

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message One : The Central Thought of and the Divine Trinity as Revealed in 1 and 2 Samuel

I. Overview:

The central thought of 1 and 2 Samuel is that the fulfillment of God's economy needs man's cooperation—the principle of incarnation. The principle of incarnation is that God enters into man and mingles Himself with man to make man one with Himself; thus, God is in man and man is in God, having one life and one living. We need to be deeply impressed with the fact that the fulfillment of God's economy requires our cooperation; to cooperate with God means to be bound together with God. God's purpose for His chosen people was not merely to defeat the enemies and take full possession of the good land but for them to set up a kingdom in the land. Because of the miserable situation in the book of Judges, there was an urgent and desperate need for one like Samuel, who was qualified to be the one who could bring in the king and set up the kingdom. Our present situation and God's need today are the same in principle as the situation and the need in the time of Samuel. There is an urgent need for some to pray prevailing prayers for God's goal, as Hannah did to produce Samuel, to terminate the confused situation among God's people. It is crucial for us to see that the Triune God is involved with us today, operating in us to accomplish His will, fulfill His purpose.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound the central thought of first and second Samuel.

The central thought of 1 and 2 Samuel is that the fulfillment of God's economy needs man's cooperation, as illustrated by the history of Samuel's mother Hannah, Samuel, and David, in the positive sense, and by the history of Eli and Saul, in the negative sense. Such a cooperation is related to the personal enjoyment of the good land. The good land enjoyed by the cooperators with God became the kingdom of God, in which they reigned as kings.

B. Explain the fulfillment of God's economy requiring our cooperation.

The fulfillment of God's economy requires our cooperation. To cooperate with God means to be bound together with God. In a three-legged of two runners race, if the partners would like to run together, they must cooperate with each other and not move independently. This is a picture of the proper Christian life. To be a Christian is to be bound together with Christ and to have one living with Him by one life.

Day 2 —

A. Explain that Samuel initiated a new age.

Samuel initiated a new age. He turned the age from the age of the priests to the age of the kings. Priests can serve God, but they cannot bring in God's kingdom and God's authority. When God's kingdom is established, His authority can be exercised, and then His glory can be expressed. The prayer in Matthew 6:13 reveals that there is the kingdom first and then have the exercise of authority and the expression of glory.

B. Expound for God's chosen people to be His expression, the Divine Trinity was needed. God's purpose for His people was not merely to defeat the enemies and take full possession of the land but for them to set up a kingdom. Because this purpose had not been fulfilled, the conclusion of Judges says that the children of Israel did whatever was right in their own eyes because there was no king or kingdom. What was needed at that time was for a kingdom to be set up.

Day 3 —

A. State that God's intention has been to have a kingdom.

According to the Bible, God determined to raise up a man named David, through whom He intended to build up a kingdom. When God chose Abraham, it was not His intention to gain a single person or even a group of people who would seek after Him. God's intention has been to have a kingdom. The consummation of the revelation in the Bible is a kingdom.

B. Describe Samuel being a pure and single man.

He was a Nazarite according to his mother's vow and was altogether not self-seeking. He never sought to gain anything for himself. He had no heart for anything besides God and God's elect. God loved Israel, and His heart was duplicated in Samuel. In such a situation it was easy for God to bring in the kingdom.

Day 4 —

A. Explain that God would like to gain a man for His eternal purpose.

In the midst of the chaos of the degraded Israel, Elkanah and Hannah remained in the line of life ordained by God, not merely for God's eternal salvation but for His eternal purpose. Brother Watchman Nee was a man altogether for God's purpose. In the Lord's recovery, we are for God's purpose, remaining in the line of life ordained by God.

B. Expound the consecration and prayer of Hannah.

Because Jehovah had shut up Hannah's womb, she was forced to pray a desperate, consecrated, and consecrating prayer. She prayed for a male child, whom she would not keep for herself but would give to the Lord for His need. Her prayer was for a son who would be a Nazarite from birth, one who would be absolute for the Lord. The Lord answered her prayer, and a son was born.

Day 5 —

A. Expound that in 1 Samuel we see God's embodiment and God's full redemption.

In 1 Samuel 1 the sacrifices typify Christ as all the offerings. Jehovah is the eternal great I Am, and the house of Jehovah is Christ as the embodiment of God to be God's dwelling place. Furthermore, the bulls, flour, and wine signify the Christ whom we experience and bring to the house of God to offer to Him. The offerings as the means for us to enter into the embodiment of God, that is, redemption.

B. Explain all the doing of the Spirit of God in the books of Samuel.

The Spirit of God came upon Saul's messengers, and they also prophesied. Saul intended to arrest and kill David. It was not physical force but prophesying that stopped Saul's activity. Samuel was not commanding an army but was directing the prophesying. This was all the doing of the Spirit of God, who is the third of the Trinity reaching God's people.

Day 6 —

A. Expound that our present situation and God's need are the same as the age of Samuel.

Some today need to pray according to God's need, as Hannah did. God needs some like Samuel, who was a Nazarite, a priest, a prophet, and the last judge. God needs such ones who are qualified to terminate the negative situation and bring in the king and the kingdom. The fulfillment of the kingdom is the coming kingdom, which will be brought in by the Lord Jesus.

B. Explain that the Divine Trinity is needed for the matter of bringing in the kingdom.

In order for Hannah to pray such a prevailing prayer and receive a definite reply, she needed the tabernacle and the offerings, which typify Christ the Son as the embodiment of God and the reality of all the offerings. Similarly, in order for us to pray to meet God's need today, we need Christ as the embodiment of God and the reality of the offerings. We also need the fulfillment of the Tent of Meeting, which is the church as God's dwelling place.

III. Conclusion:

Our present situation and God's need today are the same in principle as the situation and the need at the time of Samuel. There was a confusion of judges at that time. Today the Body of Christ is divided because of religious confusion. Today God needs to be in His church, raising up Hannah's prevailing prayers, not for himself but for God's goal, offering her son as a Nazarite and having lent him to Jehovah for all the days of his life. On the one hand, God lacked nothing, but He lacked in the priesthood, and He needed Hannah's selfless consecration to give birth to Samuel for meeting God's need. Samuel, having a pure, single heart, never sought anything for himself. Also he had no self-seeking nor any thought of self-gain without heart for anything besides God's heart and God's elect. In such a situation, it is easy for God to bring the kingdom in.