

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message Two : The Governmental Administration of the Righteous, Holy, Faithful, and Loving God

I. Overview:

The Bible reveals God's divine governmental administration of the entire universe. God's government is seen especially in His dealings with His chosen people. God governs by judging for the carrying out of His government. In this age we, the children of God, are under the daily judgment of God. We need to realize that we are under God's government, to respect God's government, and to learn to acknowledge God's government. As God is governing us, He supplies us with whatever we need. We should be humbled under the mighty hand of God. The book of Deuteronomy speaks regarding the governmental administration of God. God's dealing with His people was an exercise of His governmental administration; He disciplines us for the purpose of perfecting us. The punishment Moses suffered was a perfecting to the children of Israel; they should have learned from this how fearful the righteous God is in His governmental dealings. The government of God is the governmental administration of the righteous, holy, faithful, and loving God.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound the two Epistles of Peter being on the subject of God's universal government. These two books speak concerning the universal government of God. God governs by judging. This is the way God carries out His government. God has judged Hitler, Stalin, and other evildoers. God also judges His own people. According to 1 Peter 4:17, God's governing judgment begins from His own household. This is God's government.

B. Explain what the purpose of God's governing judgment is.

God judges in order to clear up His universe. The universe was created by God for a positive purpose, but Satan came in to defile it. Now God is cleansing the universe through judgment. He is doing a thorough work of cleaning the entire universe. Eventually, the universe will be new. The significance of the new heavens and the new earth mentioned in 2 Peter 3 is that it indicates the newness of God's universe.

Day 2 —

A. Explain that with God's government there is God's provision.

With God's government there is God's provision. God grants us His provision so that we may cooperate with His government. In other words, if we would carry out God's government, we need God's provision; that is, we need the divine supply. In 2 Peter we see how God's power provides all the supply for our need.

B. Expound 1 Peter 2:23, the word of "all" refers to all the sufferings of the Lord.

The Lord kept committing all the insults He suffered and all His injuries to Him who judges righteously in His government, to the righteous God, to whom He submitted Himself. This indicates that the Lord recognized God's government while He was living a human life on earth. This brief word indicates not only that the Lord lived a life that was a model for us, but also that He lived a life absolutely under God's government.

Day 3 —

A. Expound the spiritual meaning of the mighty hand of God in 1 Peter 5:6.

In 1 Peter 5:6 the mighty hand of God refers to God's administrating hand seen especially in His judgment. God's judgment is carried out in the environment arranged according to His sovereignty. Suppose a certain brother loves the world long after he has been saved. But one day he has a car accident arranged by the mighty hand of God, and that it causes him to seek the Lord in a deeper way than he ever did before. This is an illustration of God's hand exercised in judgment.

B. Explain what the three things we need to do that are related to our experience of the mighty hand of God. First, we should humble ourselves under God's mighty hand. Second, we should cast all our anxiety on Him. Third, we need to be sober and watch. Everything that happens to us is under God's mighty hand. There is no need for us to worry or be anxious. We should simply humble ourselves under God's mighty hand and not resist it. We need to be sober and watchful.

Day 4 —

A. Explain in 1 Peter 2:24, that we, having died to sins, might live to righteousness.

In 1 Peter 2:24 the phrase having died to sins literally means “being away from sins.” When Christ carried up our sins onto the cross and died, the death of Christ terminated us in order to keep us away from sin. The best way for people to be kept from sins or from sin is for them to be put to death. No matter how many sins a person may commit, once he has died, death separates him from sins. It enlivens us so that we may live to righteousness.

B. State the working of the subjective aspect of Christ’s cross.

We should not have only the objective cross, but the subjective cross as well. This depends upon the working of the life-giving Spirit within us. When we call on the name of the Lord and have fellowship with Him, the life-giving Spirit operates within us. Spontaneously we experience the subjective working of the cross to make a separation between us and sins so that we automatically live to righteousness.

Day 5 —

A. Explain 1 Peter 1:15 and 16 say, “According to the Holy One who sanctified us...”

The Holy One is the Triune God; the choosing Father, the redeeming Son, and the sanctifying Spirit. We become holy through the sanctification of the Spirit, based on regeneration, which brings us the holy nature of God and issues in a holy life. He begot us with His life inwardly so that we might have His holy nature; He disciplines us outwardly so that we may partake of His holiness.

B. Expound 1John 1:9 revealing God’s faithfulness.

God is faithful in His word according to 1 John 1:9, and the word of the truth of His gospel, which tells us that He will forgive us our sins because of Christ. If we confess our sins, He, according to His word, forgives us, because He must be faithful in His word.

Day 6 —

A. Explain that Deuteronomy speaks of God as a God of love and righteousness.

This is proved by God’s past leading and His future dealing with the children of Israel in His love and government. As a God of love, He is all-embracing, but as a God of righteousness, He is very strict and narrow. In His righteousness, He often says “No” when we want to do a certain thing. Some saints are too free and do not fear God. Once we have touched God’s dealing hand, we will fear Him.

B. Expound the intention of the book of Deuteronomy.

The intention of this book is that we would know God and also know ourselves. We need to know God. In particular, we need to know that God is loving and that He is righteous in dealing with us. We also need to know that we ourselves are a failure. If we know this, we will no longer trust ourselves but put our trust in God. Ultimately this book shows us that the love of God consummately works for His people that they may enjoy His full blessing.

III. Conclusion:

The Bible reveals God’s divine governmental administration of the entire universe. God’s government is seen especially in His dealings with His chosen people, and even God governs by judging for the carrying out of His government. In Deuteronomy we see that God’s governmental administration, in the first generation of children of Israel with an evil heart of unbelief, murmurings, and languishing in the land, except Caleb and Joshua, others all fell in the wilderness. It’s really a warning to the New Testament believers. God has a system of grace for us, but we often neglect God’s system of government. This includes His dealing and His judgment toward us. Peter in his first Epistle mentioned that the judgment begins from the house of God. We should also see that God carries out His governmental administration according to His righteousness, holiness, faithfulness, and loving. We need to realize, respect and learn to acknowledge God’s government, and be humbled ourselves under the mighty hand of God.