

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message Eight: Taking, Experiencing, and Enjoying Christ as Our King, Our Lord, Our Head, and Our Husband for the Building Up of the Body of Christ to Consummate the New Jerusalem

I. Overview:

We must take, experience, and enjoy Christ as our King. The highest point in our spiritual experience is having a clear sky with the throne above it. When there is nothing between us and the Lord, our sky will be crystal clear and we will spontaneously be under the ruling, reigning of the throne. We must be people who live to the Lord, not merely for the Lord; the apostles were constrained to no longer live to themselves but to the Lord because they do not preach themselves but Christ Jesus as Lord. We must experience Christ as our Head, taking Him as our unique authority to stay intimately connected to Him to let His riches be dispensed into our being, causing us to grow with the growth of God and the growth of the Body unto its building. God's surpassingly great power that is presently being transmitted into us is the transcending Christ Himself as the fourfold power of the Triune God for the building up of the church as His Body. Experiencing Christ as our Husband, we see that the book of Song of Songs portrays our relationship with the Lord being personal, affectionate, private, and spiritual. Experiencing and enjoying Christ as our King, our Lord, our Head, and our Husband is for the building up of the church as the Body of Christ.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound how to maintain a clear sky with the Lord.

We Christians need to maintain a clear sky with the Lord. This means that we need always to have a clear fellowship with Him. We should have nothing between us and the Lord. When there is nothing between us and the Lord, our sky will be crystal clear, and our conscience will be pure, void of any offense.

B. Explain experiencing in a clear sky having a throne above it.

The throne is the center of the universe, and it is where the Lord is. The Lord's throne is in the third heaven, but His throne is also in our spirit. By having such a clear sky, we are spontaneously under the government of the Lord's throne. We should always be under the ruling of the Lord's throne. Because we are under the throne, we do not need policemen and law courts to rule over us.

Day 2 —

A. Expound the meaning of living to God in Galatians 2:19.

Although the phrase live to God is difficult to define, it is rich in its implications. To live to the law means that we are under the law, directed by the law, governed by the law, and have the responsibility to fulfill the law. To live to God, or to the Lord, means that we are under the Lord's direction and control and that we want to fulfill His requirements, satisfy His desires, and complete what He intends.

B. Explain how Paul lives to the Lord in order to please Him.

Paul did not live to himself or to anything other than his Master, Christ. He was always exercised to do what would please the Lord. As one who was ready for the rapture, Paul's only aim was to please his Master, the very One whose coming he was awaiting. Paul sought to please the Lord by living to Him in every aspect of his daily life.

Day 3 —

A. Testify how to let Him have the first place in every aspect of our daily living.

In the divine economy Christ is the One having the preeminence in all things. The book of Colossians reveals that Christ is preeminent, that He has the first place in everything. We shall realize that in all things Christ must be the first. He must be the first in our married life, family life, business life, and school life. He must have the preeminence in the universe, in the church, and in every aspect of our daily living.

B. Explain God's intention being to head up all things in Christ.

God's eternal intention is to head up all things in Christ. One by one, God rescues His people from the heap caused by the universal collapse and places us under the unique Head, Christ. Because of the angelic rebellion and the human rebellion, none of the created beings is under any head. There is simply no headship in the universe. But Ephesians 1:10 says that all things are to be headed up in Christ.

Day 4 —

A. Explain that the church can share the headship of Christ.

The church can share the headship of Christ because the church is the Body of Christ. The King is not just the Head, but the Head with the Body. Christ is not only the Head but also the Body. Because the church is the Body and because Christ is both the Head and the Body, we may say that, in a sense, we, the Body, are also Christ. Although we are not the Head, we can share Christ's headship.

B. Expound that the Triune God's threefold dispensing is included in the transmission of the transcending Christ. Such an all-inclusive transmission brings us into union not only with the incarnated and crucified Christ but also with the resurrected and transcending Christ. In union with this transcending Christ, we have surpassed all the negative things and transcended them all. In union with such a Christ, we are participating all the time in all His success in His resurrection and ascension.

Day 5 —

A. Explain that our relationship with Christ must be personal.

In Song of Songs, the seeker longs for kisses, not just one kiss. This is the most personal and affectionate thing. This is what it means to pursue Christ. According to the New Testament, God's ordained way for man to receive Him in this kind of personal and affectionate way is first to believe in Him. To believe in Him is to receive Him as the divine life into us so that we may have an organic union with God in the divine life.

B. Expound the anointing ointment in Song of Songs 1:3 at least including six things.

Verse 3 says, "...Your name is like ointment poured forth...." Christ's name signifies Christ's person, His being, and Christ is the compound Spirit signified by the anointing ointment in Exodus 30. This indicates that Christ's name as His person is the anointing ointment. Christ is compounded with God, with man, with His death, with the effectiveness of His death, with His resurrection, and with the power of His resurrection.

Day 6 —

A. Expound that our relationship with Christ is spiritual.

Through His death and in His resurrection He became "another kind of Jesus." He was no longer physical, because He became a life-giving Christ, a life-giving Spirit. When Christ was in the flesh, He could visit His disciples outwardly and openly, but there was no possibility for Him to visit His disciples inwardly and privately. Today Christ visits us privately and spiritually because He is the life-giving Spirit.

B. Explain that our relationship with Christ is private.

Christ the King brings His seekers into His chambers, that is, into their regenerated spirit; His dwelling place. The King knows where to go. We must go to our spirit. The inner chambers of Christ are His lovers' regenerated spirits mingled with and indwelt by Him as the life-dispensing Spirit and are the practical Holy of Holies in Christ's lovers for their participation in and enjoyment of the pneumatic Christ as the consummated Triune God.

III. Conclusion:

From the title of this message, taking, experiencing, and enjoying Christ as our King, our Lord, our Head, and our Husband to bring in God's economy is for the building up of the church as the Body of Christ to consummate the New Jerusalem on the day. In the history of Judges, we see that Israel was miserable and corrupted because they rejected God as their king, their Lord, their Head, and their husbands. They do whatever they please, doing what is right in their own eyes, and actually they are turning away from God everywhere and bring in confusion on every side. This includes government, worship and morality in chaos. That is like Jeremiah 2:13 saying, "For they have committed two evils; they have forsaken Me, The fountain of living waters, to hew out for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns, which hold no water." We must go back to the source, developing a personal, affectionate, private, and spiritual relationship with Him.