

## **Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message Three : The Two Evils of God's People and God's Faithfulness in Fulfilling His Economy**

### **I. Overview:**

The book of Jeremiah reveals that God's intention in His economy is to be the fountain, the source, of living waters to dispense Himself into His chosen people for their satisfaction and enjoyment. Jeremiah 2:13, "My people have committed two evils; they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, to hew out for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns, which hold no water." In the eyes of God, the wicked one is the one who does not come to drink of Him; in the sight of God, nothing is more evil than this. We need to see God's faithfulness in fulfilling His economy; God is faithful in leading us into His economy. We may think that because of our failure, we are hopeless, but God's compassions do not fail; rather, they are new every morning. If we fail God today, we should not be disappointed; God has a way to deal with us and cause us to mature.

### **II. Truth and Enlightenment:**

Day 1 —

A. Expound that the book of Jeremiah was written for God's economy.

The entire Bible, including the book of Jeremiah, was written for God's economy. Brother Lee's burden in his life-study of Jeremiah is what the Lord has shown him from the Word concerning God's economy. If you see this vision, your life will be affected, and the Lord's recovery will be enriched. In Jeremiah 2:13, God concerns two evils which they have committed. God's intention in His economy is to be the fountain for their enjoyment.

B. Explain we should drink of Him since God has dispensed Himself as the living water.

God's economy is to dispense Himself as the living water to produce His increase, His enlargement, to be His expression. This thought is strengthened by Paul in 1 Corinthians 12:13. To be baptized in the Spirit is to get into the Spirit and to be lost in Him; to drink the Spirit is to take the Spirit in and to have our being saturated with Him. Our drinking is for the producing of His enlargement, His fullness, for His expression.

Day 2 —

A. Explain what the spiritual implications of the water coming out of the rock in Exodus 17:6 are.

The water which came out of the rock in Exodus 17:6 is the water of life in resurrection. Because the water of life is in resurrection, it is victorious and triumphant. The smitten rock with water flowing out of it, Christ on the cross with blood and water flowing from His pierced side, and on the throne flowing the river of water of life that all indicate the flowing of the living water began from the throne.

B. Explain Rev. 22:1, the One sitting on the throne is God and what the water of life proceeding out of the throne can be brought from.

The life-giving Spirit as the water of life flows out of God on the throne. On the one hand, the One sitting on the throne is God; on the other hand, the water of life proceeding out of the throne is also God. The water which flows from God on the throne brings God's authority. When we drink of this water, we receive authority as well as power. We are subdued by the living water flowing within us.

Day 3 —

A. What are the two evils which Israelites have committed in Jeremiah 2:13 ?

In Jeremiah 2:13 we see not only something positive, the fountain of living waters; but also something negative, the children of Israel's forsaking this fountain. This negative thing indicates that Israel, like Adam in Genesis 3, had become fallen. Israel fell by forsaking God as the fountain of living waters and turning to a source other than God.

B. Explain Israel's second evil being to hew out for themselves cisterns.

The word in 2:13 about cisterns portrays Israel's toil in making something to replace God as the fountain of living waters. To hew out a cistern from rock is very hard labor. Then the cistern may become broken. Once a cistern is broken, the water in it leaks out. This is a picture of human labor and enterprise. We may labor to get something for ourselves, but then our "cistern" develops a crack, and we lose whatever we have gained.

Day 4 —

A. Why do we say that in the sight of God, not coming to the Lord is an evil thing?

The evil condition of the wicked is that they do not come to the Lord to eat and enjoy the Lord. They do many things, but they do not come to contact Him, to take Him, to receive Him, to taste Him, and to enjoy Him. In the sight of God, nothing is more evil than this. Today, we may have a morning revival, come to the meetings, sing hymns, and even pray without contacting the Lord. To do this is to be a hypocrite.

B. Explain that man forsaking of God began in the garden of Eden.

God intended to dispense Himself into man as man's satisfaction that God might be enlarged, but man became unfaithful and unchaste and forsook God for idols. This forsaking of God began in the garden of Eden. Eve, the wife of Adam, was not faithful to God but was seduced by the serpent to turn from God to Satan, symbolized by the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Day 5 —

A. Explain what about God's faithfulness.

Although we are unfaithful, God is faithful. We may understand what about God's faithfulness in a natural way, and may think that He is faithful primarily in the matter of material provisions or physical blessings. However, in 1 Corinthians 1:9 Paul says, "God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."

B. Use an example to illustrate God's faithfulness.

We need to realize that in allowing us to have troubles, God is faithful in His purpose to turn us from idols and bring us back to Himself. God's faithfulness is a matter of dealing with these idols and causing us to drink of Him. God is faithful in leading us into His economy, and His economy is for us to drink Christ, to eat Christ, to enjoy Christ, to absorb Christ, and to assimilate Christ.

Day 6 —

A. Explain that there is hope in God due to God's compassion in Lamentations 3:22-25.

We may think that because of our failure, we are hopeless. Thus, it is profitable to consider Lamentations 3:22-25. The people of Israel must have felt that God had given them up. In his writing he could say that it was of Jehovah's lovingkindness that they were not consumed. He could say that they were still there and that God had not given them up, but God's compassions do not fail; rather, they are new every morning.

B. Expound no matter our condition God has a way to deal with us to cause us to mature.

If we fail God today, we should not be disappointed. There is no need for us to worry about our situation. God is patient, sympathetic, and compassionate, and He will take the time to make us mature. Every believer, whether presently weak or strong, will be in the New Jerusalem, and everyone there will be mature.

### III. Conclusion:

We must see God's faithfulness in accomplishing His economy. God is faithful even though we are unfaithful. Our understanding of God's faithfulness is often natural, and it may be thought that He is faithful in matters of material provision or physical blessings. In 1 Corinthians 1:9 Paul says that God is faithful in calling us into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. God allows us to have difficulties, but His purpose is faithful to turn us away from idols and bring us back to Himself. Our health may become an idol to us, and God is faithful to take these things away so that we may drink of Him as the fountain of living waters. God is faithful in the fulfillment of His economy; we should not be disappointed when He allows suffering, persecution, and loss to come upon us. God has a way to deal with us. He has a way to cause us to mature and then to bring us into the New Jerusalem because He is faithful.