

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message Two : Experiencing the Divine Dispensing of the Divine Trinity by Living in the Divine Romance

I. Overview:

The Bible is a romance, in the most pure and the most holy sense, of a universal couple—God in Christ as the Bridegroom and God's redeemed people as the bride. The entire Bible is a divine romance, and Song of Songs is an abridged form of this romance. The Bible is a romantic book, and our relationship with the Lord should become more and more romantic. If there is no romance between us and the Lord Jesus, then we are religious Christians. Song of Songs is a marvelous and vivid portrait, in poetic form, of the bridal love between Christ as the Bridegroom and His lovers as His bride. If we really love the Lord, we will surely have the growth and transformation in life. Because the seeking one in Song of Songs loves her beloved so much, she experiences the divine dispensing, and there is a continual change in her growth in life. When the lover of Christ becomes one with God to be God's dwelling place, in the eyes of God she is as beautiful as Tirzah and as lovely as Jerusalem. In the maturity of Christ's life, the lover of Christ becomes the Shulammite, signifying that she has become the reproduction and duplication of Christ to match Him for their marriage. We should depend on the Lord to make us vessels of mercy, honor, and glory.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound that the Bible is a romance of a universal couple.

If you have entered into the deep thought of the Bible, you will realize that the Bible is a romance of a universal couple. The male of this couple is God Himself. The female of this couple is a corporate human being, God's redeemed people, including all the saints of the Old Testament and the New Testament. After a long process this corporate person results in the New Jerusalem as the bride. This holy romance is revealed throughout the Old Testament.

B. Describe that we find the story of a marriage immediately after God's creation.

In this marriage Adam is the type of Christ as the husband, and Eve is the type of the church as the wife. In Ephesians 5 we see the couple typified by Adam and Eve—Christ and the church. The type of Adam and Eve reveals that the persons of this universal couple must be of the same source. They also must be of one nature and life.

Day 2 —

A. Explain that God has had a romance with man throughout the centuries.

His intention in creating man was not mainly to have servants. He created man in the image of Himself as a lover. This means that He created man so that man would love Him. In eternity God was alone, and He wants man to love Him. In this way there will be a mutual relationship of love between God and mankind, those created to be His counterpart.

B. Expound that Song of Songs is a portrait of the love relationship between us and Christ.

The entire Bible is a divine romance. This means that the Bible is a very romantic book. This is true in particular of Song of Songs. Certain modernists doubt whether Song of Songs should be included in the Bible. This book is a portrait of the love relationship between us and Christ. If there is no romance between us and the Lord Jesus, then we are religious Christians, not romantic Christians.

Day 3 —

A. Explain in the first three chapters of Song of Songs, the Lord used eight figures to describe His seeking one.

The Lord's description of His seeker with different figures illustrated the state the seeker had attained at that time. First of all, the Lord Jesus used the figure of a mare. Next He spoke of the doves' eyes. She was not a dove yet, but she had the eyes of a dove. After the doves' eyes there was the lily. The dove as a complete entity followed the lily. Following the dove were the pillars of smoke, the bed, and the palanquin. Finally, there was the crown.

B. Expound the way to enjoy and experience Christ as life in the Song of Songs.

These eight chapters reveal to us a lovable person. He is altogether lovely! In the Song of Songs, this lovely One is just the life and the living of His seeker. The seeking one takes this lovely One as her life within and her living

without by loving Him. He will become our talk, our walk, our attitude, our expression, our everything! He will become not only our life within but also our living without.

Day 4 —

A. Expound to realize the deep and hidden things of God, we need to love Him.

To realize and participate in the deep and hidden things God has ordained and prepared for us requires us not only to believe in Him but also to love Him. To love God means to set our entire being—spirit, soul, and body, with the heart, soul, mind, and strength— absolutely on Him. In this way we have the closest and most intimate fellowship with God, and we are able to enter into His heart and apprehend all its secrets.

B. Expound the meaning of the Shulammitte in Song of Songs 6:13.

The lover's name, Shulammitte, which is the feminine form of Solomon, is first used in Song of Songs 6:13, indicating that at this point she has become Solomon's duplication and counterpart, the same as Solomon in life, nature, and image, as Eve to Adam. This signifies that the lover of Christ becomes the same as He is in life, nature, and image to match Him.

Day 5 —

A. Explain the seeker of Christ has been transformed into four wonderful things.

After reaching the point where she is called to live in ascension, the seeker of Christ has reached her highest attainment. In her attainment she becomes four wonderful things as the consummation of her transformation: a garden, a sanctuary, the heavenly bodies, and a terrible army with the overcomer, the Shulammitte, who is the reproduction of Christ, as the leader.

B. Expound the seeker of Christ becoming a garden and also a sanctuary.

A garden is just a visiting place for the king, but it is not the dwelling place where the king lives or the city that safeguards the king's palace. To be a garden is very good, but it is not sufficient. We have to reach the highest peak, the building of God to be built up in the growth with the life of Christ with its unsearchable riches. In the Old Testament the building of God is typified by Tirzah and Jerusalem.

Day 6 —

A. Expound that all our spirituality must be for the building.

Almost all the teaching and edification given in Christianity is for the individual. But the whole Bible shows us that our spirituality should not be only individualistic. All our spirituality must be for the building. May the Lord grant us doves' eyes so that we will have spiritual perception to see that spirituality is not merely for individuals. Spirituality is for the building up of the corporate city.

B. Explain the process of the seeker going through to reach maturity for God's building.

Song of Songs 6:4-13 speaks of a life within the veil. She experienced His ascension through the cross after her experience of His resurrection. Previously the lover was likened to a mare among Pharaoh's chariots, a rose in Sharon, a lily in the valleys and among thorns, a dove, a pillar of smoke, a bed, a palanquin, a garden, and a fountain with a spring, but now she is likened to the dwelling place of God and heavenly Jerusalem, indicating that she was for God's building.

III. Conclusion:

We emphasize prayer-reading the Lord's word in His recovery. We should not read the Scriptures without touching the Lord in a living way. We must be careful not to read the Lord's word without praying and touching the Lord. If we touch the Lord in His Word, we will become one with Him actually in our experience, and then we will become His spouse. By loving the Lord as our beloved, being one with Him, and even becoming His lover, His word will become our life supply. How wonderful to experience the Triune God dispensing Himself into us and mingling Himself with us! If you have never experienced this, you may be a religious Christian, but not a Christian according to God's New Testament economy. We testify to this experience that the Triune God has made us God-men, who are filled with the Triune God and are saturated into Him.