

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message Seven : Knowing the Ascension

I. Overview:

The Man-Savior's ascension is His inauguration into His heavenly office through the process of creation, incarnation, human living, crucifixion, and resurrection as God and man, as the Creator and the creature, and as the Redeemer, the Savior, and the life-giving Spirit, to execute God's administration and to carry out God's New Testament economy.

We need to see the objective aspect of the Lord's ascension, which caused Him to be crowned with glory and honor. The Man-Savior, in His ascension, has been made the Lord, the Christ. We need to see the subjective aspect of the Lord's ascension; Christ in His all-transcending ascension transcended Hades and all the heavens. Ephesians 1:19-23 reveals that there is a transmission from the ascended Christ to us; verse 22 says that God gave Christ "to be Head over all things to the church". In His ascension Christ was also made the High Priest in the heavens to bear us in the presence of God and to care for all our needs.

The entire age of grace, Christ is not only in ascension but also in us. The Lord today is in our spirit in His ascension; Triune God moves in us, and this move becomes our history.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound Man-Savior's ascension being His inauguration.

The Man-Savior's ascension was His inauguration into His heavenly office through the process of creation, incarnation, human living, crucifixion, and resurrection as God and man, as the Creator and the creature, and as the Redeemer, the Savior, and the life-giving Spirit, to execute God's administration and to carry out God's New Testament economy.

B. Explain in His ascension He as Man-Savior was crowned with glory and honor.

Glory is the splendor related to Jesus' person; honor is the preciousness related to Jesus' worth. Here we may also point out that the Lord's dignity is related to His position. As the ascended One crowned with glory and honor, Christ is in a state of glory and has a rank of honor. He is above all kings and rulers; this is His honor. This glory and honor are the crown with which He has been crowned.

Day 2 —

A. State that in ascension Christ is Lord of all.

As God, Christ was the Lord all the time. But as man, He was made the Lord in His ascension after He brought His humanity into God in His resurrection. In ascension Christ was made the Lord of all to possess all. In Acts 10:36 Peter speaks of Christ as the One who is "Lord of all." All refers here to all men, all peoples. Christ in His ascension is the Lord not only of the Jews but also of the Gentiles.

B. Expound that in ascension He is the Lord of all to possess all.

As the Lord, Christ now possesses the whole universe, God's chosen people, and all positive things, matters, and persons. Christ is the Lord not only of God's chosen people but also of the angels and of all those who will be in the millennium and in the new heaven and the new earth. Therefore, He is the Lord of the heavens, the earth, and everything and everyone He has redeemed. In ascension He is the Lord of all to possess all.

Day 3 —

A. Explain that there is a transmission from the ascended Christ to us.

In Ephesians 1:22 the phrase to the church indicates a transmission from the ascended Christ to the church, His Body. What God gave Christ to be is to the church; it is transmitted to the church. The church shares it. This corresponds to the word His power toward us in Ephesians 1:19. The phrase toward us is a key, for it also indicates a transmission.

B. Expound the words in Ephesians 1:22.

The best translation of the second part of Ephesians 1:22 is: "gave Him to be Head over all things to the church." Whatever Christ, the Head, has attained and obtained is transmitted to the church, His Body. Now whatever Christ is in His ascension is being transmitted into the church. This is the continual transmission into the church of the ascended Christ with the full significance of His ascension.

Day 4 —

A. Expound as long as we open ourselves, this transmission will take place continually.

Neither can you see the power that keeps the planets revolving around the sun, but you still believe it. We need to believe that in the divine, spiritual realm there is a power that transmits to us all that Christ has attained and obtained in His ascension. Whatever He has attained and obtained is now being transmitted into the church. As long as we are clean receptacles and are willing to open ourselves, this transmission will take place continually.

B. Fellowship that we need to experience the transmission daily.

The church should be in the transmission of the exalted and ascended Christ. Christ has been raised from the dead and seated at God's right hand in the heavens. All things have been subjected under His feet, and He has been given the headship over the entire universe. Now whatever He has attained and obtained in these four steps taken by God concerning Him is being transmitted into the church.

Day 5 —

A. Explain in His ascension Christ being made the High Priest in the heavens.

The Lord came from God to us through incarnation, and then He went back from us to God through resurrection and ascension to be our High Priest to bear us in the presence of God and to care for all our needs. In His ascension Christ passed through the heavens; now He is not only in heaven but is also higher than the heavens, far above all the heavens. In His ascension He was inaugurated into His priestly office.

B. Expound that in the book of Revelation Christ is unveiled as the Priest.

As the High Priest, Christ is walking among the lampstands and taking care of them, especially of their shining by trimming the lamps. Then in Revelation 8 Christ is revealed as the Priest offering the incense at the golden altar: "Another Angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer, and much incense was given to Him to offer with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne".

Day 6 —

A. Fellowship the heavenly ministry being the Lord's work in His ascension.

The entire age of grace is the time of the Lord's ascension. He is in the heavens doing a lot, but today's Christians do not pay adequate attention to this part of Christ's ministry. Today He is both in the heavens seated at the right hand of God and in us. This is very mysterious. He is in the heavens in ascension, and His presence within us is in the ascension. Today we are in ascension. We are not earthly persons but heavenly persons.

B. Expound Christ being in ascension both in the heavens and in us.

His heavenly ministry is working, is going on, at the same time in the heavens and in us. Christ as our High Priest is praying for us. He is interceding for us both in the heavens and in us. Today He is always doing the same thing at the same time both in the heavens and in us. Christ is working in the heavens, and at the same time He is working in us. This is God's move in man in the ascension of Christ, so it is also God's history.

III. Conclusion:

Not only is Christ in us, but His resurrection and ascension are also in us. Whatever He obtained and attained in resurrection and ascension is now transmitted into us through the all-inclusive, life-giving Spirit. Christ is not only in ascension but also in us. If He only works in ascension, His work has nothing to do with us, and His work can never be part of the history of God in us; but today He is working in us. Because His work is in us, it has something to do with our history; so His work is the history of God in His union with man. He is in His ascension, working in us. As the ascended One, He works in us with many statuses and positions. This is God's move in man.