

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophecy Message Nine : God's Judgment upon Egypt and Babylon

I. Overviews:

The book of Jeremiah presents a picture of God's coming in to punish and judge the nations, which typify aspects of the world. In God's view, the world is first Egyptian and then Babylonian. Egypt typifies the world of making a living and of enjoyment, with which Pharaoh occupies and usurps the people. All the things on the earth have been systematized by Satan into his kingdom of darkness. Babylon began from Babel which is the consummation of human government. In Revelation 17 and 18 the restored Roman Empire is called Babylon the Great, which has two aspects. The principle of Babylon is mixing the things of man with the Word of God, and the things of the flesh with the things of the Spirit. Eventually, Babylon the Great will be destroyed, removed from the earth, and cast into the lake of fire, and the New Jerusalem will be brought in to be the prominent center of God's eternal kingdom in the new heaven and new earth.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain that God's elect, Israel, was very much involved with the nations.

God's elect, Israel, was very much involved with the nations. This is a type of us, God's New Testament elect, who are very much involved with the world in its many aspects. We need to know how to have a clear separation from the world and not be wrapped up or mixed with any of its aspects. God will come in to judge the world in all its aspects and to make a clear distinction between the church as His elect and every aspect of the world.

B. Expound Jeremiah speaking of nations, he mentions Egypt first, then Babylon.

This indicates that, in God's view, the world is first Egyptian and then Babylonian.

Babel is the origin, the source, of man's worship of idols, man's rebellion against God, and human self-exaltation.

After these things began, the world became Egyptian, with Egypt signifying the world in the aspect of making a living and having entertainment. Hence, according to the sequence in Genesis, Babel is mentioned first and then Egypt.

Day 2 —

A. How does the world typified by Egypt usurp the people whom God chose?

The world typified by Egypt usurps the people whom God created and chose for His purpose. Whether they are rich or poor, many today are slaves to money. They work hard to earn a large amount of money, and then in a short time they spend all they have to indulge in the pleasures of the world. Thus many today do not serve God, but mammon.

B. Why do we say that the book of Exodus described a picture of Satan?

Because of their need to maintain their livelihood, the children of Israel fell into Egyptian tyranny. The worldly people today are also under tyranny. Even their occupation with worldly amusements is a sign that they are under Satan's tyranny. Forced to follow a course that holds them under Satan's tyranny and that keeps them from God's purpose.

Day 3 —

A. Why are we delivered from the fall, the simpler we become regarding our existence?

I am concerned that even Christians may devote so much time to their house that they have very little, if any, time for prayer. However, the more we are delivered from the fall, the simpler we will become in the matter of housing. The more we are delivered from the fall, the simpler we become regarding what we need for our existence.

B. Expound the necessity for human existence being corrupted by Satan with his systematic scheme.

The earthly things which are necessary for human existence have been corrupted by Satan with his systematic scheme. All of our human capacity is preoccupied with and occupied by the things of the world, so no capacity remains in us for God. To us the things which we need for our existence may simply be earthly things, or they may become a world, a system of Satan.

Day 4 —

A. How do we, God's people, come out of Babylon in its two aspects?

When Israel came out of Babylon at the time of Ezra, they came out of political Babylon. Israel's captivity in Babylon typifies the captivity of today's Christians in the Babylonian religion. In the Babylonian religion, the most striking thing is the worship of idols. This is especially true in Catholicism. Today, for us to be God's people, we need to come out of Babylon in its two aspects.

B. Explain the political Babylon in the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, Babylon was mainly political, but this political Babylon also interfered with the worship of God. When Babylon invaded Jerusalem, it destroyed the temple of God and carried away to Babylon the vessels of the temple, which typify the ways and means for God's people to enjoy Christ. These vessels continued to exist, but they were marred.

Day 5 —

A. Explain the meaning of the name Babylon and its representation.

The name Babylon originates from "Babel." The principle of the tower of Babel involves the attempt to build up something from earth to reach unto heaven. When men built this tower, they used bricks. Stone is made by God; bricks are a human invention. The meaning of Babylon relates to man's own efforts to build a tower to reach unto heaven. Babylon represents man's ability.

B. Expound what the meaning of the brick men built the tower of Babel is.

One man has some talent and thinks that he can preach after he has studied a little theology. A certain man is capable of doing things, so he is asked to come and manage the affairs of the church. This is "Bricks"! All of these things are man's endeavors to build something from earth to heaven by human ability. God destroyed man's plan to build the tower of Babel in order to show man that he is useless in spiritual matters.

Day 6 —

A. Expound what the two aspects of Babylon are in Revelation.

In Revelation the restored Roman Empire is called Babylon the Great. Babylon the Great has two aspects, a political aspect and a religious aspect. The political aspect of Babylon the Great includes many material things and many things related to the international trade and commerce upon the earth. At the end time, the political situation of the world will not be communistic, for international trade, not merely national commerce, will be thriving.

B. Explain the world situation under the influence of Roman politics and Roman religion. Most of the present governments were adopted based on Roman law and Roman administration. Furthermore, the Roman church is prominent in many nations, and the pope has a high political standing. Hence, today, both politically and religiously, the entire earth has been Romanized. Today, the whole world has become Roman under the influence of Roman government and Roman religion.

III. Conclusion:

The principle of Babylon is mixing the things of man with the Word of God, and the things of the flesh with the things of the Spirit. According to God's Word, His children cannot be involved in any matter containing the character of Babylon. God said that we must come out from every situation where Babylon was. We cannot partake of anything that has the character of Babylon. We have to come out of it. God's children must learn from the depths of their spirit to separate themselves from Babylon and to judge all her actions. God hated Babylonian principles. How much within us is not absolute? All halves and halves are Babylon. We ask God to give us light to judge ourselves in the light of everything that is not absolute. Grant us grace not to seek glory outside of Christ. What the Lord wants us to love and seek is to be an absolute person, not to live under the principles of Babylonian.