

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message Nine : A Land of Pomegranates

I. Overview:

In the Bible pomegranates signify the fullness of life, the abundance and beauty of life, and the expression of the riches of life. If we grow in life to maturity, we will become pomegranates. Pomegranates and golden bells were on the bottom part of the high priest's robe, which signifies the church. The church should be full of life in her humanity; this is the significance of pomegranates made of linen. The church has humanity for the expression of the fullness of life and also divinity for the sounding of the golden bells. The pomegranates surrounding the capitals at the top of the pillars in the temple signify the expression of the riches of life. Those who judge themselves (bronze) and regard themselves as nothing will be able to bear responsibility in full in the midst of an intermixed and complicated situation. According to Song of Songs, in Christ's enjoyment of His lover, she grows all kinds of plants in different colors as different expressions of the inner life and in a variety of fragrances as the rich expression of the mature life. In 2 Peter, we have seen the development from the seed of faith, through the roots of virtue and knowledge, the trunk of self-control, and the branches of endurance and godliness, to the blossom and the fruit of love.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain what the pomegranate signifies and its application.

When you see a ripe pomegranate, you immediately realize the abundance and the beauty of life. If you enjoy Christ as the resurrected One and by the power of His resurrection you live the life of Jesus on the earth to suffer all kinds of persecutions, you will realize the sweetness and satisfaction of Christ within you, and you will manifest the beauty and the abundance of life to others.

B. Expound that the kingdom of the son of His love is full of love, light and life.

The more we are willing to be restricted and ruled by the Lord Jesus out of our love for Him, the more we will grow in life, even in the abundance of life. This indicates that the kingdom of the Son of His love is for our enjoyment of Christ as life. But God has delivered us out of this authority and has transferred us into a kingdom of love that is full of life and light.

Day 2 —

A. State that if we concentrate on Christ, then He will replace every aspect of our natural humanity .

If we would keep from paying attention to the self, we must concentrate on something better than the self.

This is the reason we need a vision of the extensiveness of Christ, the vision presented in the book of Colossians. If we see this vision, we will concentrate our entire being on the extensive Christ, who will then fill us and occupy us.

B. Explain the vision of the wonderful Christ in Colossians.

The book of Colossians presents a vision of the wonderful, extensive, all- inclusive Christ. Once we see this vision, our entire being will be attracted by this Christ and will be possessed by Christ and occupied with Him. Then gradually, the extensive Christ who occupies our attention will replace every element of our natural human life.

Day 3 —

A. Expound that Exodus 28:34 speaks of pomegranates and bells.

Exodus 28: 34, speaks of "a golden bell and a pomegranate." When the garment was being made, the pomegranates came before the bells. But in function, the bells come before the pomegranates. The skirts are a sign of fullness, and the fullness of Christ is the church. Therefore, the pomegranates and bells on the skirts must be matters related to the church. The pomegranates were made of linen signifying humanity, and the bells were made of gold signifying divinity.

B. Explain the significance of the golden bells and pomegranates with their applications.

If you see a ripe pomegranate with its seeds, you will receive an impression that a pomegranate is full of life.

In the Bible pomegranates signify the fullness of life. Fullness of life is expressed in the church's humanity, but

the voice of warning is expressed in the church's divinity, as signified by the golden bells. The proper speaking of the church always comes from her divinity.

Day 4 —

A. Explain First Kings 7:20, "... on top of the pillars being two hundred pomegranate."

First Kings 7:20 says, "So then the capitals that were on the two pillars were above and close to the bulge that was beside the network. And there were two hundred pomegranates, in rows around both capitals." Around each capital was a projection, a bulge. Encompassing the projection on each capital were two rows of a hundred pomegranates each. This indicates two times of a hundredfold expression of the riches of life.

B. Expound the words in Second Chronicles 4:13 and how to apply them.

Second Chronicles 4:13 says that there were four hundred pomegranates on the two networks, with two rows on each network to cover the two bowls of the capitals upon the pillars. The hundredfold increase is the highest. Thus, we can express the riches of life a hundredfold. The hundredfold expression of the riches of life is upon the creatures signified by the number four.

Day 5 —

A. Explain the words in Song of Songs 4:3, and how to experience them.

Cheeks are the place where beauty is displayed. All our outward expressions are seen through the cheeks. "Your cheeks are like a piece of pomegranate / Behind your veil." The outward beauty of the believers comes from an overflow of the Lord's life. Still, everything must be veiled from the world's eyes. The only One who is aware of our beauty is the Lord.

B. Expound in Song of Songs 4:12, a garden enclosed, a spring shut up.

After God created the heavens and the earth, then immediately creating a garden, which is specially designed for beauty and enjoyment. At this point, we see that the maiden has satisfied Christ. She realizes that her existence is for her beloved. This, however, is a garden enclosed; even the spring is shut up and the fountain sealed. All that she has is for the beloved's delight and for no one else.

Day 6 —

A. Explain the things which relate to life and godliness in 2 Peter.

All things which relate to life and godliness are the various aspects of the divine life, typified by the riches of the produce of the good land in the Old Testament. Life is within, enabling us to live, and godliness is without as the outward expression of the inward life. Life is the inward energy, inward strength, to bring forth the outward godliness, which leads to and results in glory.

B. State the brotherly love and love one another in 2 Peter.

In 2 Peter 1:7, "brotherly love" is brotherly affection, a love characterized by delight and pleasure. The Greek word for love in 2 Peter 1:7 is agape, the word used in the New Testament for the divine love, which God is in His nature. Such a love needs to be developed in brotherly love to govern it and flow in it for the full expression of God, who is this love.

III. Conclusion:

In order for the pomegranate and the golden bell to be arranged alternately in the church life, we need to grow in life and eventually blossom in life. Then we become the pomegranate. Instead of small talk, we will make holy sounds. Moreover, this growth in life will affect others so that gossip and criticism will be replaced by the ringing of little golden bells. If the church is proper and if it is truly the fullness of Christ, then in the church there are the expression of life and the divine sound. All the aspects of the riches of the Triune God have been dispensed into us for us to live the life of God and to live out this life. Life is inward but godliness is outward. In all our living we should express God. God becomes our expression. This is godliness, the outward expression of the inner life.