

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message Four : The Recovery of the Building of the House of God through the Divine Encouragement of the Prophets of God

I. Overview:

In the rebuilding of the recovered temple, both Joshua and Zerubbabel became somewhat weak; therefore, God used the prophets to strengthen, assist, and encourage them. The self-serving and God-neglecting returned captives were taking care of their houses but not Jehovah's house. The coming of Christ as the Desire of all the nations depends on the return of God's people from their captivity in Babylon and the recovery of the building of God's house. The highest service that we can render to God is for us to glorify God by living the life of a God-man. The book of Zechariah reveals that the seven lamps of the lampstand are the seven Spirits of God, the sevenfold intensified Spirit, as the seven eyes of Jehovah, the seven eyes of the redeeming Lamb, and the seven eyes of the building stone for the rebuilding of the house of God. Within us we have two lamps—the sevenfold intensified Spirit of God within our spirit. In principle, all the believers in Christ should be sons of fresh oil, those who are filled with the Spirit as the oil, to flow out the Spirit into the lampstand for its shining testimony. We all should be olive trees, emptying God from ourselves into others; in this way oil will be provided to the needy.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound the central thought of the book of Haggai.

The building of the house of Jehovah is related to the welfare of God's people today and to the coming of the millennial kingdom with its Messiah in the age of restoration. Thus, we should consider that Haggai refers to us, since we are the reality of the type. Jehovah's dealing with the returned captives signifies His dealing with us in the recovery.

B. Explain Haggai 1:5, God wanted the people to consider their ways.

The first thing Jehovah did was to charge the people to consider their ways. Jehovah pointed out that the returned captives had sown much but had brought in little; that they had eaten and drunk but without satisfaction; that they had clothed themselves but without being warmed. If we do not have the heart to take care of God's house for His satisfaction, no matter how much we eat or drink or how well we dress ourselves, there will be no satisfaction.

Day 2 —

A. Expound the people responded well by listening to the words of the prophet.

Zerubbabel, Joshua, and] the remnant of the people responded to Jehovah by listening to the voice of Jehovah their God and to the words of Haggai the prophet, and they were in fear before Jehovah. Then Haggai, Jehovah's messenger, encouraged the people with Jehovah's declaration, "I am with you". Jehovah stirred up the spirit of all the people, and they came and did work in the house of Jehovah. What a wonderful response!

B. Explain Haggai 2:7, Christ is the desire of all nations.

I appreciate the line in Charles Wesley's hymn that says, "Come, Desire of nations, come!" Christ truly is the desire of all mankind [cf.]. All people desire to have life, light, peace, goodness, and righteousness, yet they do not realize that what they desire is really Christ. Christ is the reality of every human virtue. Thus, to desire virtue actually is to desire Christ.

Day 3 —

A. Expound the glory of the Lord leaving and returning the temple.

In his early ministry Ezekiel had seen the glory of the Lord depart in a series of steps. First, the glory of the Lord left the temple and hesitated upon the threshold. From the threshold it went out to the city. From the city the glory of the Lord went further out to the Mount of Olives on the east side of the city (11:23), and from there the glory of the Lord ascended to the heavens. The glory of the Lord returned because the building of the temple was completed.

B. Explain that the glory of God returned after the building of the temple was completed.

The glory of God returned only after the building of the temple was completed. If we want to dwell in the church and manifest His glory in the church, the church must be complete. In order for the glorious God to dwell in the

church, the church must be built up to become the dwelling place of God. If we have the grace to be built up in the church, the God of glory will live among us.

Day 4 —

A. Expound the seven eyes in Zechariah 4:10.

In Zechariah 4:10, “these seven,” which are the eyes of Jehovah, are the seven eyes on the stone in 3:9 and are also the seven eyes of the Lamb, Christ. Thus, the stone, Jehovah, and the Lamb are one. Christ is the redeeming Lamb and the building stone, and He is also Jehovah. The seven eyes of Christ are the seven Spirits of God, indicating that the Holy Spirit is essentially one with Christ.

B. Explain that we have two lamps within us.

Within us, we have two lamps, the Spirit of God and our human spirit. Before we were saved, our spirit was a broken lamp. After we repented, the lamp was restored and began to give forth light. With regeneration this lamp also had another lamp come into it. This was the Spirit of God. It is because of these two lamps that there is so much shining within us. The two lamps become one.

Day 5 —

A. Why is experiencing the greatest amount of transformation the one who is absolutely open to the Lord?

Who experiences the greatest amount of transformation? It is the one who is absolutely open to the Lord. “Lord, I am fully open to You. I want to keep opening to You. My whole being is open—my heart, my mind, my will, and my emotions. Keep shining. Search me thoroughly. Enlighten and enliven me. I will accept it fully.” In this way, the light will penetrate into every area, and life simultaneously will be supplied to you.

B. Fellowship that Christ is qualified to be the Executor of God’s administration.

The all-inclusive One is the Executor of God’s administration. Because He is qualified and worthy, the seven seals were handed over to Him. This One is qualified to open the seven seals, to carry out God’s economy. The way He carries out God’s economy is by the seven Spirits as His eyes...Christ is the very focal Executor of God’s economy, yet He needs the seven Spirits as His eyes to carry out God’s economy.

Day 6 —

A. Expound the two olive trees on the sides of the lampstand in Zechariah 4:3.

These two olive trees signify Joshua the high priest and Zerubbabel the governor at the time, who were the two sons of oil, filled with the Spirit of Jehovah for the rebuilding of God’s temple. The two sons of oil are also the two witnesses in the last three and a half years of the present age, who will be witnesses of God in the great tribulation for the strengthening of God’s peoples.

B. Explain Zechariah 4:12 that the branches empty the gold from themselves.

Zechariah 4:12 says that the branches “empty the gold from themselves.” The word gold here refers to the oil. The oil and the gold are one. The oil denotes the Spirit, and the Spirit is God. Furthermore, in typology gold signifies God. The gold that fills the bowl is the Spirit; the Spirit is God; and God is typified by gold. As we apply this matter to our experience today, we see that the Spirit who flows out of us is God, and God is gold.

III. Conclusion:

This message spoke mainly about two prophets, They functioned, exercised the portion ordained by God, speaking the word given to them by Jehovah, first strengthening the priesthood of Joshua, then the leadership of Zerubbabel, so that they could carry out their function to fulfill God's economy. The divine encouragement given by the prophets, in addition to strengthening and raising the morality of the people, stirred the spirit of the people, rebuked them when necessary, and charged them to rebuild the work of the temple continually. Today, we will learn to take our time for Lord's interests. There are many sinners waiting for us to preach them gospel and many saints, especially young people, are waiting for us to nourish cherish them. We need to consider how we will answer the Lord when He returns. We all need to take this matter seriously and how we will account for the Lord's return.