

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message Two : Inheriting the All-inclusive Christ as the Good Land by Taking Heed to His Words of Advice and Warnings and by Receiving His Renewed Training to Have Our Inner Man Renewed Day by Day

I. Overview:

Although all Israel was redeemed through the passover, delivered out of the Egyptian tyranny, and brought to the mountain of God to receive the revelation of the tabernacle, nearly all fell and died in the wilderness, failing to reach this goal because of their evildoings and unbelief. Only Caleb and Joshua reached the goal and entered into the good land. Every difficulty Satan puts in our way is food for us; this is a God-appointed means of spiritual progress. In order to have God's keeping power, we must exercise our spirit of faith to believe in His promises. The first generation typifies our old man; the second generation typifies our new man. God's economy is to have our old man consumed and our new man renewed day by day. In order to fully possess the good land, we must maintain our freshness and newness with the Lord by receiving His new speaking to us day by day. There was His charge to His people in nine matters. We must fear the Lord to be in fear of offending Him. We must love the Lord Jesus, and keep His commandments and statutes; we must not be stiff-necked. We must hold fast to Christ and by His name shall we swear, calling upon the name of the Lord to enjoy His unsearchable riches.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound the path of the chosen people in the Old Testament being a warning to all New Testament believers. The goal of God's calling the children of Israel was that they would enter into the promised land to enjoy its riches so that they might establish God's kingdom and be God's expression on earth. However, nearly all fell and died in the wilderness, failing to reach this goal because of their evil doings and unbelief. Only Caleb and Joshua reached the goal and entered into the good land. This should be a solemn warning to all New Testament believers.

B. Explain spying out the land of Canaan, the ones brought back an evil report.

On one hand, they said the land was exceptionally good, but on the other hand, they said that it was impossible to enter. The people there were giants, they said, and the cities fortified and great. Hebrews 3:12 tells us that this is an evil heart of unbelief. It is a heart occupied by the evil one, so it is called an evil heart.

Day 2 —

A. State having living faith, we can take the enemy as our food.

Believe with full assurance of faith. Christ is in you. You have been united with the almighty God. As long as you maintain your fellowship with Him, you will be able to enter the land.

There will be some battles to be fought. But the battle is for the enemy; to you it will be a rest. The battle is a defeat to him but bread to you.

B. Explain what the spiritual food to us is.

Our bread is not only the word of God, our meat is not only to do His will, our bread is also the Anakim—the difficulties that are in our way. Many people take the word of God as their bread and the doing of His will as their meat, but they have not eaten the Anakim. The more we eat the Anakim, the stronger we will become. Every difficulty Satan puts in our way is food for us.

Day 3 —

A. Explain the principle of an idol being self-beautification.

In Exodus 32 the gold rings were taken from the ears of the wives, the sons, and the daughters and used to make the idol, the golden calf. People put on earrings in order to beautify themselves. Today's culture promotes self-beautification. Self-beautification leads to idolatry. The Lord issued this commandment concerning ornaments in 33:5, "... Now therefore put off your ornaments from you, and I will decide what to do to you..."

B. Expound the second principle of idolatry, and it is an offense to God.

Another principle related to idolatry is that idolatry is Satan's usurping of what God has given us in order to make it a waste...Before the children of Israel left Egypt, God caused the Egyptians to give the children of Israel gold and other precious things. This gold was to be used for building up the tabernacle. But before this gold was used for the building up of God's dwelling place, Satan came in to usurp the gold and use it to make an idol.

Day 4 —

A. State idolatry being pretension.

Every idolater pretends to be worshipping the true God. Many Christians worship a calf, but they think that they are worshipping the Lord Jesus or the true God. Actually what they are worshipping is their enjoyment. Much of today's Christian worship is a matter of sitting down to eat and drink and rising up to sport, sing, and dance around a certain kind of enjoyment, around a golden calf.

B. Expound why Moses took his tent and pitched it outside the camp.

Moses, an experienced person, knew that God according to His holiness would no longer stay among the people, for the camp had become idolatrous. Therefore, Moses took his tent, which formerly had been in the camp, and pitched it outside the camp. This action was according to God's heart. This tent then became the tent of God. Hence, Moses' tent became the tent of meeting for the meeting between God and His people.

Day 5 —

A. State that with the children of Israel we believers having two generations.

With the children of Israel from the passover to the entering of the good land, there were two generations. This indicates that we believers have two generations. We were saved with the first generation, but we will enter the good land with the second generation. The first generation is our old man, and the second generation is our new man. The old generation passed through the Red Sea, but it was the new generation that crossed the Jordan.

B. Describe what dealings related to transformation of the children of Israel are.

During the forty years between passing through the Red Sea and crossing the Jordan River, there were many dealings related to transformation. This means that, spiritually speaking, during this time the children of Israel were transformed. Yes, the old generation was strewn in the wilderness, and this is a warning to us. But a new generation came forth. This is transformation. We in the Lord's recovery need to grow in life.

Day 6 —

A. State that the children of Israel should fear God in Deuteronomy 10.

In Deuteronomy 10, Moses charged the children of Israel concerning fearing Jehovah their God, walking in all His ways, loving Him, serving Him with all their heart and all their soul, keeping His commandments and statutes for their good, circumcising the foreskin of their heart, not being stiff-necked any longer, holding fast to Him, and swearing by His name, who is their praise and their God.

B. Explain as we fear God, we will walk in His ways.

When we fear God, we will walk in His ways. God's ways are actually what God is. This means that whatever God is, is a way to us. God is love, and this love is a way in which we should walk. Since the Lord Jesus is the very God, this word indicates that God Himself is the way. To take what God is as our ways and to walk in these ways is to live God.

III. Conclusion:

In order to live the proper Christian life and the church life, we need to enjoy Christ as the life-giving Spirit. We will be satisfied with Christ as the life-giving Spirit and will not be tempted to seek worldly entertainment. Instead of forbidding our young people to participate in worldly activities, we should minister to them Christ as the life-giving Spirit. If we enjoy Christ fully in the church life, we will not be distracted by the world. Men seek worldly entertainment because they do not have Christ as their joy. The whole Bible is a "Deuteronomy." As we read it today, we experience a kind of repetition. The words in the Bible have been written, but it says them again and again to us every day. This is God the Father in the heavens speaking to us. Therefore, we must love God, obey His commandments, and receive His blessings.