

**Lucan:** It's time to begin. Bro. David, will you please offer the opening prayer?

**Zahakiel:** Dear Father in Heaven, We give you thanks for your guidance and blessings in the week that has past, and for the recent New Moon and the plans you have given to us for the upcoming holy days. May our wills and thoughts be united toward your perfect purpose in this and all matters. Bless us this Sabbath day with your joy and peace, and may your wisdom rest upon us as we receive the message prepared for us from the foundation of the world, for we ask it in Yahshua's name. Amen.

**Adriel777:** 😊 Amen

**Kim:** Amen

**Lucan:** Amen

**Naraiel:** Amen

**Elyna:** Amen

**Peter:** Amen

**Barb:** Amen

**Nattie:** Amine.

**Lucan:** Tonight's message is "Elijah and the god of Ekron." We read of the ministry of John the Baptist:

"Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? He said, I [am] the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias." (John 1:22, 23)

We know of the Old Testament Elijah; we read here of the New Testament Elijah, as verified by Yahshua:

"And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things. But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them. Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist." (Matthew 17:10-13)

Yahshua here brings to light not only the Elijah of the first Advent, but the Elijah of the second. We read that "Elijah is come already, and they knew him not;" we also read "Elijah truly shall come first and restore all things." "Elijah is come" speaks of the past and present; "Elijah shall come" speaks to the future, when "all things" shall be restored. This is the day in which we live, and the work in which we are blessed to participate. John did not "restore all things;" he was sent to do so, but the people to whom they were to be restored "knew him not, and have done unto him whatsoever they listed." This is why Yahshua described John as Elijah, but John himself denied being Elijah. The message was given, but it was not heeded; it did not accomplish the thing designed.

And what message was this?

We read of the testimony of John, "I [am] the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias."

Where does the prophet Isaiah say this?

"The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." (Isaiah 40:3)

As we have seen in recent studies, particularly regarding Isaiah, there is often great value in reading the context of quotations from the prophets. We know, for example, the nature of this "highway":

"And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it [shall be] for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err [therein]." (Isaiah 35:8)

Yet in the immediate context we find there is more to this voice than merely what John had opportunity to quote:

Let us continue, to see what more there was to this message, and this cry:

"Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:" (Isaiah 40:4)

Here we see the work of Elijah, and the work John sought to do in the hearts of the people. The proud were to be laid low; the low were to be lifted up. The crooked characters were to be made straight; the rough traits to be smoothed. This was the work of Israel to prepare for their Messiah in the days of John.

This is the work of Israel to prepare for our Messiah in the days of the remnant. As then, so now; Yahshua comes seeking the fruit of a Christlike character in His people, and the message of Elijah is given to prepare the 144,000 for the gathering. The next verse tells us what happens when this work is accomplished:

"And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see [it] together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken [it]." (Isaiah 40:5)

We will never know this side of heaven how different, or even shorter, history might have been if Israel had been true to their trust. Yahweh wrought mightily through Paul, a single converted Pharisee, to fulfill His purpose to the gentiles; how rapidly might the light have spread if the whole system of Israel had been converted! Yet Isaiah's description of the voice crying in the wilderness does not end even here.

We continue:

"The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh [is] grass, and all the goodness thereof [is] as the flower of the field: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people [is] grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever." (Isaiah 40:6-8)

This passage ought to be familiar to us; we read elsewhere of the gospel:

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh [is] as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you." (1 Peter 1:23-25)

The message then is the message now; the Word of Yahweh does not fail. It creates a new creature, "born not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible." That seed cannot be corrupted, even as the Word cannot be corrupted, but lives and abides forever. So too does the victorious life into which we are reborn "live and abide forever." It endures for ever, even as "the word of the Lord" endureth forever; for "this is the word by which the gospel" is preached, received, and grown in the heart.

**Adriel777:** Amen

**Lucan:** This message has no confidence in man. It has no confidence in the power of the flesh, that is, earthly might; it has no confidence in the power of the flesh, that is, personal willpower. It has no respect to the glory or reputation of the great men of the earth, for "all flesh is as grass, and the glory of man as the flower of grass." It has no respect to the supposed wisdom of those who do not know Yahweh, for "the grass withereth, the flower fadeth, because the Spirit of Yahweh bloweth upon it; surely the people is grass."

It is the Spirit that gives life; it is the Spirit that gives wisdom, and power, and uninterrupted victory. The Spirit is given in its fullness, and when it "blows upon" the people, the blind are made to see their sins, and those that see their sins are made blind by refusing the opportunity to be born again. Those who do not have and live this message do not have life in them, for sin and Life cannot abide in the same vessel.

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye [are] the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." (John 15:4, 5)

When we depend on Yahweh, we depend on His Spirit and His counsel; we depend on the means He has ordained for the guidance and sanctification of His people.

We will do something uncommon tonight, and reference a poignant commentary from Mrs. White on this subject:

"Those who are disloyal to God cannot be safe counselors. They have not that wisdom which comes from above..."

Those who are not connected with God are connected with the enemy of God, and while they may be honest in the advice they give, they themselves are blinded and deceived. Satan puts suggestions into the mind and words into the mouth that are entirely contrary to the mind and

will of God. Thus he works through them to allure us into false paths. He will mislead, entangle, and ruin us if he can.

Anciently it was a great sin for the people of God to give themselves away to the enemy, and open before them either their perplexity or their prosperity. Under the ancient economy it was a sin to offer sacrifice upon the wrong altar. It was a sin to offer incense kindled by the wrong fire.

We are in danger of mingling the sacred and the common. The holy fire from God is to be used in our efforts. The true altar is Christ; the true fire is the Holy Spirit. This is our inspiration. It is only as the Holy Spirit leads and guides a man that he is a safe counselor. If we turn aside from God and from his chosen ones to inquire at strange altars we shall be answered according to our works.

Let us show perfect trust in our Leader. Let us seek wisdom from the Fountain of wisdom. In every perplexing or trying situation, let God's people agree as touching the thing they desire, and then let them unite in offering prayer to God, and persevere in asking for the help they need. We are to acknowledge God in all our counsel, and when we ask of Him, we are to believe that we receive the very blessings sought." [3SM 300](LMK)

**Elyna:** F

**Pastor Chick:** F

**Barb:** F

**Zahakiel:** F

**Naraiel:** F

**Adriel777:** F

**Peter:** F

**Kim:** F

**Peter Jr 18:** F

**Lucan:** To those who receive this message, the very next verse of Isaiah speaks:

"O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift [it] up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!" (Isaiah 40:9)

Yet Zion did not bring these good tidings; Jerusalem did not light up her voice with strength. Whereas Jerusalem was to say to Israel, "Behold your God!" we find that this was instead declared to them by a heathen ruler:

"And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and (Pilate) saith unto the Jews, Behold your King!" (John 19:14)

And how did Jerusalem respond?

"But they cried out, Away with [him], away with [him], crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar." (John 19:15)

So it is today, that Elijah is indeed come, and they knew him not, but did unto him whatsoever they listed. The work of restoration nonetheless went forward with the ekklesia; the church; the "called out" ones. So today, the restoration of all things continues with those who are called out, with the church, with the "eklesia." Thus, where Jerusalem failed to cry "Behold your God," now "the Spirit and the Bride say, come." In the failure of the people before us, we see the lesson written in words of fire:

"Cease ye from man, whose breath [is] in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of?" (Isaiah 2:22)

A man either has the Spirit of Yahweh and is a safe counselor, or he is taken captive by Satan at his will, and cannot be trusted with sacred things regardless of his sincerity. The Jewish church exulted in the wisdom and counsel of those who had no personal knowledge of the power of God, but had many right doctrines about Him. They feared the earthly power of the Romans taking away their kingdom, and thus betrayed their place in the one Kingdom that would have prevented such an outcome. In the latter portion of the same chapter of Isaiah, we read words designed to prevent such a calamity:

"Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth? [It is] he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof [are] as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in: That bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity. Yea, they shall not be planted; yea, they shall not be sown: yea, their stock shall not take root in the earth: and he shall also blow upon them, and they shall wither, and the whirlwind shall take them away as stubble." (Isaiah 40:21-24) (LMK)

**Zahakiel:** F

**Pastor Chick:** F

**Adriel777:** F

**Barb:** F

**Naraiel:** F

**Kim:** F

**Peter:** F

**Elyna:** F

**Nattie:** F

**Peter\_Jr\_18:** F

**Lucan:** The prophets that speak, but not by Yahweh, bring only desolation and destruction, though their words may seem a balm for a time. The rulers that wield the sword against Yah's people, but not against unrighteousness will come to nothing, for they war against Yahweh; they shall be brought to nothing, and taken away as stubble.

What of those rulers who go so far as to murder in their corruption?

We read the command of Yahshua, "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." (Matthew 10:28)

What foolishness must then possess a person or a church to trust in those rulers who know not God?

What unbelief must possess those who seek for the words of life among the dead?

It is the very spirit of idolatry, of inquiring of the heathen rather than to the Living God. We have skipped ahead in Isaiah to read the words above; let us resume where the prophet left off, immediately following the message and result of the ministry of Elijah:

"Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or [being] his counsellor hath taught him? With whom took he counsel, and [who] instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and shewed to him the way of understanding? ... All nations before him [are] as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity. To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him? The workman melteth a graven image, and the goldsmith spreadeth it over with gold, and casteth silver chains. He that [is] so impoverished that he hath no oblation chooseth a tree [that] will not rot; he seeketh unto him a cunning workman to prepare a graven image, [that] shall not be moved." (Isaiah 40:13, 14; 17-20) (LMK)

**Pastor Chick:** F

**Elyna:** F

**Zahakiel:** F

**Peter\_Jr\_18:** F

**Adriel777:** F

**Barb:** F

**Kim:** F

**Naraiel:** F

**Peter:** F

**Lucan:** Many are leavened into complacency regarding the sin of idolatry, thinking that because they do not bow down to statues or figurines, they are therefore clear in the matter. A few conscientious or educated ones know that opinions and beliefs can become idols, which gets a great deal closer to the heart of the matter.

Yet what does the Apostle say?

"As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol [is] nothing in the world, and that [there is] none other God but one." (1 Cor. 8:4)

Therefore it is not the idol itself that is at issue, for we know that there is no power behind them; the objects themselves are merely wood and stone. "An idol is nothing in the world."

“What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing? But [I say], that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.” (1 Cor. 10:19-21)

Here we cut to the heart of the matter; idolatry is sin because it is seeking counsel, power, and fellowship from the demons behind the idols; the spirits that inspired their creation in ages past.

Do we suppose that the demons have ceased to exist with the idols, in our “enlightened” age?

No; the sin of idolatry, or spiritualism, or seeking counsel from spirits other than Yahweh's, is defined by the spirits involved, not the form they choose to take. To resort to the world for counsel is to take counsel of their idols, for the spirit that worketh in the children of disobedience is the same spirit now as in ancient times. To seek the wisdom of those who profess to know God, but have not His power, is to seek water in the valley of dry bones while Yahshua offers us an endless stream of life-giving water.

“Is there not a God in Israel?”

In the days of Elijah, we read of a king in Israel who did just such a thing:

“And Ahaziah fell down through a lattice in his upper chamber that [was] in Samaria, and was sick: and he sent messengers, and said unto them, Go, enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron whether I shall recover of this disease. But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say unto them, [Is it] not because [there is] not a God in Israel, [that] ye go to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron? Now therefore thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die. And Elijah departed.” (2 Kings 1:2-4) (LMK)

**Elyna:** F

**Barb:** F

**Pastor Chick:** F

**Adriel777:** F

**Zahakiel:** F

**Peter:** F

**Kim:** F

**daphna dee:** F

**Nattie:** F.

**Peter\_Jr\_18:** F

**Lucan:** We have often spoken of the relation between those who rely on secular lawyers and those who have gone to the god of Ekron; we may read from Mrs. White's writings the plain connection in 8T 69 [ <https://m.egwwritings.org/en/book/112.387#387> ] for any who are unfamiliar. Such warnings have gone wholly unheeded, as the image of the beast has demonstrated beyond question. Yet where some will say “the god of Ekron is idolatry,” and

others will say "the god of Ekron is spiritualism," and still others will say "the god of Ekron is appealing to lawyers," let us get to the principle of the matter:

"The Hebrews were the only nation favored with a knowledge of the true God. When the king of Israel sent to inquire of a pagan oracle, he proclaimed to the heathen that he had more confidence in their idols than in the God of his people, the Creator of the heavens and the earth. In the same manner do those who profess to have a knowledge of God's word dishonor Him when they turn from the Source of strength and wisdom to ask help or counsel from the powers of darkness. If God's wrath was kindled by such a course on the part of a wicked, idolatrous king, how can He regard a similar course pursued by those who profess to be His servants?" [5T 196]

In the very midst of the ministry of Elijah, which included the most powerful and marked manifestations of the glory of Yahweh since the time of Moses, this king sought a heathen oracle.

As a people, CSDAs have been blessed with ministries and miracles of healing; should we seek the physicians of the world before the people who speak and act by the inspiration of the Great Physician?

We have been blessed with a work that is described as follows:

"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse." (Malachi 4:5, 6)

Shall we seek those who have not experienced the gospel, nor joined the people that live the gospel, for the healing of the heart or home?

"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, [it is] because [there is] no light in them." (Isaiah 8:20)

Of those who speak about this Word but not according to it, they have no testimony; they may have light around them, but they have no light IN them.

We are called to bear a message and a testimony to such deceived ones, for they may indeed be sincere in their deception.

Yet what message is to be proclaimed by word and action?

Shall it be the message of Ahaziah, proclaiming greater confidence in those who do not have righteousness by faith than those appointed ones, who have the Spirit of the Living God?

"Is it not because there is not a God in Israel?"

When we know and believe that the Spirit of Yahweh is among His people, there will be no seeking of healing from those who are not connected to the Vine, for only the Vine provides life to any branch. If we do not believe Yahweh is with a people, then we have no reason to be among such a people, save to invite them to "come and see" the Spirit and the Bride.

Yahweh judged a wicked king for seeking counsel of the heathen rather than of Yahweh through Elijah. Yahweh had warned His professed servants against following the same course. For those who claim to be the Elijah people to err in this matter would be akin to Elijah himself going to the God of Ekron; is this not infinitely worse than the sin of Ahaziah?

Should any who do so expect to be answered any less according to their works?

"Be astonished, O ye heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid, be ye very desolate, saith the LORD. For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, [and] hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water." (Jeremiah 2:12, 13)

May we learn from the errors before us, and renew our commitment wholly to Yahweh. Let us herald the message He has given us, resting in the power He has bestowed upon us, and fellowshiping in the light He has revealed through and to us. Whether under the guise of science, philosophy, paganism, secular lawyers, or sinful Christianity, there are only two Spirits in the world; that of Yahweh or that of disobedience. There are only two religions in the world, the true and the false; Yahweh or the god of Ekron. There are only two places in which confidence is placed; Yahweh or man.

Let us have no confidence in the flesh; not ours nor any other's, for "it is the Spirit that giveth life; the flesh profiteth nothing: ..." (John 6:63; ASV)

**Elyna**: Amen

**Lucan**: In every such circumstance, the Word of Yahweh is: "Cease ye from man."

Are there any comments on the study tonight?

**Adriel777**: Amen

**Peter**: C

**Lucan**: Go ahead

**Peter**: I am grateful to be here tonight to hear this message that Yah has given you to share with us tonight. I give thanks for these precious words of life and direction. Amen. End.

**Pastor Chick**: Q

**Lucan**: Thank you for sharing; are there any others? Go ahead.

**Pastor Chick**: (for Peter)...

**Kim**: Q

**Pastor Chick**: What specifically struck you as "words of life and direction"? In other words, are you personally convicted of any wrong doing? END.

**Peter**: A

**Lucan**: Go ahead (Peter's A)

**Peter**: Some times in my life I take it for granted that I am in control of things that is happening in and around and therefor I take matters in my own hands and forget about God and His true messengers and His words. SO yes I did see where I went wrong and it is a sin to depend upon the arms of flesh. So I am pricked in the heart by this message to turn and am encouraged to know that by His grace I am able to stand and say I have seen my miss steps and am willing to stand by His people that He have here today. End.

**Pastor Chick**: (thank you, Peter)

**Lucan**: Go ahead, Kim

**Kim**: Would you say this also applies to therapists? Also I just want to comment that if I understand what you're saying correctly you're not saying attorneys are bad point blank but that they often have destructive advice for families and we shouldn't seek their counsel without going to Gods messengers first. Is that correct?

**Pastor Chick**: A

**Lucan**: Therapists that do not know Yahweh are among the most dangerous influences a person can submit themselves to. It almost applies \*primarily\* to them; the only therapy they can give is according to what they know, which is the flesh.

Go ahead, Pastor

**Pastor Chick**: Right, counsel from God's people is first and foremost. As for lawyers, I think the "secular" lawyer becomes the most dangerous one. Some "Christian" lawyers might be of beneficial service, OR I might say "principled" lawyers, such as the Jewish attorney who represented Pr. Perez in his defense against the GC or our defense attorney, Chuck Holliday, who represented us at the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals. END.

**Kim**: Thanks.

**Lucan**: Are there any other comments? If not, I'll ask Pastor to offer the closing prayer.

**Pastor Chick**: Dear Father in Heaven. We are blessed to be confident in our knowledge of Your ways. We are empowered by Your Counsel. We are saved by Your grace, through Your Son's Faith. May Your holy Presence be our glory, as we rest in Your care. In Yahshua's holy and precious name, Amen.

6-15-2018 Elijah and the god of Ekron

**Peter\_Jr\_18**: Amen

**Peter**: Amen.

**daphna dee**: Amen

**Gloria**: Amen

**Barb**: Amen

**Kim**: Amen

**Elyna**: .Amen

**Nattie**: Amen.

**Lucan**: Amen

**Zahakiel**: Amen.

**Naraiel**: Amen

**Adriel777**: Amen