

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message Ten : The Lord's Recovery—to Build Up Zion

I. Overview:

Zion was the city of King David, the center of the city of Jerusalem, where the temple as God's dwelling place on earth was built. Jerusalem typifies the church, and Zion typifies the overcomers in the church. The church life is today's Jerusalem, and within the church life there must be a group of overcomers as today's Zion. This reveals that the local churches are not God's goal but a procedure God takes to reach His goal; the local churches usher us into the reality of the Body of Christ. We have to realize what the Lord's recovery is; the Lord's recovery is to build up Zion. The characteristics, the life, the blessing, and the establishment of Jerusalem come from Zion; we surely need to be desperate to pray at any cost and to pay the cost just as the apostle Paul did to be vitalized. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians reveals the living of the overcomers, who live in the reality of the Body of Christ by living in the mingled spirit. The overcomers enjoy Christ as the incarnated Triune God, the God-man, and are those in whose heart are the highways to Zion; that is to enter into the church as the house of God with the two altars. God always blesses His people from Zion, the ones who have attained to the top. Today in the church age, the God-men who are perfected and matured are Zion, the overcomers, the vital groups within the churches.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound the type and the importance of the Zion.

Zion was the city of King David, the center of the city of Jerusalem, where the temple as God's dwelling place on earth was built. As the highlight and beauty of the holy city Jerusalem, Zion typifies the overcomers as the high peak, the center, the uplifting, the beauty, and the reality of the church. The overcomers as Zion are the reality of the Body of Christ and consummate the building up of the Body in the local churches.

B. Why do we say that Zion is the need in the recovery today?

In Jerusalem there is a peak, that is, Mount Zion, on which the temple was built. The overcomers, the vital groups, are today's Zion. Although we may have a good church life, among us there is almost no realization, no practicality, no actuality, and no reality of the Body life. This is the need in the recovery today.

Day 2 —

A. Describe the relationship between the Jerusalem and Zion.

Jerusalem typifies the church; within which, there was Mount Zion, typifying the overcomers of the church. The stronghold of Jerusalem is Zion. Whenever there is something that has to do with God's heart desire, Zion is mentioned. There is a New Jerusalem, but there never will be a new Zion, because Zion can never become old. The characteristics, the life, and the blessing of Jerusalem come from Zion.

B. Expound that God wanted to raise the overcomers, taking the stand of victory on behalf of the church.

Today God is looking for the one hundred and forty-four thousand amidst the defeated church, who will stand on Mount Zion. God always uses a small number of believers to pass on the flow of life to the church and to revive the church. As the Lord has done once before, so these overcomers have to pour out their blood before life can flow out to others. On behalf of the church, the overcomers take the stand of victory and also suffer tribulation and despising.

Day 3 —

A. Expound the words in Psalm 24:3 that the church is a beachhead for Lord's back.

Psalm 24:3 asks, "Who may ascend the mountain of Jehovah? And who may stand in His holy place?" The answer is, Christ and His brothers. The church is a mountain that is occupied by the Lord today as the very steppingstone, the beachhead, for the Lord to come back. The earth is the Lord's, but today the earth is usurped; yet in this usurped earth there is a spot, a mountain, that is the steppingstone for the Lord to return to take the whole earth.

B. Explain the words in Psalm 24:7.

Psalm 24:7 says, "Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O long enduring doors; and the King of glory will come in." We all must be so open to the Lord, and open widely to Him. Come in, O come in, Lord! Before You come back to the earth, come in to the church, come in to fully possess this little mountain, the mountain of Zion.

Day 4 —

A. Explain the victorious life revealed in the book of Ephesians.

In the book of Ephesians there is great emphasis on the mingled spirit, the human spirit mingled with the divine Spirit. Such a spirit is given to us by God so that we may have wisdom and revelation to know Him and His economy. The spirit in 4:23 is the regenerated spirit of the believers mingled with the indwelling Spirit of God. Such a mingled spirit spreads into our mind and thus becomes the spirit of our mind.

B. Expound what Christ did revealed in Ephesians 5:25-27.

In the past, Christ gave Himself up for the church; in the present, He is sanctifying the church; and in the future, He will present the church to Himself as His counterpart for His satisfaction. Therefore, loving is for sanctifying, and sanctifying is for presenting. In Ephesians 5:26 Paul says that Christ sanctifies the church by cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word.

Day 5 —

A. Testify what the experience of those on the highways to Zion are.

On the one hand, those on the highways to Zion are strengthened in God; on the other hand, they are opposed by Satan, who causes them to suffer persecution. The trouble and persecution caused by Satan can make the highway a valley of weeping. This special term indicates that the psalmist had been disciplined by God and had been stripped by Him. When we pass through the valley of Baca, God makes this valley a spring.

B. Expound what the blessings of our dwelling in the house of God are.

The blessings of our dwelling in the house of God are our enjoyment of the incarnated and consummated Triune God as our sun to supply us with life, as our shield to protect us from God's enemy, as grace for our enjoyment, and as glory for the manifestation of God in splendor.

Day 6 —

A. Expound what the important items in Psalm 132 are.

We have seven items related to the overcomer; resting, dwelling, food, clothing, the victorious horn, the enlightening lamp, and the shining crown. These items are at the top of the church life. However, when God is homeless, we also are homeless. When He does not have satisfaction, we also do not have satisfaction. But when God is resting and dwelling in Zion, we have plenty of food. Furthermore, we have the proper clothing, a horn, a lamp, and a crown. This is the situation of the overcomers.

B. Describe the beautiful situation in Psalm 133.

In Psalm 133, "how good" refers to the oil and "how pleasant" refers to the dew. For the oil to run down from the head to the hem of the garments signifies that both the Head and the Body, both Christ and the church, are under the anointing of God's fine oil. The dew signifies the fresh and refreshing grace of God that waters us. As we dwell together in the church life, we enjoy God's eternal life commanded by Him as a blessing to us.

III. Conclusion:

If we accept the church life easily, it means that the life in us is extremely poor. But I do believe that many of us go the way of the church at considerable cost. Accepting the Lord as Savior does not cost as walking the way of the church. Walking the way of the church is very costly for us. Don't think that the way of Zion is outward, shallow and cheap. The opposite is true; this costs us to walk the way of the church and remain on the highways of Zion forever. Therefore, we see the beachhead of God's taking over the earth, the church. The building up of the church is not a small matter. This is the key to God's purpose. This is His work, not ours. But today we have a burden. God must get the key to His. Without temple or city, there is no beachhead, so we should let God return back to restore the ground.