

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying
Message One : God's Need in the Present Age

I. Overview:

God is omnipotent, but God can carry out His plan on earth only when He has people who will cooperate with Him. Once the Lord has brought us to a place of total responsiveness to Him, He will have a free and unhindered way to accomplish His will; God wants the human will to be on His side then God can carry out His purpose on earth. In order to subdue His enemy and thus solve His problem, God gave man authority to rule over all things created by God. Man especially must rule over the earth and even subdue the earth because the earth has been usurped by God's rebellious enemy. God needs to end this age. If we would be the corporate expression of Christ in the church life, we need to be today's "family of Noah" building the corporate Christ as the ark that will deliver us from the crooked and perverted generation and usher us into the coming age of the kingdom of God. God needs the man-child for His greatest dispensational move. The rapture of the man-child to heaven, the casting of Satan to earth, and the declaration in heaven signify that the man-child will bring the kingdom to earth; this is God's greatest dispensational move.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound that God is calling and looking for people on earth who would work with Him according to His mind.

God is still calling and looking for people. He wants to preach the gospel unto the uttermost part of the earth so that all the nations could receive His salvation. However, He must first find and gain people on the earth who will cooperate with Him and work with Him according to His mind. As long as there are those who are of the same mind as God and who are willing to work with Him, God's work will be carried out on the earth by them.

B. Explain that God is omnipotent, but His omnipotence is subject to limitation of man.

God is omnipotent, but His omnipotence is subject to limitation. Sin, unbelief, natural energy, etc., will hinder the very power of God. The Lord has to give us light to see what He can do, and He has to give us light also to see what we can hinder Him from doing. We can put Him into a position where He cannot do what He wants to do.

Day 2 —

A. Expound from the time of the Eden garden until now, what the three wills are at work.

From the time of the garden of Eden until now, three wills have been at work—God's, Satan's, and man's. He wants the human will to be on His side; therefore, He accepts the limitation that this desire entails. God will not compel man to do anything as He works toward His goal. In the two eternities God's omnipotence is absolute; today His omnipotence is relative, for He is subject to certain limitations.

B. Explain in creation what the function of the human will is.

In creation God put His almighty power under the limitation of the human will. This will can be on the divine side, or it can be on its own side or Satan's side to limit God. If this will is set for God, then there will be something much more for the glory of God than before creation. Thus, the omnipotence in eternity future will be much greater than in eternity past.

Day 3 —

A. Expound what the meaning of the words "subdue" in Genesis 1:28 and "keep" in Genesis 2:15 is. One is subdue in Genesis 1:28, which can also be translated "conquer." The other is keep in Genesis 2:15, which can also be translated "guard." We see here that God ordained man to conquer and guard the earth. God desired to not allow Satan to intrude upon the earth, but Satan was on earth to do a work of destruction upon it. Therefore, God wanted man to restore the earth from Satan's hand.

B. Explain God wants to use man to deal with Satan instead of doing it Himself directly.

Some may ask: Why doesn't God Himself cast Satan into the bottomless pit or the lake of fire? Our answer is: God can do it, but He does not want to do it Himself. God wants to use man to deal with His enemy, and He created man for this purpose. God wants the creature to deal with the creature. He wants His creature man to deal with His fallen creature Satan in order to bring the earth back to God.

Day 4 —

A. Expound that God wants to use today's Noah to terminate this age.

Today is the day of the living Jesus, and God wants a people who live by this Jesus. These people will be today's Noah, who terminate the present generation and usher in the coming age, the age of the kingdom. The Lord desires "the family of Noah" to build the ark and testify against the trend of the age so that He can use them to terminate this age and bring in the kingdom age.

B. Explain what the spiritual meaning of the family of Noah going into the ark is.

Noah was saved not only from God's judgment but also from the crooked, perverted, and evil generation. When Noah went into the ark, Jehovah shut the door. In one sense Noah was saved and rescued, but in another sense he was imprisoned. He shut us in. We simply need to remain here.

Day 5 —

A. Explain being saved from the evil generation needed us to build up the ark.

Only eight persons were saved in the ark, through water, from that crooked generation. Many may have been saved from eternal perdition, but not many entered into the ark. In order to be saved from eternal perdition, there is no need for us to do anything, but in order to be saved from the evil generation, we need to build up the ark.

B. Expound cooperating with God taking heed of the negative and positive two aspects.

If we cooperate with God's operation, on the negative side, we will spontaneously be rescued out of this crooked generation. On the positive side, we will enter into the ark, which signifies the proper church life. We need to enter into the proper church life, which is a "prison" to us. The church is a prison, but it is also the best "entertainment."

Day 6 —

A. Explain the spiritual meaning of the seed of the woman in Genesis 3.

The seed of the woman in Genesis 3 primarily refers to the Lord Jesus, but the overcomers also have a part in this seed. The seed of the woman includes the church, especially the overcomers. Even though the Lord bruised Satan's head, he is still at work. The fulfillment of the seed of the woman bruising Satan can be seen in the man-child in Revelation 12. The only Overcomer includes all the overcomers.

B. Expound that the rapture of the man-child is for bringing an end to the church age and introducing the kingdom age.

The man-child enables God to move. If there is not a man-child and a rapture, God cannot make a dispensational move. We should never forget that God can be limited. It is God's desire that created beings would deal with fallen created beings. According to His purpose, the whole church should deal with Satan; however, the church has failed. Therefore, there is the need for the overcomers to rise up.

III. Conclusion:

God is a God of having will, purpose, plan, and with economy. His needs in this age include to restore the earth, to terminate this age, and to gain a man-child by which He may be able to bring in the kingdom of God. These needs of God can be fulfilled by obtaining in the church a group of people who sympathize with God and use their free will to stand on His side and cooperate with Him. They would exercise authority over the reptiles, subdue and conquer the rebellious earth so that God could restore the earth for His kingdom. Facing this crooked and perverted generation that makes man living under the stupefying effect, they would become today's "family of Noah", building the corporate Christ as the ark and being delivered from this evil generation. Fighting against Satan, God will use the rapture of the man-child to heaven, the casting of Satan to earth after the battle; this is God's greatest dispensational move.