

## **Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message Three : Crossing the Jordan River and Being Prepared for Battle**

### **I. Overview:**

When the people of Israel saw the Ark of the Covenant of their God and the Levitical priests bearing the Ark, they set out from their place and followed it. The Jordan River typifies the death and resurrection of Christ. Israel's crossing of the Jordan typifies not the believers' physical death but the believers' experience of the death of Christ, in which the old man is terminated and buried. Israel's crossing the Jordan and entering into the good land are related to Israel's possessing and enjoying the good land, which typifies the believers' practical experience of the riches of the blessings in Christ as revealed in the book of Ephesians. Israel's entering into the good land after crossing the Jordan typifies the believers' experience of taking over the heavenlies, where Satan and his power of darkness are. The twelve stones taken from the Jordan signify the twelve tribes of the new Israel. The other twelve stones erected in the middle of the Jordan signify the twelve tribes of Israel in their old life and in their old nature. The priests carrying the Ark of the Testimony stood firmly on dry ground at the bottom of the river Jordan until all the nation had completely crossed over the Jordan. Although the Israelites had been disciplined, trained, and qualified, after crossing the Jordan they still needed further preparation before the attack.

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

Day 1 —

A. Expound why the old man had to be buried as crossing of the river Jordan.

Joshua 3 and 4 are on Israel's crossing of the river Jordan. However, in their old man they could not gain the victory. Their old man had to be buried so that they could become a new man. The children of Israel were buried in the death of Christ and then they were resurrected in the resurrection of Christ. This indicates that even in the Old Testament time the children of Israel were identified with Christ and were one with Him.

B. Explain what signifies of that the Ark of God with the bearing priests took the lead to go into the waters of the Jordan and stood still in the waters.

When the Ark of God went with the children of Israel, the Triune God went with them, taking the lead and thus being the first to step into the water. Yet the Ark was on the shoulders of the bearing priests. This indicates that the priests bearing the Ark became one entity with the Triune God; they were one corporate person. God walked in their walking, and they walked in God's walking.

Day 2 —

A. Explain the believers' baptism of two aspect significance of burial and resurrection.

In the aspect of burial, baptism is the termination of our flesh; in the aspect of resurrection, baptism is the germination of our spirit so that we are made alive in Christ with the divine life. In the new realm of resurrection we enjoy Christ as the all-inclusive good land in which we walk and even are being rooted and built up for the accomplishing of the economy of God.

B. Expound what the significance of taking twelve stones from the river and bringing them over the lodging place is.

Twelve representatives of the twelve tribes of Israel took up twelve stones from the place where the priests' feet stood firm in the middle of the Jordan and brought them over and laid them down in the place where Israel lodged that night. The twelve stones signify the twelve tribes of the new Israel. Their being raised up from the waters of the Jordan signifies resurrection from death.

Day 3 —

A. Expound today God is seeking for a group of people.

God put the priests in the place of death so that the Israelites would have a way to the land of life. The priests were the first ones to go into the water and the last ones to come up out of the water. They were the overcomers of God. Today God is seeking for a group of people who walk into death first. They are willing to be dealt with by the cross first, to stand in the place of death in order that the church will find the way of life.

B. Explain what price the priests paid for their standing on the riverbed.

The feet of the priests were standing on the riverbed while their shoulders were bearing the Ark. They were standing in death, while lifting up Christ. The bottom of the river is the position of death. If I stand at the bottom of the river, others will cross over the Jordan victoriously. Death works in me, but life works in others. If I die in submitting to God, life will work in others to make them also submit to God.

Day 4 —

A. Explain that God wanted us to die in order for others having the life.

God wants us to go through death first after which He will give others life. We first must pass through the sufferings and the pain before others can have the life. To learn God's truth, one must stand at the bottom of the river first. The reason the church cannot gain the victory by crossing over to the good land is that there is a shortage of priests who will stand in the bottom of the Jordan. Those who stand in the bottom of the Jordan will create a seeking heart in others.

B. Testify that death operates in us, but life in others.

Second Corinthians 4 shows us clearly that where there is reality, there is the supply. Verse 10 shows us that when the death of Jesus is manifested, His life is also manifested. In other words, the life of Jesus is seen in us because the death of Jesus is seen in us. When a group of people knows the death of Jesus, life is made manifest in them.

Day 5 —

A. Explain Paul's words in Colossians 1:24 being the supply of life.

Whenever we are truly bearing the cross before the Lord, the Body of Christ will receive the supply. Paul told the Colossian saints, "I now rejoice in my sufferings on your behalf and fill up on my part that which is lacking of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for His Body, which is the church". This is the supply of life.

B. Expound what revealed from Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 4:11-12.

Paul, however, was always being delivered unto death so that the life of Jesus might be manifested in his mortal flesh. The name Paul means little. In these verses Paul seems to be saying, "I prefer to stay in my smallness. The life manifested in me is the life of a Nazarene, not the life of a great man in the world. Moreover, the life of Jesus is manifested in my mortal flesh."

Day 6 —

A. Explain that Joshua 5:2 covers the spiritual meaning of circumcision.

Circumcision is a continuation of the burial in the death of Christ. By crossing the river Jordan, Israel's old man was buried, and they came out to become the new man. This was an objective work done by God. Israel still needed to apply it to their flesh. Therefore, they prepared knives of flint to cut off their foreskins. This was a subjective work done by God.

B. Explain the intrinsic significance of the Passover in Joshua 5.

The Feast of the Passover was held to remember Israel's redemption from the death- judgment on the firstborn sons and their salvation from Egypt and from the tyranny of Pharaoh. This is a type of the Lord's table. Our portion today is not death but the partaking and enjoying of Christ at His table. Israel's keeping of the Passover typifies the believers' keeping of the Lord's table to remember the Lord's redemption and salvation.

### III. Conclusion:

God commanded Joshua to lead God's people across the Jordan to take the land as their inheritance. However, it is impossible to fight the enemy with their old man, which must be buried first. This is signified by the twelve stones that stand on the place where the priest's feet stand. In addition, that the twelve stones are to be brought across the river to the lodging place on the other side signifies the new Israel, who has been raised from the dead, who is qualified to fight the spiritual warfare. Today, God is calling a group of priests who, carrying the ark of the covenant on their shoulders to exalt Christ, will be the first to go into the Jordan to death until more than a million people cross the river and the last come up. It takes a long time and they are today's overcomers; death operates in them, and life is made manifest in others. This is the real work of the New Testament ministry. It is not a matter of working but of dying. Therefore, our work is being put to death and life can be flowing out of you.