

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message One : God's Charge, Promise, and Encouragement to Joshua

I. Overview:

The Greek equivalent of the Hebrew name Joshua is Jesus, which means "Jehovah the Savior," or "the salvation of Jehovah". Joshua typifies Christ as grace replacing the law. In the war against Amalek, Joshua typifies the present and practical Christ as the indwelling, fighting Spirit, the One who fights against the flesh and puts it to death. At the age of forty Joshua joined Caleb, as two of the twelve spies, as ones who had hearts full of faith by taking the word of God as their faith to care for God's interests for His people to possess the good land. For Jehovah told Joshua that, as He was with Moses, He would be with Joshua. In the New Testament the presence of Jesus is Emmanuel, meaning "God with us". This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall muse upon it day and night so that you may be certain to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous and then you will have success. Joshua was to be occupied with God's word and let the word occupy him (cf. Col. 3:16); by being occupied and filled with the word, he would have prosperity and success in taking the God-promised land.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain the hidden, intrinsic significance of the history from Joshua to Ruth.

These two main points, to take the land for Christ and to provide the bona fide ancestors for Christ, are the spirit of the history from Joshua to Ruth. Since the God-promised land is a type of Christ, to gain the land for Christ means to gain Christ for Christ. It was a fact that God had given the land to Israel, but the fact was a promise that still needed to be fulfilled.

B. Expound what Israel being ready to possess the good land and to enjoy it meant.

For Israel to do this meant that they were doing something for Christ, who is typified by the good land. Today, Christ as the good land is ready to be taken and possessed by His believers. Our need today is to gain more of Christ, to possess more of Christ, and to experience more of Christ. This is not only for our enjoyment but also for Christ to be what He should be.

Day 2 —

A. Explain that Joshua typifies Christ.

The first type of Christ in the book of Joshua is Joshua himself. Joshua typifies Christ and grace (Christ) replacing the law (Moses). It was when Moses the lawgiver died that Joshua came in to bring the people into the good land, typifying the Lord Jesus bringing the people of God into rest, into the enjoyment of the all-inclusive Christ.

B. Expound Jesus, as the Captain of salvation to lead us to enter into glory.

The salvation mentioned in Hebrews 2:10 and referred to in verse 1:14 saves us from our fallen state into glory. Jesus, as the Pioneer, the Forerunner, took the lead to enter into glory, and we, His followers, are taking the same way to be brought into the same glory, which was ordained by God for us. He cut the way, and we are now taking the way.

Day 3 —

A. Explain where our faith making us saved comes from.

Our faith is not of ourselves but of Him who imparts Himself as the believing element into us that He may believe for us. When we look away unto Jesus, He as the life-giving Spirit transfuses us with Himself, with His believing element. Then, spontaneously, a kind of believing arises in our being, and we have the faith to believe in Him. This faith is not of ourselves but of Him.

B. Expound what indicated of the ten spies' evil report and the people's murmuring.

As indicated by the evil report of the ten spies and the murmuring of the people against Moses and Aaron, the children of Israel did not care for God but cared only for themselves. Because of this, they did not believe in God, and they offended God to such an extent that they became abhorrent to Him. Their situation brought in God's judgment and punishment. If we would have faith, we must learn to care for God's interests and not for our benefit.

Day 4 —

A. Expound what God's promise to Joshua.

God's promise first was that no man would be able to stand before Joshua all the days of his life. Second, God's promise was that He would be with Joshua and would not fail him or forsake him. God encouraged Joshua to be strong and to be bold. Next, God encouraged Joshua not to be afraid or dismayed. Furthermore, God told Joshua that he would have success wherever he went.

B. Why do we need to fan our spirit into flame?

We have to fan our spirit. At times you may suffer to such an extent that you may begin to doubt God and doubt your salvation. But regardless of how much you doubt, one thing is within you that you cannot deny, that is, your spirit. This spirit is a trouble to Satan. Regardless of how much work Satan has done and is still doing, there is one thing within us that he cannot touch, our spirit.

Day 5 —

A. Expound God charging Joshua for the book of the law being not to depart from his mouth, but to muse upon it day and night.

Rich in meaning, the Hebrew word for muse implies to worship, to converse with oneself, and to speak aloud. To muse on the word is to taste and enjoy it through careful considering. Prayer, speaking to oneself, and praising the Lord may also be included in musing on the word. To muse on the word of God is to enjoy His word as His breath and thus to be infused with God, to breathe God in, and to receive spiritual nourishment.

B. Explain that when we mused upon God's word, our enjoyment will increase.

To muse upon the Word is to "chew the cud," like a cow eating grass. If we take in the Word too quickly, we shall not have very much enjoyment. But if we "chew the cud" as we take in the Word, our enjoyment will increase. When we muse upon the Word of God, we shall spontaneously pray. Furthermore, we may converse with ourselves or begin to praise the Lord.

Day 6 —

A. Fellowship what to lift up our hand unto the word of God means spiritually.

To lift up our hand unto the word of God is to indicate that we receive it warmly and gladly and that we say Amen to it. In Psalm 119:147, we see that the psalmist rose up before dawn, cried out, and hoped in God's word. Verse 148, the psalmist woke up during the night to muse upon God's word. Musing upon the Word involves more than just meditating on it. We muse upon the Word by talking to God, worshipping Him, enjoying Him.

B. Explain to muse upon the Word of God with George Muller's experience.

It is to contact God in the Word and to have fellowship with Him, to worship Him, and to pray to Him through and with the Word. By musing upon the Word of God in this way, we shall be infused by God, breathe Him into us, and receive spiritual nourishment. George Muller said, "The first great and primary thing I ought to attend every day was, to have my soul happy in the Lord. The first thing to be concerned about was not how much I might serve the Lord, but how I might get my soul into a happy state, and how my inner man might be nourished."

III. Conclusion:

I hope that through this training we all can see and realize that all our life, our walk, our job, our business, and some other things must be part of the history of God's move on earth today. So it is never enough to be just a normal Christian, to be today's overcomer, to answer the Lord's present call, to simply be a good brother or sister, and even to attend the church meetings regularly. We must be one with God as He moves and energizes in His history, in the overcomers who love Him, we should write today's history of God! Be one with God who energizes us always! We must be today's Joshua and Caleb for Christ to gain and possess the inheritance in the land promised by God that we might become His inheritance! We must be today's Ruth to marry Christ so that we may produce Christ to meet today man's needs.