

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying

Message Twelve : Living an Overcoming Life by Reigning in Life to Become the New Jerusalem as the City of Life

I. Overview:

The genuine Christian life is the life of an overcomer, and all the overcomers in the New Testament should be kings who have received the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness to reign in life. Our enjoyment of Christ should come up to the kingship level; we need to receive grace upon grace to such an extent that grace reigns in us so that we can be good stewards of the varied grace of God. Revelation is a book concerning the overcomers; the Lord gives a sevenfold call to us to be His overcomers, those who conquer all the satanic chaos and triumph in the divine economy. In order for us to reign in life to be the Lord's overcomers, we need to see that we have been regenerated with a divine, spiritual, heavenly, kingly, and royal life; the Lord said, "So is the kingdom of God: as if a man cast seed on the earth". In the Gospels we have the sowing of the seed, the gene, of the kingdom. In the Acts we have the propagation and spreading of this sowing by thousands of sowers who had received the seed, the gene, of the kingdom. In the Epistles we see the growing of the seed, the gene, of the kingdom. The harvest of this seed is found in the book of Revelation with the reaping of the first-fruits and the harvest. In experience, to reign in life means to be under the ruling of the divine life, causing us to be constituted with God's words. Joseph's life is a revelation of the rulership of the Spirit, for the rulership of the Spirit is the reigning aspect of a mature saint; it is a life of reigning in life, being under the restriction and limitation of the divine life in the reality of God's kingdom.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound the types of the kings in I & II Kings are.

In the type of Israel there is a great part concerning the kings. The kings are the representatives of Israel and the top ones. The Israelites had everything of their living from the source of the good land, and the kings were enjoying the good land on the top level. These kings are types of the New Testament believers because all the New Testament believers were saved by God to be kings.

B. Explain what God entrusted the responsibilities to the priests.

God entrusted to the priests not only the speaking part of His deputy authority but also the ruling part. Thus, the priests were also the kings. God, however, just wants His authority to be exercised. So at the beginning of Israel's history with the priests, there was no king, but they did have the Urim and the Thummim. The Urim and the Thummim were a deputy authority for both God's speaking and God's ruling.

Day 2 —

A. Expound how God shifted from the Adamic race to the called race.

In the first ten and a half chapters of Genesis, God was dealing with man as the Adamic race. But after these chapters of the Bible, God shifted to another group of people composed of the descendants of Abraham. God shifted from the Adamic race to the Abrahamic race. In the New Testament economy, God had a serious, vital shift to another group of people. He shifted from Abraham's descendants according to the flesh to Abraham's descendants according to the Spirit.

B. Explain how God did as the spiritual descendants of Abraham failed God.

Most of the spiritual descendants of Abraham also fail God. In Revelation 2 and 3 the Lord said, "To him who overcomes..." at seven times. This is a sevenfold call to us, His believers. The overcomers are the fourth race. What the Lord needs is the race of overcomers to conquer all the satanic chaos and triumph in the divine economy.

Day 3 —

A. Explain God's kingdom being God Himself sown into man to develop into a kingdom.

The seed of the divine life sown into the Slave-Savior's believers indicates that the kingdom of God, which is the issue and goal of the Slave-Savior's gospel, and the church in this age are a matter of life, the life of God, which sprouts, grows, bears fruit, matures, and produces a harvest. The kingdom of God is actually God Himself sown into human beings and developing in them into a kingdom.

B. Expound that we see the sowing of this seed of the kingdom in the Gospels.

The four Gospels reveal the Triune God incarnated. This God-man eventually came forth to sow Himself into God's chosen people by preaching and teaching. When those who had been chosen by God heard His word and received it, they received the seed, the gene, of the kingdom. This seed, this gene, is the incarnated God, the Triune God in humanity. In the Gospels we have the sowing of this seed of the kingdom.

Day 4 —

A. Expound how to be under the ruling of the life of the Father.

To reign in life is to be under the ruling of the divine life. The Lord Jesus as the God-man in His humanity on the earth was absolutely under the ruling of the divine life of the Father. Everything He did was under the Father's ruling. By practically being under the ruling of the divine life of the Father, He was reigning in life. This is the pattern that we should follow.

We must reign in life to live the church life.

B. Explain how Paul brought the saints into the fellowship of the Body of Christ.

Paul first preached the gospel to the Gentiles and then brought them into the fellowship of the Body of Christ with the Jewish churches through their giving in love to provide for the necessities of the saints in Jerusalem. This was to bring the two into the fellowship of the one Body. By his recommendations and greetings in Romans 16, Paul was blending saints and churches under his ministry for the fellowship of the Body of Christ.

Day 5 —

A. Expound Joseph's life being the rulership of the Spirit, showing matured and reigning.

The rulership of the Spirit is the capstone of the structure of the teaching of the Spirit. The record of Joseph's life is a revelation of the rulership of the Spirit, for the rulership of the Spirit is the reigning aspect of a matured saint. Joseph did not need to forgive his brothers, because he did not blame them. He received as from God all that his brothers had done to him, and he comforted those who had offended him.

B. Explain what Joseph's two dreams unveiled to us.

Joseph's two dreams, both from God, unveiled to him God's divine view concerning the nature, position, function, and goal of God's people on earth. According to their fallen nature, God's people are evil and unclean, but in God's eternal view, His people are sheaves of wheat full of life and heavenly bodies full of light. Joseph's dreams controlled and directed his behavior.

Day 6 —

A. Expound the reigning in life manifesting in the practical Body life.

When we are all reigning in life, living under the ruling of the divine life, the issue is the real and practical Body life. The Body of Christ builds itself up in love. The growth in life is in love. My concern is that although we may talk about the truths of the high peak, love is absent among us.

B. Explain John 4:14, "into eternal life".

The eternal life is the destination of the flowing Triune God. The New Jerusalem is the totality of the divine, eternal life. The entire Bible is needed to interpret John 4:14. The Father is the fountain as the source, the Son is the spring, the Spirit is the flowing river, and this flowing issues in the eternal life, which is the New Jerusalem. The New Jerusalem is the totality of God joined with man and man mingled with God.

III. Conclusion:

Today we are in the kingdom life. As the people of God's kingdom, we are being trained to be kings, to be Joseph, to be the reigning aspect of the mature life. For this cause, we must subdue our anger and conquer our lust. We, believers in Christ, are the greatest persons in the universe. According to Romans 5: 17, we are reigning in the life we have received. To be the overcomers today, we must reign in life. Otherwise, we will lose our top portion of the enjoyment of Christ and will be punished by the Lord in the coming age. Sooner or later we must be mature, why not choose to be mature in this age. If we are mature in this age, we will reign in life in this age and reign with Christ, being co-king with Him in the coming age, otherwise we will suffer loss.