

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying

Message One : The Bride—the Goal of the Lord's Recovery

I. Overview:

The Bible is a romance, in the most pure and the most holy sense, of a universal couple—God in Christ as the Bridegroom and God's redeemed people as the bride. Throughout the centuries God created man with the purpose of having a counterpart. The entire Bible is a divine romance, and Song of Songs is an abridged form of this romance. In the Bible we see that God is seeking our love. The marriage of the Lamb is the issue of the completion of God's New Testament economy, and the bride of Christ in Revelation 19 is composed of all the overcomers. The readiness of the bride depends on the maturity in life of the overcomes. We need to adorn and consummate the New Jerusalem as the bride of Christ with God the Father as the gold, God the Son as the pearl, and God the Spirit as the precious stone. The overcomers not only are mature in life but also are built together. It was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints. Clean refers to the nature, and bright refers to the expression. The fine linen indicates our overcoming life's ; it is the Christ whom we live out of our being. Blessed are they who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb. To be called to the marriage dinner of Christ, which will usher the overcoming believers into the enjoyment of the millennium, is to be blessed.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain the words in 1 Corinthians 2:9 and how to experience them.

To realize and participate in the deep and hidden things God has ordained and prepared for us requires us not only to believe in Him but also to love Him. To fear God, to worship God, and to believe in God are all inadequate; to love Him is the indispensable requirement. To love God means to set our entire being—spirit, soul, and body, with the heart, soul, mind, and strength absolutely on Him.

B. Expound the Bible being a romance of a universal couple.

If you have entered into the deep thought of the Bible, you will realize that the Bible is a romance, in the most pure and the most holy sense, of a universal couple. The male of this couple is God Himself. This very God, after a long process, has resulted in Christ as the Bridegroom. The female of this couple is a corporate human being, God's redeemed people, including all the saints in the Old Testament and New Testament.

Day 2 —

A. Expound both of the Gospels and the Epistles revealing bridegroom and bride.

The Gospels give us a full record of Christ as our Savior. However, have you noticed that the four Gospels also tell us that Christ has come as the

Bridegroom. He has come for His bride. In the Epistles Christ and the church are portrayed as husband and wife. If we know what is unfolded in the Epistles, we will see that Christ is revealed in them as our Husband and that the believers are revealed as His wife.

B. Explain in Revelation 19 revealing Christ's coming for His bride.

In Revelation 19 we see that Christ will enjoy a wedding feast, and in chapter 21 we see that the New Jerusalem will be His wife. The ultimate consummation of the whole Bible is this universal couple.

Furthermore, the Bible tells us that this couple with the two persons are one, universal, corporate man with Christ, the Husband, as the Head and with the church, the wife, as the Body.

Day 3 —

A. Expound Gospels and Revelation regarding the revealing of the spouse.

Revelation 19:7-9 unveils that the Lord Jesus is the Lamb as the Bridegroom. Similarly, in the Gospel of John, Christ is presented both as the

Lamb and as the Bridegroom. The Lamb is for redemption, and the Bridegroom is for the wedding. The redemption was accomplished by Christ as the Lamb of God, and the wedding will take place when Christ as the coming Bridegroom takes His bride.

B. Explain that Christ's goal is not to remove sin, but it is to have the bride.

In the book of Revelation, we see again that Christ our Redeemer is the Lamb and the coming Bridegroom. Therefore, as the Bridegroom, He must have a wedding. The wedding of the Lamb will be a universal wedding. It will be the marriage of the Redeemer and the redeemed. At the end of the Bible we see a city, the New Jerusalem. This city is the wife, and the redeeming God is the Husband.

Day 4 —

A. Explain “His wife has made herself ready.” in Revelation 19:7.

We need to pay attention to the phrase His wife has made herself ready. Matthew 25:1-13 speaks of the parable of the ten virgins. In this parable

the prudent virgins who took oil in their vessels—who had the Spirit of God went in with the bridegroom “to the wedding feast,” into the enjoyment of the marriage dinner of the Lamb at His coming back.

B. Expound the meaning of “to be ready” in Matthew 25:10.

The bride has made herself ready, that God has completed His building work in man, and that we have grown and matured in the Lord’s life. These three matters are actually one matter. The church today is a miniature of the glorious New Jerusalem in the future, and it will continually grow until the day that it is fully grown. We grow through God’s continuous building work in us.

Day 5 —

A. State Revelation 19:8, “... be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean;...”

It refers to Christ lived out of us in our daily life. This indicates that while the church is under great degradation, we should be the overcomers to

live Christ and even live Him out as our subjective righteousness day by day. In verse 8 the word clean refers to the nature, whereas bright refers

to the expression. The word “righteousnesses” may be rendered “righteous acts”, which is Christ, whom we live out of our being.

B. Expound that the use of righteousnesses in Revelation 19:8 is in the plural.

The righteousness that is Christ Himself is sufficient for us to be justified and saved; this righteousness is singular in number, however, and proves that what is mentioned in this verse is not Christ as our righteousness for us to be justified. Rather, it is righteous deeds, the daily walk, the Christian living, which Christ as our life works out through us.

Day 6 —

A. Explain the bride and the guests referring to the same group of person.

The bride of the Lamb and the guests invited to the marriage dinner of the Lamb refer to the same group of person. In other words, those who constitute the bride of Christ are the guests invited to the wedding feast.

The marriage dinner of the Lamb is the wedding feast in Matthew 22:2. It will be a reward to the overcoming believers. The five foolish virgins in Matthew 25 will miss it. To be invited to the wedding feast of Christ is to be blessed.

B. Expound the words in Matthew 22:14, and how to apply them.

Matthew 22:14 says, “Many are called but few are chosen.” To be called is one thing, but to be chosen is another. Those who will follow the Lord to fight against Antichrist will not only be called but also chosen.

Although we have the assurance that we have been called, we do not yet have the assurance that we will be chosen. Only those who are chosen will be invited to the marriage feast of the Lamb.

III. Conclusion:

The Gospels recorded that God came to earth thirty-three and a half years courting man. The entire account of the church is a response of God’s chosen people to His love. Paul said, “ I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. Betrothal is like an engagement; today we are living in an age of engagement. The marriage will take place when Christ returns to marry His bride. After that, the life of marriage will take place in the New Jerusalem. If we trace the Lord’s recovery, we will come to the conclusion that what the Lord is currently recovering is the building of the Body of Christ. This is God’s ultimate goal, and it should also be our vision. This does not mean that we should ignore the gospel preaching or the work of restoration. However, our vision today is to build up the Body of Christ in order to prepare His bride.