

## **Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message Eight : The Vision, Experience, and Enjoyment of the Glorious and Excellent Christ as the Supreme Preciousness of God for the Genuine Church Life**

### **I. Overview:**

The evil time during Isaiah's days in spite of the rebellion of God's people, Christ as the Jehovah of hosts, is still sitting on a throne in glory. As a result of seeing this vision, Isaiah was terminated, realizing that he was a man of unclean lips, being purged by the seraphim with an ember, and issuing in being sent by God. The vision of the excellent Christ, who appeared to Daniel for his appreciation, consolation, encouragement, and stabilization. The entire world situation is under the rule of the heavens by the God of the heavens in order to give Christ the preeminence in all things, to cause Christ to have the first place in everything. The vision of the glorious Christ was given to John in his spirit for him to see Christ as the Son of Man clothed with a garment and girded about at the breasts. Christ takes care of the churches as the Son of Man to cherish them. He trims the charred part of the wicks of the lamps of the lampstand. Peter speaks in his Epistles about the supremely precious Christ, who is the precious stone with precious blood of Christ redeemed. The precious and exceedingly great promises have been granted to and He has allotted to all the believers equally precious faith.

### **II. Truth and Enlightenment:**

Day 1 —

A. Expound the vision being seen by Isaiah in his depression.

The vision of Christ in glory was seen by Isaiah in his depression. He realized by looking at Israel's situation, that there was not the expression of God's glory. Israel had also violated God's holiness and had become corrupt in human virtues. Furthermore, King Uzziah had died. In that kind of environment, Isaiah was surely very depressed. The Lord appeared to him in his depression.

B. Explain Christ the God in glory sitting on the throne.

In Isaiah 6 Christ is the God in glory sitting on the throne. This One is the God-man with divine glory and human virtues. His human virtues are signified by the long train of His robe. Christ is expressed in His human virtues much more than in His divine glory. However, His human virtues need the divine glory as a source. Christ is a person with the divine glory expressed in His human virtues.

Day 2 —

A. Expound how the Lord brought Isaiah into a vision.

When Isaiah looked at the situation among the children of Israel, he became very disappointed. It was at this point that the Lord brought him into a vision so that he could see the Lord of glory sitting on the throne. The Lord seemed to say to Isaiah, "Don't look down at the situation. If you look down, you will be disappointed. Look up at Me. I am still here. I am the unique good thing in the universe. Look at Me."

B. Explain what we need to learn in a kind of church life with some vinegar.

At the beginning of your church life, you might have experienced a church "honeymoon." But after a period of time, what was so sweet to you might have become bitter like vinegar. In every church there is some vinegar. Therefore, in the church life, we need to learn not to look down at the situation but to look up to Christ. We should not look at anything or anyone other than Christ.

Day 3 —

A. Expound Daniel seeing a particular vision in Daniel 10.

The excellent Christ was the Lord as a man. That man was not only Jehovah but Jehovah becoming a man. In the universe there is the fact that the Triune God became a man. This is revealed in Matthew and Luke. But in Genesis 18 when three persons came to Abraham, there was one among the three who was Jesus as an ordinary man. In Daniel 10 this man appeared to Daniel as the excellent Christ.

B. Explain how the excellent Christ appeared to Daniel.

First, the excellent Christ appeared in His priesthood for taking care of His chosen people. He appeared to Daniel not wearing armor for fighting but dressed in a linen robe, the Old Testament priestly garment. At the time of Daniel 10, Christ Himself, God's centrality and universality, was a Priest taking care of the children of Israel in captivity. He is a Priest in His humanity, taking care of God's captive people.

Day 4 —

A. Describe Christ being the best model of cherishing and nourishing in Revelation 1.

Christ is the best model of cherishing and nourishing as seen in Revelation 1. Verses 12 and 13 show that Christ is taking care of the lampstands by being the Son of Man with a long garment. This garment is the priestly robe, which shows that Christ is our great High Priest. He is also girded about at the breasts with a golden girdle. The Son of Man is in His humanity, and the golden girdle signifies His divinity.

B. Explain why Christ is girded at the breasts in Revelation 1:13.

The priests in the Old Testament were girded at the loins for their ministry. In Daniel 10:5 Christ also was girded at His loins with fine gold. To be girded at the loins is to be strengthened for the work. Christ has finished His divine work in producing the churches. Now by His love He is caring for the churches that He has produced. This is why He is girded at the breasts, signifying love.

Day 5 —

A. Expound what Christ wearing a golden girdle signifies.

Christ is not only human but also divine. He is the Son of Man wearing a golden girdle, signifying His divinity as His divine energy. His divinity as the divine energy nourishes the churches in many ways. He is cherishing us in His humanity. Meanwhile, He is nourishing us in His divinity with all the positive aspects of His person. In His humanity He is cherishing us to make us proper. In His divinity He is nourishing us so that we may grow and mature in the divine life to be His overcomers to accomplish His eternal economy.

B. Explain what the functions of Christ's eyes are.

Christ's eyes are for watching, observing, searching, judging by enlightening, and infusing. We must experience all these different aspects of His eyes, especially the aspect of infusing. His eyes infuse us with all that He is. His infusing eyes are a flame of fire which is continually burning. This can be proved by our experience. Since the day we were saved, Christ's eyes have been like a burning fire enlightening and infusing us. His eyes also stir us up to be hot. After Christ has looked at us, we can never be cold as we once were.

Day 6 —

A. Expound why Paul was able to reject the things that were gains to him.

In Philippians 3:7-8 we see that Paul had a change in his concept of value. What things were gains to him, these he counted as loss on account of Christ. He was able to consider them as loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus. Paul reckoned the Christ whom God had anointed as Lord, as King, and as the most excellent One. For His sake he suffered the loss of all things and counted them as refuse.

B. Explain what the basic elements of the structure of the New Jerusalem are.

The basic elements of the structure of the New Jerusalem are gold, pearls, and precious stones. Gold refers to the divine nature of God the Father, and pearls refer to the produce of Christ in His overcoming death and life-secreting resurrection. Precious stones signify the produce of the Spirit in His transforming work with His divine element for the building up of God's building.

### III. Conclusion:

We must redeem the time to enjoy Christ as the supreme preciousness of God so that we can be constituted with Him to be men of preciousness, even preciousness itself, as His personal treasure for us to become the New Jerusalem as a miraculous structure of treasure for His glory. We need to ask the Lord to grant us the light to have a thorough change in our concept of value so that we will continually choose Christ and all that He is as our super-excelling portion. When we minister God's word, we need to take heed to Jeremiah's admonition, "If you bring out the precious from the worthless, then you will be as My mouth" in Jeremiah 15:19. We must treasure the Lord's words more than all earthly riches so that we can speak oracles of God to dispense the unsearchable riches of Christ as the varied grace of God into His people. We need a vision to see that the New Jerusalem is the Triune God, the Divine Trinity, as three basic factors wrought into and structured together with His redeemed as the conclusion of the whole Bible—the gold as the base of the city typifies God the Father; the pearls as the gates of the city typify God the Son; and the jasper wall of the city typifies God the Spirit.