

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message One : The Intrinsic Revelation in 1 and 2 Kings concerning the Economy of God Unveiled and Conveyed through Typology

I. Overview:

The Bible is a book of God's economy. The entire Bible, both the Old Testament and the New Testament, is first a picture of God's economy and then a full definition and fulfillment of God's economy. The Bible is a record of the divine revelation concerning God's eternal economy, of which Christ is the center and the reality. God's economy is the key to the Bible; if we will use this key in our study of every book of the Bible, then the Bible will become to us the revelation of the divine economy. Apparently, the books of 1 and 2 Kings are the history of the kings of Israel; actually, 1 and 2 Kings were written in the inspiration of the Spirit of God in the way of being related to God's eternal economy. Israel's history is not only a type of the entire church but also a type of God's economy. God's intention is to have a corporate Body. This corporate Israel is a type of the church as the Body of Christ. The kings are types of the New Testament believers, because all the New Testament believers are saved by God to be kings; we will be reigning in life.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound the economy of God being a key for us to open the entire Bible.

If we have not seen the significance of God's economy, we will not be able to get into the real significance of the whole Bible. We may read it again and again without realizing its central thought. When the Lord opens our eyes to see God's economy, the economy of God immediately becomes a key for us to open the entire Bible. To open everything in the Bible, we need this constant key.

B. Explain the relationship between the New and the Old Testament in God's economy.

What is in the Old Testament is a typology; what is in the New Testament is a complete fulfillment of that typology concerning God's economy. The Old Testament is a picture of God's economy, and the New Testament is a full definition and fulfillment of God's economy. On the one hand, if we want to know the Old Testament, we must come to the New Testament definition. The New Testament is concealed in the Old Testament, and the Old Testament is unveiled in the New Testament.

Day 2 —

A. Expound how Solomon typifies Christ.

Solomon typifies Christ in speaking God's word of wisdom and in building the church as the temple of God, and the temple typifies Christ and the church as the unique building of God in the universe. Since Solomon and the temple built by him play the strongest roles in the history of Israel, they are the strong evidence that the history of Israel concerns very much the fulfillment of God's eternal economy in the Old Testament in the way of typology.

B. State the link for the books of history and New Testament being God's economy.

This link is God's economy for Christ and for Christ's Body. This link is shown in the kings' history, which includes the prophets as God's overcomers. Again and again, the prophets came in either to help the kings or to deal with them. For example, Nathan helped David and also rebuked him. Elijah dealt with Ahab; Elisha performed miracles in life; and Isaiah helped Hezekiah.

Day 3 —

A. Expound that the portrait of God's eternal economy presented in the Old Testament and what the four sections it is only in.

The figurative portrait of God's eternal economy presented in the Old Testament spans thirty-nine books, but it is only in four sections — in types, in history, in poetry, and in prophecy. The section of types is of five books, from Genesis to Deuteronomy. The section of history is of twelve books, from Joshua to Esther. The section of poetry is of five books, from Job to Song of Songs. The section of prophecy is of seventeen books, from Isaiah to Malachi.

B. Explain the relationships between the God's economy with the Pentateuch and the books of history.

The types from Genesis to Deuteronomy unveil the Triune God embodied in Christ as the center and circumference of His eternal economy. They also unveil this Christ as the blessing and everything to God's chosen people. The

twelve books of history unveil the Triune God's move in His chosen people to possess, inherit, and enjoy His promised all-inclusive Christ as the good land. They also unveil the failures of God's chosen people.

Day 4 —

A. Expound the relationship between the New Testament and God's economy.

We have seen that the Old Testament is a figurative portrait of God's eternal economy. The New Testament is the practical fulfillment of God's eternal economy. A portrait is a picture, a photo. The Old Testament is like a video. The New Testament is the real thing. The person in the fulfillment is exactly the same as his photo. There are twenty-seven books in the New Testament in three sections: the Gospels, Acts, and the Epistles.

B. Explain the central, intrinsic revelation of the four Gospels.

This intrinsic revelation of the four Gospels is that the Triune God has been processed and consummated to be the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit. The Triune God has been processed through His incarnation to become the God-man, through His human living to live the God-man's life, through His death to release His divine life, and through His resurrection to dispense Himself into His redeemed chosen people as their life and everything.

Day 5 —

A. Expound the corporate Israelites being a type of the Body of Christ.

God's intention is to have a corporate Body. The nation of Israel was a type of this Body. For this, God went on from Genesis to Exodus, working Himself into the corporate Israel so that they would become the house of God. This corporate Israel is a type of the church as the Body of Christ to be God's dwelling place on earth among men.

B. Explain Israel being a type of the church in God's economy.

Before the New Testament age, that is, before the Lord's incarnation, God had chosen a people on this earth called Israel. Their forefather was Abraham. Then by Moses' time, at their exodus from Egypt, they became a race that had at least two million people. Since then, they have become a type of the church as God's elect in the New Testament. The Old Testament has Israel, and the New Testament has the church.

Day 6 —

A. Expound how the two kings, David and Solomon, the types of Christ are.

David typifies the suffering Christ. David also suffered from his youth. Yet his suffering was for the conquering of the usurping enemies and the gaining of the good land. Solomon typifies the Christ glorified in the kingdom of God and its splendor, which is a prefigure of Christ in the millennium. These two types are strong evidences that the history of the kings of Israel is related to God's eternal economy.

B. Explain that the top ones of enjoying the good land on the top level were the kings.

Israel was mainly enjoying the good land. The top ones, who were enjoying the good land on the top level, were the kings. These kings are types of the New Testament believers because all the New Testament believers were saved by God to be kings. The kings of the Old Testament are a type, and this type is fulfilled by the New Testament believers being kings.

III. Conclusion:

The Bible is a record of the divine revelation of God's eternal economy; the center and reality of God's eternal economy is Christ. Christ is the embodiment of the Triune God and the church is the organic Body of Christ. These two items are the basic structure of the entire Bible. The first two kings, David and Solomon, are important types of Christ in two aspects. David typifies the suffering Christ. Solomon typifies the glorified Christ in the kingdom of God and its glory. These two types are strong evidence that the history of the kings of Israel is related to God's eternal economy; God's eternal economy is about Christ as the embodiment of God and the church as the organic body of Christ. We must see God's economy as a key that opens the every book of the Bible. We may read the Bible again and again, but we only read some superficial and shallow things; however, with this key, we can open up and see the intrinsic significance and revelation of the books of the Bible.