

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message Two : God, Man, and Satan

I. Overview:

The entire Bible is a record of the things concerning God, man, and Satan. Satan was an angel and an anointed cherub created by God to rule over the preadamic universe; the anointed cherub was the one closest to God, and having both the kingship and the priesthood, he held the highest position in God's creation. Satan rebelled against God because of the pride in his heart; his heart was lifted up because of his beauty. Satan was condemned and even sentenced by God. In His wisdom and sovereignty God did not execute His judgment on Satan but has given Satan a certain limited time to do something to meet some negative need in the fulfillment of His economy. Through His ministry on earth and His death on the cross, the Lord Jesus was victorious over Satan. We should not be ignorant of Satan's schemes; the best way for us to be victorious over Satan is to live in the mingle spirit. Dealing with Satan is a Body matter, not an individual matter. Satan can be crushed only under the feet of the practical expression of . Satan can be crushed only under the feet of the Body of Christ. God wants to end this age and bring in the age of the kingdom, and for this He must have the man-child as His dispensational instrument; this is God's greatest dispensational move.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain the Bible speaking about the things concerning three characters.

Just as the Bible speaks about God and man, it also speaks about Satan. The entire Bible is a record of the things concerning these three characters of God, Satan, and man. In reading the Bible, we should not only know the things concerning God and man, we should also know the things concerning Satan. If we have a good grasp concerning these three lines of God, man, and Satan, the Bible will become crystal clear to us.

B. Expound that Satan rebelled against God because of pride in his heart.

Ezekiel 28:17 says that his heart was lifted up because of his beauty, that he corrupted his wisdom by reason of his brightness. He was "full of wisdom and perfect in beauty"; he had the full measure of completeness and was short of nothing. But he gazed on his beauty and was proud. To look at what God has made us and forget God Himself always tempts us to be proud. Pride was the cause of Satan's rebellion.

Day 2 —

A. Explain how Satan was used by God to fulfill God's economy.

In Isaiah 14:15 and Ezekiel 28:16-17 Satan was condemned by God and even sentenced by God. Yet in His wisdom and sovereignty God did not execute His judgment over Satan. He still has given Satan a certain limited time so that he can do something to meet some negative need in the fulfillment of God's economy.

B. Expound that Job was successful in every aspect except having God within him.

Job had been laboring under God's blessing for many years and he had accumulated many things. He had a dear wife and seven sons and three daughters. Moreover, Job was very successful in being perfect and upright and in holding to his integrity. His possessions, success, and attainment made him a contented and satisfied person. Although Job was full of possessions and full of his attainment, he did not have God within him.

Day 3 —

A. Explain that Christ is the Victor who has destroyed the works of the devil.

Other than our Lord Jesus Christ, no one is an overcomer. Christ is the Victor; He is the One who has destroyed the works of the devil and the One who has bruised the serpent's head. Christ has overcome. If we acknowledge this fact continually and join ourselves to Christ, we will overcome continually. Satan is the most afraid of our continually speaking this word of our testimony, acknowledging Christ as the Overcomer.

B. Expound that the victory at Golgotha is still effective today.

The cross at Golgotha is the place where Satan and his power is defeated. The victory at Golgotha is still effective today. Man may consider the Lord Jesus' crucifixion as His failure, yet that was the very place of His victory. The Lord was crucified on the cross, and He resurrected from the dead. He went into death, fought with death, overcame the power of death, and then emerged victorious over everything.

Day 4 —

A. Explain how we stand against the devil's work.

The devil uses not only crafty ways in his work but also stratagems. His stratagems are always varied. He can use all kinds of persons, things, and matters as his stratagems to trap us. He can also devise stratagems to deceive us and distract us from our true status before God. We need the whole armor of God to stand against them.

B. Expound how we fight the authority of darkness.

We must fight the devil's authority of darkness with all the saints. The warfare, in Ephesians 6, is a warfare between the church and the devil's authority of darkness; therefore, the armor in Ephesians 6 must be worn by the church. If we live in the church, the Body of Christ, and put on the whole armor of God with all the saints in order to stand against the devil, we will overcome him and bring in the kingdom of God.

Day 5 —

A. Explain the word in Romans 16:20, and how to apply it.

God will crush Satan under the feet of the Body. Romans 16 does not refer to the Body in a universal sense, but it refers to the local and practical expression of the Body. This means that Satan can only be crushed under the feet of the practical expression of the Body in the local churches. It is only when we have a proper local church as the practical expression of the Body that Satan is crushed under our feet.

B. Testify that the God of peace crushes Satan under our feet.

In Romans 16 the apostle Paul greeted the saints one by one. This shows that he had a considerable amount of knowledge, understanding, and care. Such recommendations and greetings show both the mutual concern among the saints and the mutual fellowship among the churches. It is by the churches' fellowship in the Body that the God of peace will crush Satan under our feet and we will be able to enjoy the rich grace of Christ.

Day 6 —

A. Expound what will happen after the man-child is raptured to heaven.

After the man-child is raptured to heaven, a war commences with Michael and his angels against Satan. This indicates that the man-child, the stronger part of God's people, is always engaged in fighting God's enemy, Satan. The overcomers have been fighting Satan continually, even unto death, and have defeated him on earth. But heaven is still waiting for them to arrive there so that a war may be waged to cast Satan out of heaven.

B. Explain the most effective way to defeat the enemy.

What we need to do is to take the covenant, the word of God, and preach to Satan regarding what the Lord has accomplished for us. When our temper is aroused, we should preach to Satan. Go to the source of the problem—Satan—and preach to him, saying, "Satan, you have been crucified on the cross." The more you preach to Satan, the more you will be released.

III. Conclusion:

When Satan rebelled, he had been condemned and judged by God, but not yet executed. According to God's wisdom and His sovereignty, He has given Satan a certain limited time to do something to meet some negative need in fulfilling His economy. In the spiritual warfare, we need to get to know Satan's stratagems; he can use all kinds of persons, things, and matters as his stratagems to trap you, deceive you, and distract you from your true love for God, your true enjoyment of God. All of the stratagems will seriously frustrate you, even destroy your whole being; moreover, like a roaring lion, he will make you cowered and in fear, then to devour you. Also he often injects the negative thoughts into your mind; there is no way for you to face these situations alone, so we must be in the body to put on the whole armor of God to stand against them. We should build up with the local saints, experiencing the God of peace being about to crush Satan under our feet. The crushing of Satan is related to the church life, which is the strongest means of overcoming Satan.