

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Propheying Message Four : The Goodness of the Land — Its Minerals

I. Overview:

Deut. 8:9, "A land whose stones are iron, and from whose mountains you can mine copper." The stones, the iron, the mountains, and the copper are for the building and for the battle. Christ, as a stone for God's building, is the Stone-Savior. We are being transformed to become living stones for God's house. Iron signifies the authority of Christ; in order to have authority we must be in the resurrection life of Christ. The mountains typify the resurrected and ascended Christ. In the ascended Christ we may engage in spiritual warfare. Copper signifies the judgment of Christ. Christ was judged and tried by God, and Christ, the tested and proved One, is our covering. If we would experience Christ as stone, iron, and copper, we must have some degree of spiritual maturity, then the battles of spiritual warfare will be fought. If we would possess Christ as the good land, we still need to fight the spiritual warfare by faith in the Lord and in the principle of the Body. We should be today's Joshua and Caleb, fighting against Satan for the building up of the Body of Christ, spreading the kingdom of God.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound the relationship between a matured life with the building and the battle.

Whenever there is a matured life in Christians, the building of God's house will take place, and the battles of the spiritual warfare will be fought. These two always go together. If you would have the building of God, you must prepare to fight. For the building of God we need the materials, and for the fighting of the spiritual battle we need the weapons. All of these depend on the stones, the mountains, the iron, and the copper.

B. How to be transformed from clay to stone?

The Lord's building is built with stones, but we are made of clay. We must be transformed from clay to stone. We must be transformed by the Holy Spirit through the practical experience and enjoyment of Christ. By the renewing of the mind we are transformed from a piece of clay to a stone. After becoming a stone, we are burned and pressed so that we may be transformed even further from an ordinary stone to a precious stone.

Day 2 —

A. Expound the relationship between the authority of the church with the resurrection.

When the Lord was raised from the dead, He told us that all authority in heaven and on earth was given to Him. The spiritual authority, the heavenly authority, is always in resurrection. If you and I are living and walking in the resurrection life of Christ, we will have the authority of heaven. If two brothers in a local church are so much in the resurrection, to them the divine, heavenly authority is committed.

B. Explain Deuteronomy 33:25 what the spiritual meaning of the bolts of the gates is.

In Deuteronomy 33:25 reveals the doorbolts of the gates are made of iron and copper. These gates are for our protection, our defense, our safeguard. If we are able to exercise the Lord's authority and the Lord's judgment, we will have the safety and security. Our doors will be bolted with the authority and judgment of the Lord. The most secure are those believers who know something regarding the exercise of Christ's authority.

Day 3 —

A. Expound what the spiritual meaning of stones being always related to mountains and hills is.

If we want some rocks, we must have some mountains. The mountains and hills in the Bible always represent resurrection and ascension. They are something that is raised above the earth, above the plain. All the spiritual, living stones are in the resurrection life; they are stones joined to the mountain of Christ's resurrection. If we are walking in the resurrection life, we enjoy the reality of the hills and mountains, and with them inevitably are the stones.

B. Explain how to discern there being stones among the saints.

Suppose there is another group of believers. They know something of the cross, and they know something regarding the denial of the natural life. They are walking in newness of life and serving in newness of the spirit; they are living in resurrection. When you come to them, you sense there is something raised, something exalted. It is not difficult to find many stones, even precious stones.

Day 4 —

A. Explain the words in Daniel 10:5-6.

In typology bronze signifies divine judgment. The feet of Christ are like shining bronze, as mentioned also in Daniel 10:6, signifying that His perfect and bright walk qualifies Him to exercise divine judgment. Christ appeared in His gleam in His work and moves, tested by people and testing people. God's trial and judgment made Him bright like polished bronze.

B. What elements of Christ do iron and copper represent?

Christ will rule the nations with a rod of iron, which stands for the authority of Christ. He has the iron. The rod of iron is in His hand. Bronze stands for the judgment of Christ. All His judging power and judging authority issue from the trials He suffered. When He was here on earth, He passed through all kinds of tests and suffered every kind of trial. His feet are like burnished bronze, refined in the furnace.

Day 5 —

A. Explain how God's people to cooperate with Him.

Joshua 1:3 indicates that on the one hand, there was God's giving of the good land; on the other hand, there was the cooperation of God's people in rising up to fulfill God's commission to possess the land. God's encouragement to Joshua was in the term of Joshua's walking in the word of God. They were one with the Triune God in the great wheel of His economy for the purpose of gaining the good land.

B. Expound that the old man must be buried in order to enter into the good land.

The people of Israel were ready to enter into the good land and to take it as their possession. However, their old man had to be buried so that they could become a new man. They passed through Christ's death to bury their old man and to become a new man in Christ for the fighting of the spiritual warfare. Because we are persons in Christ, we are no longer the old man but the new man.

Day 6 —

A. How to defeat the enemy in order for the children of Israel to gain the good land?

In order for the children of Israel to gain the good land, they had to defeat the enemy and drive out the evil forces. When they crossed the Jordan, God did everything. In the same principle, God's people did not need to do anything to destroy Jericho. They only needed to believe and trust in God, to listen to the instruction from the Captain of the army of Israel, and to exalt Christ by bearing the Ark.

B. Explain in the warfare God keeping with the principle of incarnation.

According to the record of the book of Joshua, God wants man to be one with Him. In keeping with the principle of incarnation, God wants to do everything through man, with man, and even in man. At Jericho Israel marched around the city with the Ark on the shoulders of the priests. The spiritual significance of this scene is that it is a picture of a corporate God-man, God and man, man and God, walking together as one person.

III. Conclusion:

There is progress in enjoying the riches of the good land, first by drinking from water of river, of springs and of fountains. Then eat the food, milk and honey, wheat, barley, vines, figs, pomegranates, olive trees. Through the enjoyment of these riches the minerals, including stones, iron, mountains, and copper, will be produced, which are for God's satisfaction and need. Stone is the material for the building, but originally we are made of clay; we must be transformed from a piece of clay to a living stone. Iron signifies the authority of Christ and church; the authority of the church is absolutely in resurrection. The mountains typify the resurrected and ascended Christ. The spiritual warfare must take place in the position and ground of the ascended Christ. Copper signifies the judgment of Christ, who was judged and tried by God, also the tested and proved One, the perfect, bright, and shining One, and becomes our covering; the enemy can do nothing with Him.