

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophecy Message Twelve : Life and Blessing under the Government of God

I. Overview:

In order to extend their days in the good land, the children of Israel were required to live under the government of God, doing all that God had commanded them through Moses.

Moses set before the children of Israel life and death and charged them to choose life. There are two trees working within us as two principles of living; the principle of life which is dependent on God, and the principle of right and wrong which is independent from God. In our Christian life and church life, we should discern matters not according to right and wrong but according to life and death. Moses set before the children of Israel blessing and curse; we ourselves need to enjoy the Lord's blessing first, and then the Lord will cause us to become a source of blessing to others so that they may be supplied. We must realize that in our work, in our Christian life, and in our church life, everything depends on the Lord's blessing.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain only in the temple God's people enjoying the fountain of life.

God's house refers to the temple, which was the continuation and enlargement of the Tent of Meeting. In Psalm 36:9 the psalmist goes on to say, "With You is the fountain of life; / In Your light we see light." This verse is also related to the temple. Only in the temple could God's people enjoy the fountain of life. Furthermore, it was in the temple that they could see light in God's light.

B. Expound only God Himself being the real life.

Life, zoe, is eternal. Eternal means "immortal." Psalm 90:2b says, "Indeed from eternity to eternity, You are God." Strictly speaking, all lives that are mortal are not life. The real life is immortal and eternal, and this real life is God Himself because God is from eternity to eternity. God is eternal, so only God Himself is the real life.

Day 2 —

A. Expound what the two trees being put there to show us.

Man, especially a Christian, can live on earth according to two different principles. Man can live according to the principle of right and wrong or according to the principle of life. Some Christians take the principle of right and wrong as the standard for their living, while other Christians take the principle of life as their standard for living.

B. State what the standard of Christian living is.

Many matters are right according to human standards, but the divine standard pronounces them wrong because they lack the divine life. Decisions should be made according to God's life as it rises up or recedes within us. Do we feel joyful inwardly about this matter? Do we have spiritual happiness and peace? These are the matters that decide our spiritual path. This is the standard of Christian living.

Day 3 —

A. Why do we say that the church must be full of life?

The riches of God are in Christ, and the riches of Christ are manifested through the church. Since the church is the testimony of the riches of God, its characteristics must be the characteristics of Christ. The characteristics of Christ are encapsulated in the words of John 11:25, "I am the resurrection and the life". Since the church is the vessel of Christ on earth, it should express this life and resurrection.

B. Expound Satan using death to attack the church.

The ultimate weapon Satan uses to attack the church is death. Death is not easily identifiable; it can creep secretly into the church. This means that Satan can use refined and moral things, not just filthy and treacherous sins to attack Christians. Many refined and moral things are filled with death, and Satan can easily utilize these deadly things to attack the church.

Day 4 —

A. Explain that in order to receive God's blessing, we need to meet the qualifications.

The qualifications are image and dominion. If there is the image of God with God's dominion in your home, you can be assured that the blessing of God will be there. God's blessing is always with the priesthood and the

kingship. The priesthood is for God's image; the kingship is for God's dominion. As long as we have the priesthood and kingship, God's blessing follows immediately.

B. Expound if we do not receive blessing, what the attitudes we should have.

We must see that the Lord withholds no good thing from us. If the work is not going well, if the brothers and sisters are in a poor condition, or if the number of saved ones is not increasing, we should not use the environment or certain people as an excuse. We cannot blame the brothers. I am afraid that the real reason lies with our harboring of some frustrations to the blessing. So we should say, "Lord, perhaps I am the problem."

Day 5 —

A. Expound the praise in Ephesians 1:3 encompassing the entire New Testament economy.

Here we have not only creation, indicated by the title God, but also incarnation, indicated by the title the God of our Lord Jesus Christ. In the incarnation He is the Father to impart His life to all His sons. The highest praise to God says that our God the Creator became a man and that our God is also the life-imparting Father.

B. Explain the meaning of heavenlies in Ephesians 1:3.

Heavenlies here indicates not only the heavenly place, but also the heavenly nature, state, characteristic, and atmosphere of the spiritual blessings with which God has blessed us. They are from the heavens with a heavenly nature, heavenly state, heavenly characteristic, and heavenly atmosphere. The believers in Christ are enjoying on earth these heavenly blessings. They are heavenly as well as spiritual.

Day 6 —

A. Describe Psalm 133 the church living being the highest living.

Psalm 133 is the praise of a saint, in his going up to Zion, concerning Jehovah's commanded blessing on brothers who dwell in oneness. When Zion is built up and when God is resting there and dwelling in Jerusalem, we have a place where we can gather and where we can dwell together in oneness. How good and how pleasant this is!

B. Explain the Lord's promises in Ezekiel 34:26.

Here the Lord promised not only that His people would receive His blessing but also that He would make them a blessing. First, we ourselves enjoy the Lord's blessing, and then He will cause us to become a source of blessing to others so that they may be supplied. The Lord promises there being showers of blessing. Many times in the meetings of the local churches we sense that something is not only flowing but also coming down like a shower.

III. Conclusion:

In the New Testament, God wants the church to love God, to choose life, to live before God, to walk in God's ways, so that the church can live in the heavenly realm to increase the saved people and the number of spiritual people. In Christ's ascension God is the life of the church and He wants to extend their days in the heavenlies and He will bless the church as well. However, if we want to receive God's blessing, we must learn of all the following things.

1) needing to look to God's blessing, 2) needing to remove the hindrance from God's blessing, 3) needing to fulfill all God's requirements, 4) should not be satisfied with the blessings of the past, 5) needing to respect God's blessings, 6) knowing of God's blessing being far beyond what we deserve, 7) needing to learn to live in the blessings of God.