

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying
Message Four: The Resurrected, Ascended, and All-inclusive Christ

I. Overview:

Through death Christ entered into another realm, the realm of resurrection. Because Christ is the living One with an indestructible life, death is not able to hold Him. We need to know Christ in the power, sphere, and element of His resurrection; Christ's resurrection was the focus of the apostles' testimony. Whereas resurrection is a matter of life, Christ's ascension is a matter of position, and position is a matter of authority.

The ascended Christ has also obtained the throne, the glory, and all the authority in the universe. The ascended Christ is the Lord of all to possess all. The Christ revealed in Acts is the all-inclusive Christ, who is the Author of life in the imparting of life into others, which is to propagate Christ. As the Author of life, Christ is God's Servant, the Leader, and Savior. Leader is related to His authority, and Savior is related to His salvation; He rules sovereignly over the earth with His authority so that the environment might be fit for God's chosen people to receive His salvation. Christ is the Son of Man and Christ also is God. Christ is the Lord of all and He is the Judge, having been designated by God to be the Judge of the living and the dead. Christ is the Lord Jesus, the object of the believers' faith.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound the Lord's resurrection being the focus of the apostles' testimony.

The Lord is both God and resurrection, possessing the indestructible life. Since He is such an ever-living One, death is not able to hold Him.

He delivered Himself to death, but death had no way to detain Him; rather, death was defeated by Him, and He rose up from it. The Lord's resurrection was the focus of the apostles' testimony. Thus, the apostles' testimony of Jesus Christ was all-inclusive.

B. Explain in resurrection the Lord Jesus becoming the life-giving Spirit in order to dispense life into them.

As long as the Lord Jesus was in the flesh, He was unable to be in the disciples. Therefore, in the Gospel of John He indicated to them that in resurrection He would then be able to enter into the disciples as life and remain in them as their person and thereby propagate Himself. After His resurrection the Lord Jesus came back to the disciples as the life-giving Spirit and breathed Himself into them.

Day 2 —

A. Expound in Acts 2:22-36 the main points of Peter's message preached.

Acts 2:22-36 Peter In Acts 2:22-36 Peter witnessed of Jesus in His work, death, resurrection, and ascension. In verse 36 Peter declared, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you have crucified." Jesus was made the Lord to possess all, and He was made the Christ to carry out God's commission.

B. Why was the Lord in His ascension made the Christ of God?

The Lord Jesus was also Christ, even from eternity. Furthermore, He was born as the Christ. However, in His ascension He was officially made the Christ of God. God had already appointed Him, but in His ascension He still inaugurated Him into His office as the Christ to carry out

God's commission. May we all be impressed with the fact that in Acts 2:36 Lord refers to possession, and Christ refers to commission.

Day 3 —

A. Expound Christ as the origin or Originator of life.

The Greek word rendered "Author" is *archegos*, meaning "author, origin, originator, chief leader, captain." It denotes Christ as the origin or Originator of life, hence the Author of life, in contrast to a murderer in the previous verse. Here Peter was saying that the Healer is the source of life, the Originator of life; He is the Author, the chief Leader, in life.

B. Explain the application of the word in Acts 3:15.

What we have in chapter 3 of Acts is not merely a matter of healing. Here we see the imparting of life into others. This is to propagate Christ. For such a

propagation we need the Lord as the Author of life, as the source of life. The reason people become sick is that they are weak in life. Medical doctors know that when we are weak in life, we may become ill. But if we are strong in life, the life will swallow up death.

Day 4 —

A. Fellowship the words in Acts 5:31 and how to experience them.

God exalted the man Jesus, who had been rejected and killed by the Jewish leaders, as the highest Leader, the Prince, the Ruler of the kings to rule over the world, and the Savior to save God's chosen people. Leader is related to His authority, and Savior to His salvation. He rules sovereignly over the earth with His authority that the environment might be fit for God's chosen people to receive His salvation.

B. Explain that who rules the earth today.

Who rules the earth today? We may say that the earth is ruled by kings and presidents, but the Lord Jesus as the highest Ruler is above them. The New Testament speaks of Christ as the Ruler of the kings, and Peter said that He is the Leader, the chief Ruler. In a very real sense, Christ as the Ruler of the kings dethrones all the kings.

Day 5 —

A. Explain the sight of Stephen having seen in Acts 7:55.

Acts 7:55 speaks of Stephen seeing Jesus standing at the right hand of God. This verse unveils that Christ is the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God to be the comfort, encouragement, and strength to the one martyred for Him. Stephen saw the ascended Christ as the Son of Man. This means that the Christ who is in the heavens still has His humanity; He still possesses a human nature.

B. Expound the experience of Stephen's before martyrdom.

According to Acts 7:55, Stephen saw the glory of God. This was a great vindication and encouragement to the persecuted one. Stephen also saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God. The Lord in ascension is usually referred to as sitting at the right hand of God. Sitting is for resting, whereas standing is for working. The Son of Man was standing at the right hand of God. This indicates that the Lord was greatly concerned for His persecuted one.

Day 6 —

A. Fellowship that Peter in Acts 10:34 said God being not a respecter of persons.

In Acts 10:34 first, Peter said that God is not a respecter of persons. Then he went on to say that in every nation those who fear God and work righteousness are acceptable to Him. Those who fear God and work righteousness in every nation are still a part of fallen mankind. God accepts them in view of the redemption of Christ. Outside of Christ, no fallen man is justified by his works.

B. Explain God's raising Him from the dead being strong proof of this.

Christ is a man to judge the world, designated by God in righteousness, and proved by God's raising Him from the dead. The day set by God for the judgment of the world will be the day when Christ will judge living men on the throne of His glory before the millennium. He will be the Judge of the dead after the millennium at the great white throne. God's raising Him from the dead is strong proof of this.

III. Conclusion:

Jewish people studied the Old Testament week by week, but they did not pay attention to Christ. In Acts Chapter 13, Paul began to recount the history up to the time of King David. From among the descendants of King David, God brought a Saviour—Jesus Christ—who is the means of salvation. Emphasis was placed on Christ's crucifixion and in His resurrection to becoming God's first-born Son, who is the giver of life and the one through whom life is multiplied.

According to the New Testament, the Lord Jesus is the Son of God in two respects. First, He is the only begotten Son of God; second, He is now the first-born Son of God. John 1:18 speaks of the only begotten Son of God. In terms of eternity, Christ is the only begotten Son, which is His eternal identity. However, through His resurrection, He was born as the first-born Son. The title "first-born" indicates that God has many sons. Those of us who believe in Christ are the sons of God and are among the many brothers of the Lord, the many brothers of the first-born Son.