

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message Five : Becoming Qualified to Inherit the Promised Land

I. Overview:

The book of Deuteronomy speaks of the kind of person who is qualified to inherit the promised land as the good land. God's people need to match what God is; they need to know God's heart and God's government, subject themselves to God's ruling, mind the tender feelings of God, and live in the presence of God. God wants us to do all things not by ourselves but in Christ, by Christ, with Christ, through Christ, and by being one with Christ.

Becoming Qualified to Inherit the Promised Land, the children of Israel should love God and fear God. They must be not only to keep God's commandments but also to walk in His ways. The children of Israel went forth in battle to fight against their enemies; today we also are in a war, in which we are fighting for Christ and to remain in Christ. Eventually, we will realize that in order to inherit the good land, what kind of person we should be, what kind of being we should have, and in what kind of way we should walk.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound that to match what God is, His people need to be holy as He is holy.

It is required that God's people respond to God with their love in a way that fits in with God's governmental administration. The inheritors needed to match the Giver of the inheritance, so that He could be with them both in their living and in their fighting. This is not a requirement of the law but a condition requiring God's people to match what God is. God is sanctified, and we also must be sanctified.

B. Explain the spiritual implication of the word holy in the Bible.

Some think that holiness is sinlessness. According to this concept, someone is holy if he does not sin. This thought is absolutely mistaken. Holiness is neither sinlessness nor perfection. Holy not only means sanctified, separated unto God, but also different, distinct, from everything that is common. Only God is different, distinct, from all things in His nature. Hence, He is holy; holiness is the distinct quality of His nature, as one of His attributes.

Day 2 —

A. What does the Lord intend if He asks us to do something for Him?

He does not intend that we do that thing by ourselves. Trying to keep His commandment by our energy is an insult to God; it is abominable in His sight. If we try to do this, the Lord might say, "What I ask you to do is doing by Me. I simply want you to participate in My operation. If you cooperate with Me, I will be able to do what I desire to do." To do something for the Lord not by ourselves but by the Lord, this is pleasing to Him.

B. Explain the importance of the regeneration.

It is impossible for us to do anything for God by ourselves. We need another life, the divine life, the life of God. In order to have this life, we must be reborn, regenerated; that is, we need to be born of God. With our created life we cannot observe what God demands; we do not have the capacity to do God's will.

Day 3 —

A. What does it mean to believe into Christ and what is its significance?

God wants us not only to believe in Christ but to believe into Christ. To believe into Christ is to have an organic union with Christ, becoming one spirit with Him. In this union we are joined to Christ, we are one with Him, and we are in Him. Now as those who are one with Him and in Him, we need to do all that God requires by Christ and through Christ.

B. Expound the meaning of, in Romans 10:8, "the word of the faith which we proclaim." This word of faith includes repentance, returning to God, holding fast to God, and believing into the Triune God in order to have an organic union with Him and to live together with Him as one. I am living in the organic union with the Triune God." This is the Christian life, this is the church life, the Body, and, ultimately, this will be our life for eternity in the New Jerusalem.

Day 4 —

A. Explain the spiritual meaning of loving God.

To love God means to set our entire being, including spirit, soul, and body, with the heart, soul, mind, and strength absolutely on Him, that is, to let our entire being be occupied by Him and lost in Him, so that He becomes everything to us and we are one with Him practically in our daily life. In this way we have the closest and most intimate fellowship with God.

B. Expound in Deuteronomy 10:12 of fearing God, having a proper fear of God.

It seems that today many people, claiming that they are free, do not fear anything or anyone, including God. This lack of fear is terrible; it is the source of all kinds of lawlessness. The young people should recognize that, according to God's ordination, there is authority in the family, in society, and in the church. In whatever we do, say, and think, we all need to fear God.

Day 5 —

A. Why is the living God whom we serve not mocked?

He searches our intentions, thoughts, emotions, and everything about us; nothing can be kept hidden from Him. We must fear Him and know that He is a judging God and that judgment begins from His house. We must fear God in our intentions, thoughts, attitudes, living, and service because He is a living God who is not mocked.

B. Why is a man fearing God, sooner or later he will be manifested by God?

It is not vain to fear God. He knows those who fear Him. In the Old Testament Joseph is an example. He feared God and dared not sin against God. Others falsely accused him and put him in prison. Eventually, God came to make all things manifest. Joseph was manifested as a God-fearing man and was enthroned.

Day 6 —

A. Expound the significance of taking what God is as our ways.

To take what God is as our ways and to walk in these ways is to live God. To take Christ as our way is to live Him, and to live Him is to express Him, to manifest Him, and even to magnify Him. Hence, to walk in God's ways is to live God, express God, manifest God, and magnify God.

B. What kind of knowing should we have in the warfare?

In ourselves we do not have the strength or the capacity to fight. If we trust in ourselves, we will not have any assurance that we will be victorious in the warfare. As we are fighting, we need to realize that we are fighting for what God has given us. The good land has been given to us by God, but we still need to fight against the enemies. We should not only pray but also fight. Actually, we are not the ones fighting, for God goes with us and fights for us.

III. Conclusion:

Deuteronomy 10:12-20 talks about the nine things Jehovah God is asking His chosen people to do so that they may live long on this good land. The first of these things is to fear Him. This is a holy fear, that is, a serious caution so that we may be separated, sanctified, unto Him as a holy people. To fear God is to submit to His authority. The lack of fearing God is terrible; it is the source of all kinds of lawlessness. When there is no god in man's eyes, there is no one. The history of the church proves that a Christian who does not fear God will have a miserable ending. Miriam rebelled against God because she did not fear God's sovereign arrangement and slandered Moses. She suffered from God's severe judgment and became a leper. Another was the case with Joseph, wherever he was God be with him, who was a God-fearing man. Eventually, God came to make all things manifest for him and Joseph was enthroned.