

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying

Message Eleven : Boaz and Ruth Typifying Christ and the Church

I. Overview:

At the beginning and at the end of the portion of Israel's history from Joshua to Ruth are two prominent persons typifying Christ; these persons are Joshua and Boaz. At the beginning Joshua typifies Christ in bringing God's chosen people into the good land, taking possession of the land as our inheritance. At the end Boaz typifies Christ as our Husband for our satisfaction. In the book of Ruth, Boaz typifies many aspects of Christ; he is rich in wealth and generous in giving, as a kinsman of Ruth, who redeemed the lost right to Mahlon's property and took Mahlon's widow, Ruth, as his wife for the producing of the needed heirs, and he redeemed Ruth and redeemed her birthright. Those who become like Boaz are pillars in the church life. Ruth typifies the church in every aspect, choosing to follow Naomi to the land of Israel and being united to Boaz. Romans 7:4 Paul reveals that our old man, our old husband, has been crucified with Christ, so that we might be joined to another new husband, Christ, what everything He is and does is now to us.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound how Joshua and Boaz typify Christ.

Joshua and Boaz signify two aspects of one person. At the beginning Joshua typifies Christ in bringing God's chosen people into God's ordained blessings. At the end Boaz typifies Christ in other aspects. In particular, he typifies Christ as our Husband for our satisfaction.

B. Explain that Boaz redeemed Ruth; he also redeemed the birthright for her.

The book of Ruth tells us that Boaz redeemed Ruth; he also redeemed the birthright for her. This means that Christ, as our real Boaz, has redeemed both us and the birthright. Boaz redeemed his kinsman's inheritance and married the man's widow; hence, he became a notable forefather of Christ, a great associate of Christ. As a brother and a Boaz, you should take care of others' birthright of Christ.K

Day 2 —

A. Explain in 1 Kings 7, the two pillars standing before the temple.

In 1 Kings 7, the names of these two pillars were Jachin and Boaz (1 Kings 7:21). Jachin means, "He shall establish," and Boaz means, "In it is strength." These two pillars standing on the portico testify that the Lord will establish His building and that genuine strength is in the building. Even today, the building of the church gives this testimony.

B. Expound what the spiritual meaning is of the two pillars being made of bronze.

The two pillars were made of bronze. Bronze signifies God's judgment. That the two pillars were made of bronze clearly indicates that if we would be a pillar, we must realize that we are those under God's judgment. We should not only be under God's judgment, but also under our own judgment. The two bronze pillars in 1 Kings 7 tell us that we must be under God's judgment as well as under our own self-judgment.

Day 3 —

A. Expound the nets of checker work and wreaths of chain work.

The checker work resembles a trellis, a frame with small square holes that bears a vine. Furthermore, the word work in this verse implies a design. Hence, checker work is a checker design and chain work a chain design. This checker design is for the growth of the lilies. This trellis is the setting for the lilies. In a sense, it is a net to hold the lilies. The nets of checker work and wreaths of chain work signify an intermixed and complicated situation.

B. Expound how we experience lily in our serving the Lord.

The lily signifies a life of faith in God. We must be a lily existing by what God is to us, not by what we are. Our living on earth today depends upon Him. How can we possibly bear the responsibility in the intermixed and complicated church life? In ourselves, we are incapable of doing this, but we can do so if we live by faith in God.

Day 4 —

A. Explain that Ruth, being the widow of the dead husband, redeemed by Boaz.

Boaz cleared the indebtedness of her dead husband for the recovery of the lost right of her dead husband's property. Ruth typifies the church with her old man as her crucified husband redeemed by Christ, who cleared away her old man's sin for the recovery of the lost right of her fallen natural man created by God.

B. Expound Ruth, after being redeemed by Boaz, becoming a new wife to him.

It typifies the church, after being saved, through the regeneration of the church's natural man, becoming the counterpart of Christ. Just as the redeemed Ruth became a new wife to Boaz, so the saved and regenerated church has become His new wife, His counterpart, in the organic union with Him. Ruth, being united to Boaz, typifies the Gentile sinners being attached to Christ that they may partake of the inheritance of God's promise.

Day 5 —

A. Explain Boaz and Ruth in the view of Romans 7.

The picture of Boaz typifying Christ as our new Husband and Ruth typifying the church with her old man as her crucified husband is spoken of by Paul in Romans 7:1-6. In God's creation man's original position was that of a wife. When man fell, he took another position, the self-assuming position of the husband. The position of the regenerated new man is a genuine wife's position. Regeneration restores us to our original position.

B. Explain Romans 7:1-6 in relation to Romans 6:6.

Romans 7:1 says, "The law lords it over the man as long as he lives." The married woman is bound by the law to her husband while he is living; but if the husband dies, she is discharged from the law regarding the husband. Romans 6:6 says, "Knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with Him." This verse corresponds with Romans 7:4 which says that we were made dead through the body of Christ.

Day 6 —

A. Explain that Paul, in Romans 7:4, puts together a funeral and a wedding.

In Romans 7:4 Paul puts together a funeral and a wedding. On the one hand, we were buried; on the other hand, we were married. We have been made dead that we might marry another. In Romans 7:4 we are dead to marry; in Galatians 2:19 we are dead to live. If we did not have two statuses, how could this be possible? We were made dead according to our old status that we might marry another according to our new status.

B. Expound how we are married to Christ, our new husband.

Now we are married to Christ, our new husband, that is, "to Him who has been raised from the dead". In 2 Corinthians 11:2 Paul also says that he has espoused us to one husband, Christ. Christ is our new husband. As regenerated beings, both male and female believers are a part of the wife. Since Christ is our husband, we must depend on Him.

III. Conclusion:

Boaz typifies many aspects of Christ, especially what he has done for Ruth. Not only he was rich and generous, but also he redeemed Ruth and redeemed her birthright; hence, he became a notable forefather of Christ and became, in the eyes of God, a pillar of the temple of God. There were, though, the nets of checker work with wreaths of chain work produced by the serving of the Lord in a complicated and intermixed situation, yet the living of trust in God, just like the flower of Lily, experienced the abundant grace of God signified by the pomegranate. To be today's Boaz, we must redeem back the saints around us, such as the weak ones, the backsliding ones, and those who are bound, oppressed, and need to be restored. Seeing the process of Boaz to redeem Ruth's birthright, there is a price to pay, which requires extraordinary love, immense forgiveness, supreme faithfulness, utter humbleness, full purity, most holiness, openness, and brightness.