

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message Eight : God's Economy with His Dispensing in the Book of Jeremiah

I. Overviews:

Jeremiah 17: 7-8 says, "Blessed is the man who trusts in Jehovah. And he will be like a tree transplanted beside water. And will not be afraid when heat comes. For its leaves remain flourishing. And will not cease to bear fruit."; this is a picture of God's dispensing. In order to receive the divine dispensing, we must absorb God as the living water to become our very constituent and to grow in life for the building up of the Body of Christ. In Jeremiah 17:19-27 we have a word about keeping God's Sabbath; the way to keep God's Sabbath is to enjoy Him, to rest with Him, and to work together with Him — it is a divine principle. On the day of Pentecost the disciples were filled with the Spirit; only after they were filled with this enjoyment did they begin to work with God in oneness with Him. The book of Jeremiah indicates that only Christ can fulfill God's economy; Christ is our righteousness and our redemption, the fountain of living waters, our food, and the reality of the new covenant with all its blessings. Being those who respond to Christ's heavenly ministry, we need all twenty-seven books of the New Testament to define Jeremiah 31: 31-34.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain what kind of revelation Jeremiah 17:5-8 brings to us.

Jeremiah 17:5-8 is a word about the curse of trusting in man and the blessing of trusting in Jehovah. According to the natural understanding, that if we trust in God, we will be blessed, mainly in a material way. However, according to God's economy, the one who trusts in God is like a tree planted by water, signifying God as the fountain of living waters. The tree grows beside the river by absorbing all the riches of the water into it.

B. Why do we say the thought in Jeremiah 17:7-8 being the same as that in 1 Corinthians 3:6?

In 1 Corinthians 3:6 Paul says, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth." The watering is for the tree's absorbing, and the absorbing is the receiving of God's dispensing. The tree grows with God as the Supplier and the supply. The supply is the riches of the supplying God dispensed into us as the plants so that we may grow into God's measure.

Day 2 —

A. State Jeremiah 17:19-27 as Jehovah's warning regarding the keeping of His Sabbath.

The Sabbath signifies that God has done everything, completed everything, and prepared everything and that man must stop all his work....To work on the Sabbath is an insult to God and to what He has accomplished. Instead of working in such a way, we should take in God as our enjoyment, drinking of Him as the fountain of living waters. To sanctify God's Sabbath is to stop our work and to take what God has done for us.

B. Expound the insertion of Exodus 31:12-17 concerning the Sabbath.

That following the charge for the building work of the tabernacle indicates that the Lord was telling these builders, these workers, to learn how to rest with Him. If we only know how to work for the Lord but do not know how to rest with Him, we are acting contrary to the divine principle. It is a divine principle that God does not ask us to work until we have had enjoyment.

Day 3 —

A. Expound Exodus 31:12-17, speaking of building the tabernacle, we must bear a sign.

You need to enjoy Me first. Then you will be able to work not only for Me, but also with Me and by being one with Me. I will be your strength to work and your energy to labor. But if you work in yourself and by yourself, that will be an insult to Me. You must do the work of building My dwelling place with Me, by Me, and in oneness with Me.

B. What lessons do we need to learn regarding the Sabbath?

The Sabbath means that before we work for God, we need to enjoy God and be filled with Him. If we have enjoyed God and if we have been filled with God, then we are ready to work for Him. The people of the world all work by themselves. They do not have a sign on them rather than we have a sign. The sign is that we rest with God and are filled up with God first, and then we work with the very One who fills us.

Day 4 —

A. Explain what the characteristics of the new covenants God made with man are.

In the Bible God made eight covenants with man, but He counts only two covenants; the covenant made with Israel through Moses and the new covenant of life, which is considered the second covenant and God cares for it only. The content of the new covenant is the Triune God, who has been processed and consummated to become everything to God's chosen people. This new covenant was promised to Israel in Jeremiah 31:31-34.

B. Compare the differences between the two ministries.

Whereas Christ's ministry is a ministry of justification, Moses' ministry was a ministry of condemnation. However, without the old covenant of the law made through Moses, Jeremiah could not have exposed Israel to the uttermost. Here we see that the function of the law, which is something on the negative side, is to expose our fallen condition and situation. This helps us turn to the source, to the fountain of living waters, which is Christ.

Day 5 —

A. Expound Jeremiah having laid the foundation of the new covenant in Jeremiah 31.

In Jeremiah 31, Jeremiah laid the foundation of the new covenant, prophesying that God will put His law within us; that He will write His law into our mind that we may know God; that God will be our God and we will be His people. In the new covenant we enjoy the inner law of life. This law of life brings us God's person and also the divine capacity.

B. Explain how to use the 27 books of the New Testament to define Jeremiah 31:31-34.

We need all the twenty-seven books of the New Testament to define Jeremiah 31:31-34. In this new covenant we have the church, the kingdom of God, God's household, the house, the new man, and the Body of Christ as the fullness of the processed and consummated Triune God. Eventually, this new covenant will bring in the millennium. Ultimately and consummately, it will bring in the New Jerusalem in the new heaven and new earth for eternity.

Day 6 —

A. Expound that the book of Hebrews encourages us to enter within the veil to live.

The book of Hebrews encourages us to enter within the veil, look away unto Him, and consider Him in order to receive the transfusion and infusion of Him. Of course, we can only do this by exercising our spirit. When we turn to our spirit and exercise it, we enter within the veil. Here we participate in the heavenly ministry of the heavenly Christ. Here we are saturated and permeated with all the divine riches.

B. Explain what kind of revelations Hebrews 4:12 gives to us.

This verse shows us the key to experiencing Christ; our spirit is joined to the Holy of Holies. The Lord Jesus Christ is with our spirit. Grace is with our spirit. We must go to our spirit. The Holy of Holies, God's economy, and even the fulfillment of God's economy are all related to our spirit. What we need today is to enter within the veil by getting into the spirit.

III. Conclusion:

We are just like the children of Israel, who were engaged to Him. However, we often forsake our first love and hew out a broken cistern for ourselves. We may be disappointed for this situation, but God is never. He knows that we will have a revival and will be conquered sooner or later. In the light we must confess how evil we are. It is incurable and cannot be changed. But He is the shoot of righteousness, and He has established a new covenant with us, whose law of life with divine capacity will dispense Himself into us continually. Eventually, He has to fulfill His divine economy. This requires us to cooperate with His heavenly ministry, to enjoy Him as the true rest, and to go forward with the saints in the Body in one accord with the one heart and one way God has given us.