

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message Two : Four Crucial Journeys to Enter into the Ministry of the Age by Closely Following the Minister of the Age with the Vision of the Age

I. Overview:

In every age the Lord has special things that He wants to accomplish; He has His own recoveries and His own works to do. The particular recovery and work that He does in one age is the ministry of that age. Elijah represents the principle of not caring for one's own life in order to maintain God's testimony; such as Antipas, the faithful one, who was killed among us. Elijah did not pray in his feeling, thought, intention, or mood, or in any kind of motivation, arising from circumstances or situations, to fulfill his own purpose; he prayed in the prayer given to him by the Lord for the accomplishing of His will. On Mount Carmel Elijah said to all the people of Israel, "If Jehovah is God, follow Him." Elijah is a type of the Old Testament age with the Old Testament economy, and Elisha is a type of the New Testament age with the New Testament economy. The age was changed by passing through four places; Gilgal, where God's people were circumcised to deal with their flesh, Bethel, which is the place to give up the world and turn to God absolutely, Jericho, it was the first city that Joshua and the people of Israel had to defeat. Jordan, this river signifies death, crossing the river Jordan is overcoming death in order to live and minister.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound what the ministry of that age is.

In every age the Lord has special things that He wants to accomplish. He has His own recoveries and His own works to do. The particular recovery and work that He does in one age is the ministry of that age. It is God's mercy that a person can see and come into contact with the ministry of that age. Yet whether or not one can set aside his past ministry is entirely up to God's mercy.

B. Explain Elijah's ministry being an anti-testimony.

When all Israel was worshipping idols, Elijah told them that the idols they worshipped were false gods, and only Jehovah was the true God. Elijah, as an anti-testimony, told them that idolatry is a sin that offends God. When the people worshipped idols, he stood fast and did not worship them; thus, he was an anti-testimony.

Day 2 —

A. Expound how Elijah rose up to be an anti-testimony.

At that time all Israel was worshipping Baal, and only Elijah said that Jehovah is God. He was a prophet raised up when the darkness and desolation were most severe. At that time King Ahab and Jezebel not only worshipped idols but also killed the prophets of God; the entire kingdom was following a pattern of idolatry. God raised up Elijah to declare that only Jehovah is God.

B. Explain how Elijah to be a strong testimony.

Elijah was strong and courageous; he went against the four hundred fifty prophets of Baal and all the people of Israel. Every age of desolation needs overcomers like Elijah to step forward; while everyone is going after idols, there needs to be ones who can stand up and denounce everyone's mistake. Today there is still the need for people like Elijah to rise up to be an anti-testimony, not caring for their own lives.

Day 3 —

A. Expound "Earnestly prayed" in James 5:17.

"Earnestly prayed" in James 5:17 means literally "prayed in prayer." This indicates that a prayer from the Lord was given to Elijah, in which he prayed. He did not pray in his feeling, thought, intention, or mood, or in any kind of motivation, arising from circumstances or situations, to fulfill his own purpose. He prayed in the prayer given to him by the Lord for the accomplishing of His will.

B. Explain what God speaking to us gently and quietly means.

God charged Elijah to go out and stand upon the mountain before Jehovah. Elijah waited for the word of commission, thinking that it must be in the big windstorm or in the earthquake or in the fire, but Jehovah was not in the wind, the earthquake, or the fire. When Elijah became fully disappointed, a gentle, quiet voice came. The

fact that God spoke to Elijah in a gentle, quiet voice indicates that God was ushering Elijah into the New Testament age.

Day 4 —

A. Expound the spiritual significance of the place, Gilgal.

Gilgal was a place where God's people were circumcised to deal with their flesh. The Bible reveals that the strongest and most evil enemy of God is our flesh. The flesh is thoroughly and absolutely hated by God. God will not tolerate it. In a sense, God may tolerate our mistakes and transgressions, but He will never tolerate the flesh.

B. Explain the four journeys in 2 Kings 2.

In 2 Kings 2, there are four journeys. These include setting out from Gilgal, the journey to Bethel, the journey to Jericho, and the crossing of the Jordan River. Before Elijah was taken into heaven and Elisha received a double portion of the Holy Spirit, they passed through these four places. Here the crucial lesson is that whether we are raptured or receive the power of the Holy Spirit, we all must set out from Gilgal to the Jordan River.

Day 5 —

A. Expound what the significant meaning of Bethel and Jericho are.

Bethel is the place to give up the world and turn to God absolutely, taking God as everything; Jericho, the first city that Joshua and the people of Israel had to defeat when they entered into the good land, signifies the head of God's enemy, Satan. Bethel is the place where Abram built an altar, which is a place of fellowship and communication with God. It is the place where we consecrate ourselves and are totally given to God.

B. Explain that Bethel refers to the victory over the world, and how to apply it.

Bethel refers to the victory over the world, because Egypt signifies the world. Victory over the world is a condition for being raptured and receiving the power of the Holy Spirit. If our heart has not completely overcome the world, we can not arrive at the goal before us. If a believer truly desires to be filled with the Holy Spirit and be raptured, he must pay the price to take the way of the Lord, which is to journey to a place where the Lord can give him His Spirit. We must forsake the world to fellowship with God on the altar of total consecration.

Day 6 —

A. Expound the spiritual meaning of Jordan River.

The Jordan signifies the power of death. Crossing the Jordan is overcoming death. This is to be raptured. The Lord's baptism in the river Jordan signifies death, and coming out of the water signifies resurrection. By the power of resurrection, the Lord overcomes death. The greatest power of Satan is death. There is no power other than the Lord's resurrection which can overcome death.

B. Explain that the last enemy that believers should overcome is death.

Whether it is the death of the body, the death of the mind, or the death of the spiritual life, everything should be overcome. The present world is truly filled with the atmosphere of death. While preparing to be raptured, the believers must learn how to cross the Jordan and overcome death. They must learn to resist the power of death that exists in them and in their environment and must manifest the power of resurrection in all things.

III. Conclusion:

Today, we should not emphasize different ways of doing things and having different leading. Because we are all in the Lord's recovery, seeing the consummation of today's vision. Even if someone would not be able to catch up with or see the vision clearly, don't say anything, just follow and you will be blessed. For example, the sons of Noah did not necessarily see the vision that Noah saw, but they were of one accord with their father, and they followed closely, and were saved with his father. And Peter, who understood nothing except knowing that the vision was in the Lord, followed, and he was also blessed. According to the past history, those who closely follow the ministry are blessed by the Lord, and those who ignore it suffer losses. Today, as the Lord continues to lead the churches advance in the stream of the Body through the word of the ministry seven times a year, all we need is to follow closely.