

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying
Message One : The Government of God for the Economy of God

I. Overview:

The subject of Peter's Epistles is the government of God with His judgment. In the New Testament age it begins from the house of God and continues until the coming of the day of the Lord. However, by all these judgments the Lord God will clear up and purify the entire universe that He may have a new heaven and a new earth for a new universe. The central focus and basic structure of 1 and 2 Peter are the Triune God operating to accomplish His complete salvation. He unveils the crucial things related to God's economy from four sides. From the side of the Triune God, God disciplines them by some of His varied governmental judgments and He will perfect them by His all grace. From the side of the believers, who are being guarded by the power of God, are growing by feeding on the milk of the word, are developing in life the spiritual virtues, and are being built up into a spiritual house. From the side of Satan, the devil as a roaring lion is walking about, seeking someone to devour. From the side of the universe, all the men and things, not belonging to God, will be judged. Then the new heavens and new earth will come as a new universe, in which God's righteousness will dwell for eternity.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain Peter's Epistles being concerned with the government of God.

Since Peter's Epistles are concerned with the government of God, the judgment of God and of the Lord is referred to repeatedly as one of the main items. God's judgment began from the angels and passed through the generations of man in the Old Testament. Then in the New Testament age it begins from the house of God and continues until the coming of the day of the Lord, which will be a day of judgment on the Jews, the believers, and the Gentiles before the millennium.

B. Expound Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

In his interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, Daniel explained that the Most High God had decreed that he would be driven out from among mankind, dwell with the beasts of the field, be made to eat grass as bulls, and lose his reasoning for a period of seven times, until he came to know that the Most High is the Ruler over the kingdom of men. Your kingdom will be assured to you after you have come to know that the heavens do rule.

Day 2 —

A. Explain what the case of Nebuchadnezzar teaches us.

The case of Nebuchadnezzar teaches us that we need to be careful and not consider what we have achieved. Our achievement may make us proud, and this may usher in God's judgment. God's judgment upon Nebuchadnezzar reduced him to nothing. This was the reason he could say of the Lord, "All the inhabitants of earth are considered as nothing; but He does according to His will, there is no one who can resist His hand."

B. Expound that the first principle for man to live a proper human life is revering God.

To revere God is to consider and regard Him in everything, never forgetting that He is the wonderful God who has created us. When we are about to lose our temper, we should revere God. Revering God stops us from doing evil. Revering God also causes us to be touched by the sufferings of others and to show mercy and compassion to them. In everything I respected and regarded God. That caused a great change in my life.

Day 3 —

A. Explain the basic structure of 1 and 2 Peter.

Although the subject of 1 and 2 Peter is God's government, especially His government shown in His judgment. What is the focus of these Epistles? What is their basic structure? In 1 Peter 5:10 says, "The God of all grace, He who has called you into His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself perfect, establish, strengthen, and ground you.

B. Expound chapter 1 of 1 Peter, seeing the operation of the Triune God for His full salvation.

In verse 2 we see the foreknowledge of God the Father, the sanctification of the Spirit, and the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ. This verse reveals the Father's foreknowledge, the Son's redemption, and the

Spirit's application. This is the operation of the Triune God to carry out God's full salvation. In verse 3 Peter says that the Father has regenerated us unto a living hope. The full salvation of God is composed of three elements.

Day 4 —

A. Expound the matter covered by Peter in his writings being the Triune God.

Peter indicates that the God in whom we believe is the Triune God. In the opening words of Peter's first Epistle, we can see the Triune God: "Chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father in the sanctification of the Spirit unto the obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ." Here we have the foreknowledge of God the Father, the sanctification of the Spirit, and the obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.

B. Explain the way for us to partake of the Triune God in Peter's writings.

The way involves the hidden man of the heart, and this hidden man is our spirit. This hidden man, our human spirit, is the means by which we enjoy the Triune God as our portion. 1 Peter 4:14 means "the Spirit of glory and that of God." Our human spirit as the hidden man of the heart and God's Spirit as the Spirit of glory and as the Spirit of Christ are the means for us to partake of God as our portion.

Day 5 —

A. Fellowship the heart of 1 Peter.

The heart of 1 Peter is the operation of the Triune God to carry out His threefold salvation, which includes regeneration, redemption, and application.

We have become God's children through regeneration, and now we need to feed on His word in order to grow unto full salvation. Then we will be transformed in order to be built together to provide God a dwelling place and to be His expression.

B. Explain that the saints should pay attention to this basic structure and don't be distracted from it.

This basic structure in 1 and 2 Peter and Jude is the Triune God operating to accomplish a threefold salvation so that we may be regenerated, that we may feed on His word, and that we may grow, be transformed, and be built up in order that He may have a dwelling place and that we may express Him. This basic thought can also be seen in the Epistles of Paul. We don't be distracted from the basic structure.

Day 6 —

A. Explain that Peter covered the entire economy of God from the side of the Triune God.

God the Father has chosen a people in eternity according to His foreknowledge and called them into His glory Christ, foreknown by God before the foundation of the world but manifested in the last times has redeemed and saved God's chosen people by His vicarious death through His resurrection in life and ascension in power. The Spirit, sent from heaven, has sanctified and purified those whom Christ has redeemed and saved. The angels long to look into these things.

B. Expound that Peter covered the entire economy of God from the side of the believers.

The believers, as God's possession, were chosen by God, called by His glory and virtue, redeemed by Christ, regenerated by God through His living word, and saved through the resurrection of Christ. They are now being guarded by the power of God, are being purified to love one another, are growing by feeding on the milk of the word, are developing in life the spiritual virtues, and are being transformed and built up into a spiritual house.

III. Conclusion:

If we want to know God's life and have an experience of it, we must read the epistles of Paul and John. But if we want to know God in our practical life and actions, and know what God is doing in us, we must know the messages transmitted in the epistles of Peter. Because the books of Peter talk about the practical life and actions of Christians, and about God's hand on us, which is God's dealing and control of His children. God has regenerated us to be His many sons, and we have His life and participate in His divine nature. Drinking the guileless milk of the word in order that by it we may grow unto salvation. It implies being transformed into living stones, being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood, being a holy nation, and to tell out the virtues through His divine life and nature. This is the central point of God's economy.