

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message Two : Song of Songs—the Progressive Experience of an Individual Believer's Loving Fellowship with Christ for the Preparation of the Bride of Christ

I. Overview:

The subject of Song of Songs, a poem, is the history of love in an excellent marriage, revealing the progressive experience of an individual believer's loving fellowship with Christ for the preparation of His bride in six major stages. In the first stage of Song of Songs, the lover of Christ is drawn to pursue Him for satisfaction (1:2—2:7); the Lord wants His seeker to have a personal, affectionate, private, and spiritual relationship with Him. In the second stage of Song of Songs, the lover of Christ is called to be delivered from the self through her oneness with the cross of Christ. In the third stage of Song of Songs, the lover of Christ is called to live in ascension as the new creation in resurrection. In the fourth stage of Song of Songs, the lover of Christ is called more strongly to live within the veil through the cross after resurrection. In the fifth stage of Song of Songs, the lover of Christ shares in the work of the Lord; this shows that Christ's lover wants to carry out with her Beloved the work that is for the entire world (fields) by sojourning from one place to another (lodging in the villages). In the sixth stage of Song of Songs, the lover of Christ is hoping to be raptured; she is coming up from the wilderness (the earthly realm) by leaning on her beloved to let her hear His voice.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound that we must have a very personal, affectionate relationship with Christ. Every believer's relationship with Christ must be personal and affectionate. The seeker said, "Draw me." She did not say, "Draw us." Draw me is personal. To say that God is majestic is not wrong, but that is only one attribute of the Divine Being. When He wanted to build up His relationship with man, He took the personal, affectionate way.

B. Explain every morning we should have a personal, affectionate fellowship with Lord.

Every morning after rising up I go to my desk, and the first thing I say is, "Lord Jesus, I love You." I am contacting a Savior who is personal and affectionate to me, as I am personal and affectionate to Him. We all need to take heed to what the seeker says: "Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth!" This is a personal, intimate prayer.

Day 2 —

A. Unveil the words in Song of Songs 2:8 - 9.

Song of Songs 2:8 and 9 speak of the vitality of resurrection. In the Bible, both the mountains and the hills refer to difficulties and barriers. Nothing is too high or too great to stop Him. Christ has resurrected; He has overcome all difficulties and barriers. Difficulties and barriers are things of yesterday. He is living in the next day. All difficulties are beneath His feet. The minute He leaps, all the barriers are behind Him.

B. Expound Song of Songs 2:14-15 portraying the work of the cross of Christ.

The attainment of the lover of Christ in her pursuing after Christ for satisfaction and rest results in a condition in which she overcares for her spiritual condition before Christ. This situation causes her to fall into introspection, which becomes the seclusion as a wall that keeps her away from the presence of Christ. Christ comes as a gazelle leaping upon the mountains and as a young hart skipping upon the hills, showing forth His resurrection power to call her repeatedly to rise up from her down situation and come away to Him.

Day 3 —

A. Expound how believers are joined to the ascended Christ in the heavens.

Ascension is in the heavens. Although we are on earth, as believers in Christ, our regenerated spirit is joined to God the Spirit in the heavens. These two spirits are one. When we are in our spirit, we are joined to the ascended Christ in the heavens. To live in ascension is to live continually in our spirit.

B. Explain that the lover is the palanquin of Solomon.

The lover is not only the bed for Solomon to rest in at night; she is also the palanquin for him to move in by day. The seeking one is now a vessel to contain Christ, carrying Him about in His move. A palanquin is a stately, royal car. As a vessel, it contains the person it carries. She is now the moving vessel of Christ. While she is containing Him, He moves in her and with her. This is the palanquin of Christ.

Day 4 —

A. Explain that the lover of Christ is transformed into the heavenly bodies.

Through her living in the ascension of Christ and further living within the veil, experiencing the cross of Christ more strongly, the lover of Christ is transformed into the heavenly bodies. The overcoming believers can be luminaries as the moon reflecting the light of the sun in the church age. The overcoming believers will shine forth like the sun in the kingdom age. The people of God who produce the overcomers are clothed with the sun and have the moon underneath their feet.

B. Expound in Song of Songs 6:13, the two armies dancing.

This phrase two armies is from the Old Testament in Genesis 32:2. Jacob decided to go back to his fathers' land. By that time he had four wives and many children. Jacob was returning with the fear that Esau still wanted to kill him. As he journeyed with his family, there were no strong ones with him. On the way "the angels of God met him," and Jacob said, "This is God's camp." So he "called the name of that place Mahanaim".

Day 5 —

A. Expound Song of Songs 6:13, the meaning of the Shulammitte.

By the end of Song of Songs 6 the lover, having passed through various stages of transformation, has become Solomon's duplication. She is now called Shulammitte, for she has become the same as Solomon in life, nature, and image to match him for their marriage. This indicates that eventually Christ's lovers need to share in the work of the Lord. To share in the Lord's work we need to be qualified.

B. Describe Song of Songs 7:4, the beauty of the lover.

Song of Songs 7:4, "Your neck is like a tower of ivory; Your eyes, like the pools in Heshbon. By the gates of Bath-rabbim; Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon." Here the Spirit reviews the lover's beauty in her submissive will wrought by the Spirit's transformation through sufferings for the carrying out of God's will, in the expression of her heart which is open to the light, clean, full of rest, and accessible, and in her spiritual sense of high and sharp discernment.

Day 6 —

A. Expound Song of Songs 8:5, the meaning of the leaning upon the Beloved.

Leaning on her beloved, the lover seems to be powerless and unable to walk. Leaning on her beloved, she makes herself a burden for her beloved to carry. Leaning on her beloved, it is as if the hollow of her thigh has been touched. Leaning on her beloved, she seems to find herself pressed beyond measure, and this seems to last until the wilderness journey is over. Only the Lord can prepare us for the rapture. A trusting life is indispensable.

B. Explain how we need God's preserving power.

The lover realizes that whether she can endure to the end does not depend on her own endurance, but on the Lord's preservation. No spiritual perfection can sustain a person until the Lord's return. Everything depends on God and His preserving power. When she realizes this, she cannot help but exclaim, "Set me as a seal on your heart, / As a seal on your arm" [S. S. 8:6].

III. Conclusion:

Being sorted by Bible, the Song of Songs follows the Book of Ecclesiastes, both written by Solomon. The Book of Ecclesiastes tells us that man's pursuit under the sun other than Christ is vanity and vanity. The Song of Songs reveals that man's pursuit above the sun is a life of satisfaction through Christ, portraying our life before being saved was a life of vanity, groaning, and hopelessness just like Ecclesiastes. After being saved to become believers, we experience the fellowship of love with Christ, experiencing the six stages of progression in preparation for becoming His bride. In the first stage, the lover of Christ is drawn to pursue Him for satisfaction; it may be said that all the spiritual principles of the Christian are included in the first stage, and that what has been learned since then has only deepened upon this foundation. Here we must establish a personal, affectionate, private, and spiritual relationship with the Lord. This is the life of being brought into the inner chamber by the King, the life of the root, and, above all, the life of secret fellowship with the Father.