

## **Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying**

### **Message Five : War with the Amalekites**

#### **I. Overview:**

First Samuel 15 is a record of Saul's disobedience in his conquest of the Amalekites. Here Saul was absolutely and thoroughly exposed, and then he was given up by God and also by Samuel. In typology, the Amalekites signify the flesh, the fallen man. Amalek, the flesh, is the leading enemy in frustrating us from going on with the Lord. The name Amalek means "warlike," indicating that the flesh is warlike, destructive, and disturbing. The greatest destroyer of the Christian life is the flesh. Saul and the people's sparing the best part of the things that they should have utterly destroyed portrays the fact that, experientially, we treasure the good aspects of our flesh, our natural life, and do not wish to destroy them. To offer something to God according to our own will is presumptuous and is sinful. Whatever we do apart from God's grace and apart from depending on Him and trusting in Him is of the flesh. Every aspect of the flesh, whether good or evil, is in opposition to grace and God's kingdom and keeps us from enjoying Christ; therefore, we must hate every aspect of the flesh and be absolute in destroying the flesh. If we follow the Lord's word to utterly destroy the flesh and live and walk according to the spirit, we will have the kingship and will be in God's kingdom. When Amalek is dealt with, the kingdom of God immediately comes in.

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

Day 1 —

A. Expound I Samuel 15, Saul's disobedience to God in his conquest of the Amalekites.

He conquered the enemy, yet he was altogether disobedient to God. The fighting between Amalek and Israel depicts the conflict between the flesh and the Spirit within the believers. Amalek was a descendant of Esau, Jacob's twin brother. This indicates that the flesh is of the first man, the old man.

B. Explain the Amalek's purpose in attacking Israel.

Amalek was the first enemy encountered by the children of Israel on the way to the good land. This indicates that our flesh is the first among all our enemies. When in our experience the flesh is put to death, the world cannot hold us, sin cannot operate in us, and Satan is powerless to work on us.

Day 2 —

A. Expound the meaning of the Amalekites and how they disturbed us.

The name Amalek means "warlike." The flesh enjoys fighting and never wants to keep the peace. Furthermore, the flesh is very destructive. The flesh destroys our married life, family life, and church life. It seeks to destroy everything positive. The flesh is not only warlike and destructive but also extremely disturbing. If you read Romans 7, you will see what disturbance is caused by the flesh.

B. Describe how the Amalekites destroyed the church life.

In the Old Testament no enemy is dealt with more thoroughly than Amalek, because Amalek is a type of the flesh, which is the last enemy against God's kingdom. The flesh is what keeps the church from being built up adequately. For the sake of the church life, we need to deal with our flesh. If the flesh is not dealt with, there can be no kingdom of God.

Day 3 —

A. Explain how the flesh is in rebellion against God and His throne.

Amalek was a hand against God's throne, signifying that the flesh is in rebellion against God and is against His throne, His governmental administration. Every aspect of the flesh, whether good or evil, is an enemy of God's authority (Rom. 8:7). Hence, God has decided to war against the flesh continually until it is blotted out. By this we see that Amalek is versus God's authority.

B. Expound how Satan used the flesh to destroy man.

Every aspect of our flesh, whether good or evil, is an enemy of God's authority. The flesh does not care for God or for His authority. Whenever we are in the flesh, we regard ourselves as individuals who are not obligated to submit to God's throne. We think that we have a position and rights of our own. Such a rebellious attitude has its source in Satan.

Day 4 —

A. Expound having a war with Amalek in Exodus 17.

In the war with Amalek described in Exodus 17:8-16, Moses stood on the top of a hill with the rod of God in his hand, and Joshua went out with chosen men to fight against, and to defeat, Amalek. While Joshua was fighting, Moses was praying. After Joshua defeated Amalek, God declared that He would have war with Amalek from generation to generation.

B. Explain how we fight against Amalekites.

In the first place, we fight by praying with the interceding Christ. Moses lifting up his hand on the mountaintop typifies the interceding Christ in the heavens.

While Christ is praying in the heavens, we must pray here on earth. When we pray, we are one with Moses on the mountaintop. But when we put the flesh to death, we are one with Joshua fighting in the valley.

Day 5 —

A. Explain 1 Samuel 15:3 that Jehovah tested Saul.

The Amalekites rose up to frustrate the establishing of God's kingdom, and Saul was charged to destroy them. In 1 Samuel 15:3 Jehovah said to him, "Go now and strike the Amalekites; and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, infant and suckling, oxen and sheep, camel and donkey." God wisely put Saul on the spot in order to test him.

B. Expound 1 Samuel 15:6-9 indicating Saul wanted to build up his own kingdom.

Saul utterly destroyed all their people, but he spared Agag and the best of the sheep and of the oxen and of the fatlings, and the lambs and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them. For Saul, this was an opportunity to make himself rich. Saul had gone to Carmel and had set up a monument for himself. Saul's purpose was trying to build up his own kingdom.

Day 6 —

A. Expound how we warned by this account of Saul's disobedience.

We should not be to do anything in the kingdom of God by our flesh. We need to fear God and remember that we are flesh. But the Son of God has crucified the flesh, and He has come into us to regenerate our spirit. Now He is living in our spirit, moving, acting, and taking the lead to guide us into the line of life for the building up of His organism, the Body of Christ.

B. Explain the words in Romans 8:7, it is impossible for the flesh to be subject to God.

The flesh is not only versus grace, but it is also versus kingship. Where the flesh is, there can be no kingdom of God. In Romans 8:7 Paul says that it is not possible for the flesh to be subject to God. The kingdom of God denotes the authority of God by which all things are made subject to God. But it is not possible for the flesh to be subject to God. It is utterly opposed to God's throne.

### III. Conclusion:

Throughout the whole universe, God's real enemy is not Satan, but us. As long as we remain in the flesh, whether good or evil is an enemy of God. In the church life, all difficulties come from the flesh. As Saul did, we are likely to pity the best sheep and oxen, to appreciate the best parts of the flesh and keep them, which is a sin against God. When we exercise the spirit, the vision is clear; but if we remain in the flesh, the vision becomes vague. When we are in the spirit, we can see everything so good in the church life, including all men, things, and matters. However, once we are in the flesh, everything seems to change its color, just like a camera out of its focus and making confused. This really requires us to turn our mind from the flesh to the spirit, joining ourselves to the intercession of the ascended Christ, responding to Him by our prayers, and taking the initiative to put to death the flesh through the indwelling Spirit.