures, God, by His sovereign grace and acts, still had a number greater than six hundred thousand.

B. Did we see a wonderful picture at the end of chapter 27?

The new people had been renumbered, the new army had been re-formed and strengthened, and the new leader had been appointed to serve, not by himself but with Eleazar the priest, who would receive divine instructions by means of the Urim and Thummim. This means that there was among the people a new theocracy. Hence, at the end of this chapter we see a new people, a new army, and a new theocracy.

Day 5 —

A. Describe the second generation's need and situation.

With the exception of Joshua and Caleb, those who were qualified and ready to take possession of the land were younger ones. The older ones, those of the first generation, had passed through many things, had learned many lessons, and they surely became part of the heritage passed on to the second generation. By their birth the younger ones were put into a position to inherit the tradition of their family and all that their parents had experienced.

B. Explain how the first generation transfused and ministered to the second generation.

I believe that the fathers spoke to their children about their experiences in Egypt, in the exodus from Egypt, and in the wilderness. They must have also explained to them how they marched out of Egypt and crossed the Red Sea. They entered into the wilderness without food, but that God fed them with manna and supplied them with water from the smitten rock. These all are beneficial to them.

Day 6 —

A. Expound the one accord in First Corinthians 1:10.

First Corinthians 1:10 says that we have to speak the same thing and to be attuned in the same mind and in the same opinion. How can we speak the same thing and have the same mind and the same opinion? These same speaking, same mind, and same opinion are all Christ. In our daily life, if we take Christ as our center and everything, this is the one accord, which is the practice of oneness.

B. Why do we say that the way wanted the church to have grace and blessing is one accord?

The practice of oneness touches our mind, our love, and our speaking. We all want the church here to receive grace and blessing. But do not forget Psalm 133, the commanded blessing of the Lord, which is life forever, is upon the brethren dwelling together in oneness. In order for us to receive God's blessing, we must practice the oneness, and the way to practice the oneness is by the one accord.

III. Conclusion:

The fighting of the children of Israel against the Canaanites that they might possess and enjoy the good land portrays the spiritual warfare of the church against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies. In order for the saints to enjoy Christ as the all-inclusive good land, the church must be a corporate warrior, fighting against Satan's aerial forces so that God's people may gain more of Christ for the building up of the Body of Christ, establishing and spreading the kingdom of God so that Christ can come back to inherit the earth. The Lord Jesus has already won the battle, and the work of the church on earth is to maintain Christ's victory; we, the overcomers, need to give rise to knowing the Body, knowing the ascension, and reigning in life. With the exception of Joshua and Caleb, those who were qualified and ready to take possession of the good land were the younger ones; what the older ones have experienced was effective in building up the younger ones and preparing them to fight with God and for God. For the Lord's move, all the churches need to be in one accord; we should all voice the same thing, trumpet the same thing, teach the same thing, and be the same in practice.