

**Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message Six : The Universal History according to God's Economy— the Divine History within the Human History to Fulfill the Lord's Heart's Desire to Have the One New Man in Reality**

**I. Overview:**

In this universe there are two histories: the history of man, the human history, and the history of God, the divine history; the former is like an outward shell, and the latter, like the kernel within the shell. God's history is our history because He is in union with us. God's history in man began with the incarnation and continued with His processes of human living, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. With Peter (the fishing ministry), Paul (the building ministry), and John (the mending ministry), we can see the Lord's heart's desire to have the one new man. If our living is in the world, we are living in the human history; but if we are living in the church as the reality of the one new man, we are living in the divine history, enjoying the mysterious, divine things for our organic salvation and for His spreading to become the bride.

**II. Truth and Enlightenment:**

Day 1 —

A. Expound what the two histories recorded in the Bible are.

The Bible is a record of two histories: the history of man, the human history, and the history of God, the divine history. The former is like an outward shell, and the latter, like the kernel within the shell. In the Minor Prophets the human history is clearly defined and is signified by the four kinds of locusts mentioned in Joel 1:4. The divine history within the human history is also revealed in considerable detail.

B. Why do we say that the Bible is God's history in union with us?

The Bible is God's history in union with us. The Bible took approximately fifteen hundred years to complete through more than forty writers. We may say the Bible is the autobiography of God, because it is a book about God written by God Himself through a number of writers moved by the Holy Spirit. The entire Bible is a history of the Triune God. The Bible is God's history in union with us.

Day 2 —

A. Expound the contents of God in His Divine Trinity holding a council in eternity.

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit held a council, a conference, in eternity to make the determination concerning the crucial death of Christ for the carrying out of God's eternal economy. For the carrying out of God's economy, Christ had to die. Micah 5:2 tells us that Christ was going to be born in Bethlehem, and that was a part of His "goings forth. Before God came to be born in Bethlehem, He was preparing to come in eternity past.

B. Explain with what two things He blessed us before we were created.

In eternity past God chose us to be holy, to be sanctified unto Himself with His holy nature. In eternity past God also predestinated us, marking us out, unto sonship, making us sons to Himself with His divine life. Thus, God blessed us in eternity past with two things of His holy nature and His divine life.

Day 3 —

A. What the two portions of God's history are, as which the Bible may be considered?

The Bible may be considered the history of God. God's history is of two portions, the history of God with man, found in the Old Testament, and the history of God in man, found in the New Testament. In the Old Testament God's history was a history with man. In the New Testament God's history is a history in man, for this history involves God's being one with man.

B. Expound the meaning of with cords of a man with bands of love in Hosea 11:4.

In Hosea 11:4, the phrase with cords of a man with bands of love indicates that God loves us with His divine love not on the level of divinity but on the level of humanity. The cords through which God draws us include Christ's incarnation, human living, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. It is by all these steps of Christ in His humanity that God's love in His salvation reaches us.

Day 4 —

A. What are the five aspects of all-inclusive judicial redemption of Christ?

First, He terminated all things of the old creation. Second, He redeemed all the things created by God and fallen in sin. Third, He created the new man with His divine element. Fourth, when Christ accomplished His all-inclusive judicial redemption, He released His divine life from the shell of His humanity. Fifth, in accomplishing His all-inclusive judicial death, Christ also laid a foundation for His organic salvation.

B. Explain what effects being produced by the death and resurrection of Christ.

At the end of His life and ministry on earth, the Lord Jesus went to the cross. His crucifixion was a vicarious death, an all-inclusive death which solved all problems. His death ushered Him into resurrection. On the one hand, in His resurrection He was begotten to be the firstborn Son of God. On the other hand, through His resurrection He became the life-giving Spirit, millions were begotten by God to be sons of God and members of the Body.

Day 5 —

A. Expound three apostles' ministries in the New Testament.

According to the record of the New Testament, Peter caught the fish, gathered the materials, for the building up of the church. Paul was a tentmaker. His trade was a building trade, and his ministry was a building ministry. When John was called by the Lord, he and James were mending their nets in the boat. Eventually, John became a real mender, mending the breakages in the church by his ministry of life.

B. How did God use Peter to bring in His work?

God used Peter to bring in many Jewish believers on the day of Pentecost. Under the Lord's sovereignty, many of them were from different cultures and spoke different languages. This implied something of God's desire to gather together different peoples with different languages into one. In Acts 10 while Peter was keeping his hour of prayer, he received a vision concerning God's plan and move.

Day 6 —

A. Why do we say that if we are living in the church, we are living in the divine history?

We all were born in the human history, but we have been reborn, regenerated, in the divine history. Now we need to ask ourselves this question: Are we living in the divine history, or are we living merely in the human history? If our living is in the world, we are living in the human history. But if we are living in the church, we are living in the divine history.

B. Explain the church on earth being related to the ascended Christ.

According to Ephesians 2, Christ came to preach the gospel of peace. This indicates the coming of the ascended Christ. When Saul of Tarsus was persecuting the churches, he did not realize that what he was persecuting was related to the heavens, that the church on earth was related to the ascended Christ. Because Saul opened himself to the Lord, the Lord then proceeded to constitute him into a gift to the Body.

### III. Conclusion:

Although three most important writers of the New Testament, Peter, Paul, and John, had their own ministries, all of them were for the unique ministry of the New Testament. The Lord's selection and calling of them were in relation to their career. When Peter was called, he was fishing; the Lord called him for making him into a fisher of man and had saved him twice by the miracle of catching fish. Acts 2: 4 there being at least eight thousand Jews came in and opened up the door for Gentile world represented by Cornelius for one new man. Paul's occupation as a tentmaker was related to building; he was unveiled to see that the one new man had been created, needed to be renewed, and would practically appear on earth. John was mending his nets when he was called; and Paul completed the word of God in AD. 67, which was destroyed by heretics and apostates, and then John's ministry of life could mend it. He saw the vision of golden lampstand with the vision of the New Jerusalem, which was for the one new man.