

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message One : The Intrinsic Significance of Deuteronomy — a Book concerning Christ

I. Overview:

Deuteronomy is a concluding word of the law, which signifies Moses speaking the law again to the children of Israel of the second generation. If we are going to fully possess Christ as the good land, we must beware of having an evil heart of unbelief, murmurings, and languishing in the land. The two generations should be interpreted in a typological sense; the first generation typifies our old man, and the second generation typifies our new man. God's economy is to have our old man (the outer man) consumed and our new man (the inner man) renewed day by day. In the three passages of Deuteronomy 30:11-14, 8:3, and 27:1-8, Moses spoke about the intrinsic significance of this book, revealing Christ in every aspect in full. If we love God and regard the law as His living word through which we contact Him and abide in Him, the law will become a channel through which the divine life and substance are conveyed to us for our supply and nourishment; being infused with God's substance through the law as God's word, we will become one with God in life, nature, and expression and will spontaneously live a life that expresses God and corresponds to His law.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain what the meaning of having an evil heart of unbelief is.

Those who spied out the land of Canaan brought back an evil report. They asserted that Israel could never conquer the land, and if they tried, they would be utterly defeated and devoured. Many times the enemy, the evil one, speaks the very same things within us. Hebrews 3 tells us that this is an evil heart of unbelief. It is a heart occupied by the evil one, so it is called an evil heart.

B. Expound the enemies being our bread.

Joshua and Caleb told the people, "Nor should you fear for they are our bread". If we do not engage in the battle, we will be hungry. You and I must have living faith to go on, to take up the battle, and to swallow the enemy. The defeated enemy is the best bread, the most tasteful bread. Let us cross the Jordan and take over Jericho. We will all be fully satisfied.

Day 2 —

A. Explain what two generations of Israelites from Passover to entering of good land is. The first generation was made up of those who came out of Egypt, and the second, of those who entered the good land. This indicates that we believers have two generations. The first generation is our old man, and the second generation is our new man. With the exception of Joshua and Caleb, who had another spirit, the first generation died out. Joshua and Caleb belonged to the new generation, not to the old generation.

B. Expound what the difference between the two baptisms of Red Sea and Jordan River.

Between the first baptism at the Red Sea and the second baptism at the Jordan River, the children of Israel were experiencing transformation. This means that, spiritually speaking, during this time the children of Israel were transformed. Yes, the old generation was strewn in the wilderness, and this is a warning to us. But a new generation came forth. This is transformation. After they crossed the Jordan, they became a mighty army.

Day 3 —

A. Expound that the commandment in Deuteronomy 30:11 refers to Christ.

The commandment of God Moses spoke in verse 11 does refer to Christ, which is the word of God. The Bible as a whole reveals that the word is Christ. Christ is the unique word in the universe; He is the real word. The speaking of any other word is a lie. In Paul's understanding, to bring the word down is to bring Christ down according to his view of the deeper denotation of Deuteronomy 30:12.

B. What does it reveal to us putting Deuteronomy 30:11-14 & Romans 10:6-8 together?

When we put together the two passages of the verses, we have a full picture concerning Christ. In this picture we see that Christ was incarnated, that He was crucified and buried, that He went to the abyss, that He arose from among the dead, and that in His resurrection He became the breath, the life-giving Spirit. Since Christ is now the breath, He, like the air, is everywhere.

Day 4 —

A. Explain that every word in Deuteronomy is Christ.

The children of Israel were sustained by everything that proceeded out of the mouth of God. This actually means that they were sustained by Christ, for whatever proceeds out of God's mouth is Christ. On the one hand, Christ is the good land; on the other hand, He is the food which sustains us on the way to the good land. He is the One who can make it into the land. Christ is everything that proceeds out of the mouth of God.

B. Why do we take the word by inhaling the Bible, we will be in Christ?

Paul says in Philippians, which is a deuteronomy, a respeaking, of Moses' words. In Philippians 4:13 Paul could declare, "I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me." These "things" are itemized in verse 8, "What things are true, what things are dignified, what things are righteous, what things are pure, what things are lovely, what things are well spoken of, if there is any virtue and if any praise, take account of these things." Paul was in Christ who empowered him, he could do them all.

Day 5 —

A. Explain the law being not only commandments but also the living word of God to infuse God into man.

We should be like Paul in Philippians 3, one who was pursuing Christ out of love and even running after Him. Out of love for the Lord, we should pursue Him, contact Him, and abide in His presence, dwelling together with Him. If we do this, day by day we shall be infused with God. Then automatically we shall walk according to God's law, keep the requirements of the law.

B. Expound the function of God's word being to restore man's soul and rejoice man's heart.

We need to be restored by the word of God, especially when we are depressed, suppressed, or oppressed. After working all day at your job, you may be under the oppression of Satan and may be in need of restoration. On your way home from work, take time to read, pray, and sing the Word. You will find that the Word will restore your soul and cause your heart to rejoice.

Day 6 —

A. Explain the spiritual significance of Deuteronomy 27:1-7.

Moses gave commandments to the children of Israel regarding erecting large stones, building an altar, and offering burnt offerings and peace offerings on this altar. These stones may be considered a monument. Beside this monument, they were to build an altar. The Ten Commandments are God's requirements, which the monument at the entry to the land reveals to them according to what He is, having the people satisfy these requirements.

B. Expound what in the universe there is a wonderful scene unveiling Christ to us.

First, in this scene we see Christ as the embodiment of God standing before us with His demands and requirements according to what He is. Second, we see the altar, which signifies the cross of Christ. Because we cannot fulfill His requirements, He came to be our Redeemer, to be the One cursed for us on the cross. The requiring One is thus the fulfilling One.

III. Conclusion:

Deuteronomy is a book of speaking about Christ, whose intrinsic significance is revealed in the three passages of chapter 30, chapter 8, and chapter 27 in the Deuteronomy. When we put together Deuteronomy 30:11-14 and Romans 10:6-8, we have a full picture concerning Christ. Christ was incarnated, that He was crucified and buried, that He went to the abyss, that He arose from among the dead, and that in His resurrection He became the breath, the life-giving Spirit. Deuteronomy 8:3 says that "man lives not by bread alone, but that man lives by everything that proceeds out from the mouth of Jehovah"; in Matthew 4:4 everything is replaced by every word, referring to the law, the commandments, the statutes, and the ordinances as the words that proceed out of the mouth of God. The scene at the entry of the good land portrayed in Deuteronomy 27:1-8 includes the stone monuments, the altar, and the offerings; all these items typify Christ. The law written on the monuments signifies Christ making requirements of them. Right beside the stones is the altar, where God's people could take Christ as their burnt offering to God for His satisfaction and as their peace offering to God for their enjoyment with God.