

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying

Message Six : Christ, the Eternal king, Coming to Possess the Earth and the Finishing of the Mystery of God

I. Overview:

Revelation 11:15, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever." The kingdom of the world becomes the kingdom of Christ at His coming back after He executes His judgment upon the nations. Here the Lord's reigning forever and ever is the Lord's reigning in the new heaven and new earth for eternity. God's eternal being and His throne are higher than His lovingkindness, compassions, and faithfulness. God's lovingkindness and compassions can fluctuate, but God's person and His government remain unchanging forever. In Revelation 10:1-7 we have a clear vision of Christ coming to take possession of the earth. In this chapter Christ is "another strong Angel"; John saw another Angel "coming down out of heaven". Christ is "clothed with a cloud" to come secretly; to be "on the cloud" is to come openly. "The rainbow indicates that Christ in His judgment upon the earth and in His coming to take possession of it will keep the covenant that God made with Noah concerning the earth. He placed His right foot on the sea and the left on the land; this indicates that Christ is coming down to take possession of the earth and the sea. Only He is worthy to open the scroll of God's economy, and only He is qualified to possess the earth. Christ is a mystery, and the church, as the Body of Christ, is the mystery of Christ. This mystery is God's economy!

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound as the age of the kingdom arrives, the entire earth will be the kingdom of Christ.

After Christ executes His judgment upon the nations at His coming back, the kingdom of the world will become the kingdom of Christ. At the sounding of the seventh trumpet, not only will the great tribulation come to an end, but also this age will be closed, the mystery of God will be finished, and another age, the age of the kingdom, will come for a millennium, a thousand years. When the age of the kingdom arrives, the entire earth will be the kingdom of Christ.

B. Explain Christ alone being the proper Owner of the earth.

He paid the price on the cross to purchase the entire earth so that one day the kingdom would be established on it. Every inch of this earth belongs to Christ. We do not agree that any part of the earth belongs to anyone else. All others are usurpers; Christ is the unique Owner. Moreover, He is coming back to take possession of the earth. The kingdom of the world will become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ.

Day 2 —

A. Testify that this word in Lamentations 3:22 and 23 came to Jeremiah as he was contacting the Lord in the morning.

I believe that this word in Lamentations 3:22 and 23 came to Jeremiah as he was contacting the Lord in the morning, reviewing all the afflictions of his people. No matter how much He had punished Israel, He had not utterly consumed them. This was God's lovingkindness. Realizing that he and all the others who remained with him were under God's compassions, Jeremiah praised, saying, "For His compassions do not fail."

B. Explain who turns first as the household of Israel receives the Lord's salvation.

When the household of Israel receives the Lord's salvation, who will turn first, Israel or the Lord? Zechariah 12 reveals that it is the Lord, not Israel, who will take the initiative and turn. When Jerusalem is besieged by Antichrist, the Lord Jesus will turn to the children of Israel and appear to them. They will then look upon Him, the One whom they have pierced, and repent.

Day 3 —

A. Expound the difference between Christ being clothed with a cloud and to be on the cloud.

Revelation 10:1 also says that Christ is "clothed with a cloud." He is not yet on the cloud, as in 14:14 and in Matthew 24:30; 26:64. To be on the cloud is to come openly, whereas to be clothed with a cloud is to come secretly. This indicates that even after the sixth trumpet, which will be in the midst of the great tribulation, Christ will still be coming secretly, not openly, until He will be seen by all the tribes of the earth.

B. Explain Christ having a rainbow upon His head.

In this vision of Revelation 10, Christ has a rainbow upon His head. Here the rainbow indicates that Christ in His judgment upon the earth and in His coming to take possession of it will keep the covenant that God made with Noah concerning the earth. The rainbow is a sign of God's covenant with man and all living creatures that He will not destroy them again with a flood. The rainbow around His throne signifies that God is the covenanting God, the faithful God.

Day 4 —

A. Expound His face being like the sun and feet being like pillars of fire.

Revelation 10:1 says that "His face was like the sun." Surely here, close to His coming to the earth openly, He will not be like the morning star, which appears before the darkest time, prior to dawn. When Christ comes to take possession of the earth, His feet will be "like pillars of fire." Here, pillars indicate steadfastness. Fire here signifies the holiness of God, according to which Christ will execute His judgment upon the earth.

B. Explain that Christ's placing His feet on the sea and on the land is His treading on them.

To tread on them is to take possession of them. This indicates that Christ is coming down to take possession of the earth. Only He is worthy to open the scroll of God's economy, and only He is qualified to possess the earth. In Joshua, God told the people that they would possess whatever part of the land the sole of their foot would tread upon. Christ, as another Angel sent by God, will come to tread upon the sea and the earth, for the earth and the sea have both been given to Him as His inheritance.

Day 5 —

A. Expound in Revelation 10:7 that the completion of God's mystery will be at the trumpeting of the seventh trumpet.

In Revelation 10:7 we see that the completion of God's mystery will be at the trumpeting of the seventh trumpet. When the seventh angel is about to trumpet, the mystery of God will be finished. In the dispensations from Adam to Moses and from Moses to Christ, everything was unveiled, manifested, and there was no mystery. It will be the same in the dispensation of the millennial kingdom and in the new heaven and new earth.

B. Explain Christ and the church being a mystery.

Christ's dwelling in us is a mystery. When non-Christians receive too much money in change from a cashier in a restaurant, they are pleased and consider it a bargain. But when we receive extra change, we return it. The unbelievers cannot understand what kind of people we are. Although today is a time of mystery, when the seventh trumpet is sounded, the mystery will be over.

Day 6 —

A. State the one mystery in all stages.

The mystery of the universe is God. The mystery of God, the New Testament reveals, is Christ. The mystery of Christ is the church. Actually these are simply three stages of one mystery. God is to be found in Christ, and Christ is to be found in the church. The church, then, is the mystery of Christ, who in turn is the mystery of God, who Himself is the mystery of the universe.

B. Expound the church being the mystery of Christ in Ephesians 3:4.

According to Ephesians 3:4, the church has a particular title—the mystery of Christ. When we consider Ephesians 3:4 in context, we see that the mystery of Christ is the church. Thus, Christ is the mystery of God, and the church is the mystery of Christ. God is a mystery, Christ is the mystery of God, and the church is the mystery of Christ. Hence, the church is actually a mystery within a mystery.

III. Conclusion:

Do not be content with the fact that one or two individuals have been saved through us. We should say, "Lord, I want to see the kingdom." I need to multiply and propagate so that I can produce a kingdom. This is a significant matter, and we should have faith in it, saying, "Lord, I want to have faith in multiplying and propagating, not for my own sake, but for Your kingdom." No matter where we travel, we need to learn to declare, "This is the inheritance of My Lord, which has been temporarily usurped by the enemy, but one day My Lord will come to claim His own things." Revelation 11:15 states that the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and His Christ, who will reign forever and ever. After Christ returns to judge the nations, the kingdom of the world will become the kingdom of Christ. The Lord will reign forever, meaning that He will reign in the Millennium and the New Heaven and New Earth until eternity. This indicates that the seventh trumpet includes the New Heaven and New Earth along with the New Jerusalem.