

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying

Message Three : The Victory of the Overcomers Seen with Daniel and His Companions

I. Overview:

In his devilish tempting of Daniel and his companions, Nebuchadnezzar changed their names, which indicated that they belonged to God, to names that made them one with idols. Nebuchadnezzar's devilish temptation was first to seduce the four brilliant young descendants of God's defeated elect, Daniel and his three companions, to be defiled by partaking of his unclean food, food offered to idol. When Daniel and his companions refused to eat unclean food and chose instead to eat vegetables, in principle they rejected the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Daniel and his companions were victorious over the devilish blinding that prevents people from seeing the great human image and the crushing stone. Daniel and his companions were victorious over the seduction of idol worship. Whatever is not the true God is an idol. Daniel's companions had a true spirit of martyrdom; they stood for the Lord, being thrown at the command of Nebuchadnezzar into a blazing furnace. Daniel and his companions were victorious over the covering that hinders people from seeing the ruling of the heavens by the God of the heavens. Daniel and his companions were victorious over the ignorance concerning the result of the debauchery before God and the insult to His holiness. Daniel and his companions were victorious over the subtlety that prohibited the faithfulness of the overcomers in the worship of God.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain the content of Daniel 1 through 6.

This victory was over the demonic diet in Daniel 1. The victory was over the devilish blinding that prevents people from seeing the great human image in Nebuchadnezzar's dream in chapter 2. The victory was over the seduction of idol worship in chapter 3. The victory was over the covering that hinders people from seeing the ruling of the heavens by the God of the heavens in chapter 4. The victory was over the ignorance concerning the result of the debauchery

before God and the insult to His holiness in chapter 5. And the victory was over the subtlety that prohibited the faithfulness of the overcomers in the worship of God.

B. Expound there being overcomers in God's people among their captivity.

The captivity to Babylon was the utter destruction of the testimony of God's elect in the worship of the unique God, Jehovah, by the carrying of some of the vessels of the temple of God into the land of Shinar and their being put into the temple of idols. However, God was not disappointed, for He still had some overcomers—Daniel and his companions. In His sovereignty He had arranged for these young people to be His overcomers.

Day 2 —

A. Expound the choice food for king being defiling, not clean.

The choice food was defiling, not clean for it had been offered to Nebuchadnezzar's gods. For Daniel and his companions to eat that food would have been to take in the defilement, to take in the idols, and thus to become one with Satan. If they had done this, God would have been finished and would have had nothing on earth for Himself and His interest.

B. Explain the issue of eating Nebuchadnezzar's choice food.

To eat Nebuchadnezzar's choice food is to take Satan as our supply and to become one with Satan. I am concerned that you may be eating the choice food provided for you by today's Nebuchadnezzar. If we are careless in our eating, in our shopping, in where we go, and in what we do, we may take in something related to idols, something demonic. We are what we eat. If we eat godly food—that is, if we eat God-food, God as our food—we will be one with God.

Day 3 —

A. State Satan's strategy in Daniel 3.

In Daniel 3 Satan's strategy was to seduce the young overcomers among God's defeated elect in the worship of idols through Nebuchadnezzar's blindness. Nebuchadnezzar made a great image of gold, sixty cubits in height, and set it up in the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar commanded all the peoples, nations, and languages to worship his golden image. Whoever did not worship was to be thrown into the midst of a blazing furnace of fire.

B. Expound the overcomers' boldly responses.

Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, tempted the young overcomers by giving them another chance to worship his golden image, with the threat of throwing them into a blazing furnace of fire. The three overcomers answered, "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the blazing furnace of fire, and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king".

Day 4 —

A. Expound the purpose of God's economy.

In His economy God administrates the universe in order to fulfill His purpose. His purpose is to give Christ the preeminence in all things. Apart from God's having a people, there is no way for Christ to be made preeminent. As those who have been chosen by God to be His people for Christ's preeminence, we are under God's heavenly rule. Under God's heavenly rule, everything is working together for our good.

B. Explain the purpose of a heavenly administration.

The earth is under the rule of a heavenly administration. The heavens rule for us, and Christ is for us.

Furthermore, we are under God's heavenly rule for Christ. The purpose of the heavenly ruling is to complete God's elect so that Christ may be preeminent, that He may be the first—the centrality—and everything—the universality.

Day 5 —

A. Expound Belshazzar being an insult to God's holiness.

Belshazzar made a great feast for a thousand of his lords, and he drank wine before them. Here we see Belshazzar's debauchery before God. Debauchery is an overindulgence in eating and drinking for an adulterous purpose. Belshazzar commanded men to bring the gold and silver vessels that Nebuchadnezzar his forefather had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem, that he used them in worshipping idols. That was an insult to God's holiness.

B. Explain God's hand coming forth to deal with him.

At the very moment that they were drinking wine and praising their gods, the fingers of a man's hand came forth and wrote opposite the lampstand upon the plaster of the wall of the king's palace. When Belshazzar saw that part of the hand that wrote, his countenance changed and his thoughts alarmed him. The joints of his hips loosened and his knees began to knock together. He was a threatened man and had no peace to drink, no peace to continue his debauchery.

Day 6 —

A. Expound how crucial Daniel 6 is.

Daniel 6 is very crucial because it shows us how God carries out His economy with His elect for Christ's coming. God desires to carry out His economy, but man is needed to pray for His economy on earth. God carries out His economy on the earth through His faithful channels of prayer. Satan's strategy is to frustrate the prayer that is for God's move. Thus, the center of this chapter is man's prayer for the carrying out of God's economy.

B. Explain what revelation in Daniel 6:4 through 9 gives us.

We see the subtle attack of Satan on Daniel concerning the worship of God. Being jealous of Daniel, the chief ministers and satraps sought to find a ground for accusation against Daniel, but they could find no ground for accusation as he was faithful. Therefore, the chief ministers and satraps took counsel together that the king should establish a statute and make firm an edict that anyone who made a petition within the next thirty days to any god besides the king should be cast into the lions' den. The intention of Satan wanted to stop the channel of prayer.

III. Conclusion:

Daniel and his companions accepted God's authority and submitted themselves under it. In them also was the temple of God, the manifestation of God. When his companions absolutely refused to bow down to idols, that was their expression of the declaration of God. They seemed to say, "Yes, we are in Babylon, but we are descendants of Abraham. We cannot worship the idols here. We will testify to this glorious God, and we will let the glorious God be manifested through us!" So on that day, when his three friends stood before the idol, God was fully manifested. Even after King Nebuchadnezzar cast them into the blazing furnace of fire and went to look, he found that three had been thrown in, yet now there were four. The appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods. That was God being present among them and being manifested through them even in the blazing furnace of fire.