

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message Eight : The Seed of David Becoming the Son of God

I. Overview:

The words in 2 Samuel 7:12a-14a imply that the seed of David would become the Son of God, that is, that a human seed would become a divine Son. In Matthew 22:45 the Lord asked them how David could call the Christ Lord when the Christ was his son. Christ is a man; in His humanity He is the son of David. Christ is God; in His divinity He is the Lord of David. Before incarnation God's only begotten Son did not have the human nature; He had only the divine nature. Through incarnation God's only begotten Son put on humanity and became the God-man, then in resurrection this God-man was born of God to be His Firstborn. After the Son of God became incarnate, His divine nature was concealed by the flesh; God's raising up Jesus from the dead was His begetting of Him to be His firstborn Son. By His resurrection Christ sanctified and uplifted His human nature, His humanity, and He was designated out of resurrection as the Son of God with this human nature. This designation of the Son of God was "in power," the power of Christ's resurrection, the reality of which is the Spirit. In Romans 1:3-4, Christ is a Prototype and Romans 8:29, mass production.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound "your seed" in 2 Samuel 7:12.

In 2 Samuel 7:12 your seed refers, literally, to Solomon, David's son, who built the temple as God's dwelling place in the Old Testament. However, according to Hebrews 1:5b, David's seed is actually Christ as God's firstborn Son, who has both divinity and humanity and is typified here by Solomon. Romans 1:3-4 concerning Christ as the seed of David being designated the Son of God in His humanity in resurrection.

B. Explain the greatest question in Matthew 22:43-45.

When Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus questioned them, saying, "What do you think concerning the Christ? Whose son is He?" They replied that Christ was David's son. Then the Lord said, "How then does David in spirit call Him Lord?" The Pharisees had only half the scriptural knowledge concerning Christ's Person, that He was the Son of David. They did not have the other half, concerning Christ's divinity as the Son of God.

Day 2 —

A. Explain Christ is the Root of David, and He is also the shoot of David.

In His divinity, Christ is the Root, the source, of David; in His humanity, Christ is the Offspring, the issue, of David. Hence, He is the Lord as the Root of David, and He is also the son, the shoot, of David as the Offspring of David. Just as the Offspring of David denotes that the Lord is man and that He came out of David, so also the Root of David denotes that He is God and that David came out of Him.

B. Expound Acts 13:33, "You are My Son; today I have begotten You."

Paul was able to see the Lord's resurrection here and he applied the word today to the day of the Lord's resurrection. This means that Christ's resurrection was His birth as the firstborn Son of God. Jesus, the Son of Man, was born to be the Son of God through being raised up from the dead. Therefore, God's raising up of Jesus from the dead was His begetting of Him to be His firstborn Son.

Day 3 —

A. Expound that the date of our regeneration was the date of Christ's resurrection.

We need to realize that when Christ was resurrected from the dead, we, all the believers, were resurrected with Him. Through His resurrection He was born to be God's firstborn Son, and at the same time all His believers were born to be the many sons of God. Now God has many sons with both divinity and humanity. But among these many sons, only the Firstborn is His only begotten Son.

B. Explain how Christ became God's firstborn Son since Christ was already the only begotten Son of God.

Christ was the only begotten Son of God from eternity. When He was sent by God into the world, He was still the only begotten Son of God. By His passing through death and entering into resurrection, His humanity was uplifted into His divinity. Thus, in His divinity with His humanity, He was born in resurrection as God's firstborn Son. At the same time, all His believers were begotten together with Him as the many sons of God.

Day 4 —

A. Explain He was designated in power as the Son of God by His resurrection.

As the designated Son of God, Christ still has two natures, both that of divinity and that of humanity. However, the humanity He has now is the humanity uplifted in resurrection. Even His flesh has been designated the Son of God. Hence, He has been designated the Son of God with both divinity and humanity. As such a marvelous Person, He has become the model, the pattern, of all those who are being designated sons of God.

B. Why do we say that He needs to be designated as the Son of God?

Christ was already the Son of God before His death and resurrection. After He became incarnate, however, His divine nature was concealed by the flesh. However, according to Romans 1:4, when He entered into resurrection, He was designated in power as the Son of God in His humanity. There was a need for Him to be designated the Son of God because His divinity was concealed in His humanity.

Day 5 —

A. Explain the flesh and the Spirit of holiness in Romans 1:3-4.

The Spirit of holiness in Romans 1:4 is in contrast with the flesh in verse 3. Just as the flesh in verse 3 refers to the human essence of Christ, so the Spirit in verse 4 does not refer to the person of the Holy Spirit but to the spiritual essence of Christ's divinity, that is, the divine essence of Christ. When Christ became a man and thereby put on humanity, He did not give up His divinity.

B. Illustrate by the carnation seed how to be designated according to life.

A carnation seed is designated by being buried into the ground and by growing into a blossoming carnation plant. This indicates that the carnation seed is designated according to the life which is within it. In the same principle, when Christ was resurrected from among the dead, He was designated in power by resurrection according to the Spirit of holiness as the Son of God, that is, the firstborn Son of God.

Day 6 —

A. Explain the Spirit of holiness working in the Lord Jesus.

Concerning the Lord Jesus, the Spirit of holiness was within Him before His death and resurrection. This Spirit of holiness is the divine essence of holiness. Through the process of death and resurrection, this holy essence saturated and permeated the Lord's humanity, including His flesh. As believers in the Lord Jesus, we also have the divine essence of holiness, which is the Spirit of holiness, the very Christ, in our spirit.

B. Why do we say that what is revealed in 2 Samuel 7 is expounded in Romans 1:3-4?

What is revealed in 2 Samuel 7 is expounded by Paul in Romans 1:3-4, where he tells us that Christ, a descendant of David, has been designated the Son of God. This is the mystery of God becoming man to make man God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead. The two, God and man, are thus built together, constituted into each other.

III. Conclusion:

When the element of God is constituted into our humanity, we become God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead. When the human element is constructed into God, God becomes man. This is the building revealed in the New Testament. We must see that this building is the mutual composition of the element of God and the elements of man. The prophecy in 2 Samuel 7 speaks of the seed of David being called the Son of God. He is God and man, man and God. He, the firstborn Son of God, is our oldest brother; We, His brothers, are the sons of God. In God's dynamic salvation, we do not have to adjust and improve ourselves. What we need is for this One to work into us through the process of metabolic transforming. Through this process, He will operate in us and gradually transform us into His image until we are exactly like Him in life, nature, and constitution. This is God's salvation, and this is also the revelation of the Bible.