

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying

Message Nine : The Children of Israel Not Having a King and Everyone Doing What Was Right in His Own Eyes

I. Overview:

In their degradation Israel became chaotic in government, worship, and morality. After the children of Israel possessed the land as their inheritance, they did not obey God's command to utterly drive out and destroy the seven tribes inhabiting Canaan. As a result, the children of Israel served their gods, thus doing evil in the sight of the Lord. And they followed the gods of the people that were around them to provoke Jehovah to anger. God delivered them into the hands of spoilers, and He sold them into the hands of their enemies so that they could no longer stand. The age of the judges may be considered the darkest period in the history. When the people of Israel said that there was no king among them, this meant that they had annulled God and His status and did not recognize God's kingship. God is the King of the ages, the King of eternity, the One with absolute authority for eternity, and Christ is our King reigning in our hearts. We need to be rescued from lawlessness and from being workers of lawlessness and to do what is right in the eyes of God by obeying the principle of serving God. The overcomers are not delivered out of the satanic chaos; instead, they conquer the destructive satanic chaos and triumph in the constructive divine economy.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound God's intentions and the conditions of the children of Israel.

The children of Israel entered into the good land, but the good land was filled with enemies. However, God's purpose for His people was not merely to defeat the enemies and take full possession of the land but for them to set up a kingdom. Because this purpose had not been fulfilled, the conclusion of Judges says that the children of Israel did whatever was right in their own eyes because there was no king or kingdom.

B. Explain that the condition of Israel's cycle was repeated, as many as seven times.

During this age, the Israelites could not utterly drive out, destroy the seven tribes in Canaan. Consequently, they gradually forsook God, followed the customs of the nations, had mixed marriages with the nations, and worshipped other gods. God warned them many times and delivered them into the hands of the nations. But whenever they repented, God would listen to their prayers and would deliver them through the judges. This cycle was repeated, as many as seven times.

Day 2 —

A. Describe today's Christians just like the children of Israel in the age of the judges.

Today's Christians have no kingdom among them. In other words, there is no authority or restraint among them; each one does things according to his or her own will. They are not righteous toward themselves, they have no peace toward others, and they have no joy before God. They can laugh loudly when they tell jokes, but when it is time for them to pray in the prayer meeting, they wear a sad expression and cannot be joyful in spirit.

B. Explain how Moses told the of Israel.

Moses told the people of Israel that when they entered the good land, they should not do things that were right in their own eyes but not right in the eyes of God. When they entered into the good land, they must present their burnt offerings in the very place of God's choice. In the good land they must do what is right in the eyes of God. The first thing they must do is to bring their offerings to the place of God's choice.

Day 3 —

A. Explain the word in 1 Timothy 1:17 and how to apply it?

Here the "ages" actually means eternity. When Paul was in prison, the churches began to decline, and the situation was very disappointing. But he had a strong faith with an absolute assurance that the very God in whom he believed, the One who had entrusted him with the gospel of glory, is the King of the ages, the One with the absolute authority for eternity, who never changes.

B. Expound according to Isaiah 16:5, what the reigning of Christ has to do with us.

Christ will reign as a king in the tent of David in the coming age during the restoration of the nation of Israel. We need to realize, however, that we can also enjoy Christ as the reigning One in the tent of David in the age of grace. Thus, today Christ is our King. He reigns not only in our hearts but also in the tent of David. Christ reigning in the tent of David signifies consolation, encouragement, and restoration. He reigns in us with a kingdom.

Day 4 —

A. Explain that a man sins as he rebels against God's authority.

Those who do good according to their own flesh do not please God. Even if a man's conduct is approved, his very person is condemned as long as he acts according to the flesh. Man is condemned for doing good because this good is not performed under God's authority. Sin means to act presumptuously. If a man does not come under authority, he sins even when his conduct is good.

B. Expound the meaning of the lawlessness.

Being lawless is being without the law, and being without the law is sin. Satan sinned by trespassing against authority. Man breaks the law when the law is present and acts irresponsibly when no law is present. Breaking the law is a matter of conduct, and it is sin. Being lawless is a matter of motive, and it is sin as well. In lawlessness one not only rebels against authority but acts as if there is no law.

Day 5 —

A. Explain what the two things we need to do to enter into the kingdom of the heavens.

To enter into the kingdom of the heavens we need to do two things; call on the Lord and do the will of the heavenly Father. To call on the Lord suffices for us to be saved, but to enter into the kingdom of the heavens we also need to do the will of the heavenly Father. Hence, "Not everyone who says, Lord, Lord, will enter into the kingdom of the heavens," but those who call on the Lord and do the will of the heavenly Father.

B. Expound what kind of living is for the doing of the Father's will.

In Matthew 7:21 the Lord seems to be saying, "I, the Son of Man and the Son of God, have been doing the will of My Father. You also are sons of God and My brothers. Therefore, you must be My companions and take the same way that I take. You are My brothers, My companions, and My partners. You and I are walking the same way and doing the same will."

Day 6 —

A. What attitude should we have in today's age of chaos?

Today the earth is filled with chaos. Chaos is everywhere. Every part of society is chaotic. However, we should not be discouraged. In addition to the satanic chaos, there is the divine economy. Whereas the satanic chaos will come to an end, the divine economy will reach a consummation. The end of the satanic chaos will be the lake of fire, and the consummation of the divine economy will be the New Jerusalem.

B. How do we face the chaos as we would become overcomers?

The overcomers are those who suffer the chaos, but they are not disappointed or discouraged. Instead, they are strengthened and enabled to stand for and live out the divine economy. If we are enabled by the Lord to conquer all the destructive chaos, we will triumphantly enter into the kingdom. We will be those who triumph in the unique constructive economy.

III. Conclusion:

The word of the Lord in Matt. 7: 21 is not spoken to unbelievers but to the people of the kingdom and to the saints in the Lord's recovery. This is not to enter in the kingdom of God which is simply by regeneration, but to enter into the kingdom of heavens which needs to live a God-man living. To enter into the kingdom of the heavens we need to do two things; call on the Lord and do the will of the heavenly Father. To call on the Lord suffices for us to be saved, but to enter into the kingdom of the heavens we also need to do the will of the heavenly Father. Today many workers of Christ are working for Him, but in the eyes of the Lord if their work was not limited by the will of the Father, their work would be lawless, unacceptable, and unapproved by the Lord. Today we would like to fulfill the will of Father, we should know the Ministry of the age, which provides us with the present truth. How we fear the most of what the children of Israel did was to do that which is right in their own eyes, and not that in the eyes of God.