

Zahakiel: Let's begin. Pastor, please offer an opening prayer.

Pastor Chick: Dear Father in heaven. We are blessed with another victorious week and come before Your Presence with thankful hearts expecting a spiritual refreshing. May all who are gathered receive the needed baptism of Your Spirit. In Yahshua's holy name, Amen.

Barb: Amen

Zahakiel: Amen.

Lucan: Amen

Adriel7777: Amen

Elyna1: Amen.

Ruthline: Amen

Peter_Jr_18: Amen.

Zahakiel: Happy Sabbath to everyone. Tonight's study is called "During Ordinary Things," and it is something of a follow-up to last time's "A Sword of Unity." The main thrust of the previous study is that while it is true that Yahshua comes to bring "not peace, but a sword," and to separate people one from another, it is not so that they will remain in isolation, but so that their attachments to the un-sanctifying and unhealthy should be severed, leaving them free to "cleave" to those of like spirit in a covenant of worship. In so doing, Yah purifies a people for the final days, leading them through three Gospel Angels (and particularly the third) into a form of unity that opposes the mind of Satan and thus the "Mark of The Beast," the manifestation of Satan's mind in the last generation of humanity. I want to follow up on this, and speak more about the result of the Sword of Unity... the Covenant of Worship that composes the Body of Yahshua on the earth.

In tonight's study, I am addressing a certain type of person, and also stating things plainly in the hearing of all the Brethren, because the time has come for decisions to be made for eternity among those who have heard the Truth, but have not yet claimed the promise that the Truth will set them free. There are a people who know where salvation lies, and see before them a well of water from which they may draw life-saving sustenance, but they linger at the gates, fearful to come and drink. All, both those in the world and the saints who labor for souls, would be blessed to see those who have come to rest in the Valley of Decision take up their walking-sticks and either begin or resume the joyful trek to the Holy City.

From time to time, the Spirit moves me to appeal to those who hear our studies from week-to-week, and find light in our articles, but either repress, or are insensitive to, the desire to say, "Here am I." They either ignore, or avoid, the call of the Spirit to repentance, faith and baptism... to accepting the Angels in their order so that the Third can lead them into unity and resistance to Satan's final deceptions through the Mark. There are times, to be sure, that some have said the words, "I want to be in unity," "I am seeking baptism," but the resolve fades. The cares of the world, like weeds, rise up and choke the life out of those among whom the Seed has been scattered, but Yah has given to each individual grace, as the priest has said:

"And now for a little space grace hath been shewed from Yahweh our Almighty, to leave us a Remnant to escape." (Ezra 9:8)

Because of this grace, it is within the power of everyone, however worldly, however depraved, however mired in sin, to ask the Father and Son, "Rescue me." Yah bestows honor upon those who come to Him, having nothing, but asking for strength to seek righteousness above wealth, reputation, family, and all else that may bind one to the earth. Because the light of Yah glimmers upon them, even in this wicked generation, such a request may be uttered in sincerity, even if tinted at first with selfishness, and then the First Angel, which brings victory, may appear before the eyes of the soul. These are they to whom the Spirit speaks, saying that time is short, that life in this world lingers for a brief moment more... and with great solemnity that it would have been better to never have heard the words of Life, than to hear them and account them anything less than worthy of the most extreme efforts to understand and abide within.

The good news is that extreme effort has already been expended, by our dear Savior, that we may obtain the highest glory, and everlasting life... we need only accept His Gift; and yet, Satan makes it seem difficult, complicated, too costly – for the man of flesh will value his doomed life above that which the Creator offers; such is the deep deception of carnality.

To such as read the study this week I say, 'May the weight of my words bear the impress of the Divine in your hearing; that you may receive it as though the Father and Son themselves say these things to you, for in truth, They now speak.' It is written:

"There were present at that season some that told Yahshua of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Yahshua, answering, said unto them, 'Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.'" (Luke 13:1-5)

This passage was referenced in last week's study:

"Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed." (Luke 17:28-30)

In another place we read, "Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left." (Mat 24:40-41)

These verses are often used to describe the appearance of Yahshua, or at least the close of probation, as sudden, unexpected to those who are not following the Lamb. The Day of

Yah comes as a "thief in the night," the verse says, except for those who are children of the day, and can therefore see afar off. (2 Pet 3:10, 1 Thess. 5:2-6)

But consider what those who are "of the night" are doing. They are not, at least not in these examples, engaged in active evil. They are at the mill, or building a house, or planting a field. They are marrying and giving in marriage, eating and drinking. They are doing ordinary things, things that the saints might well be doing, except that they are led by the flesh while the redeemed are walking in the spirit.

In the CSDA Church, we are not a people who focus on works... not acts of righteousness nor works of the flesh. We do not focus on condemning the carnally-minded for doing carnal things. Of course, we educate those who are genuinely ignorant of righteousness; but this is a wicked time, and men neither care nor regret their evil works.

Instead, we focus on character. We are called the light of the world, and the salt of the earth. We provide illumination on what holiness looks like, and we "season" it by revealing that the sanctified life is a joyful life. Murmuring and an atmosphere of sorrow are rejected, not merely because they are useless, but because they would give a false testimony of what Christ has given to us. We invite, with every word and action, an examination of the Gospel, so that men may see their unrighteousness by contrast. That those who are humble will desire a better way rather than to silence the voice of conscience by attempting to silence or destroy the faithful.

Are these things simple? Are these things we all know? Very good... then with boldness we testify to those who are already paying attention, and draw new the attention of those who are not.

Some years ago I was speaking with someone about victory over sin. He was, at that time, receptive to the message, although he did not remain among us. I spoke of the time drawing near at which Yahshua would appear, saying before arriving, "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still." (Rev 22:11)

I said, "Now is the day of salvation. The Scriptures tell us this in 2 Corinthians (6:2), because when one hears the message of life, when one hears those words, this means that that IS the day of salvation for them." In other words, although that Scripture, "Now is the day of salvation" was written thousands of years ago, it comes to different people at different times. One may have read it for the first time last week, another may understand it in light of the Gospel tomorrow. At that time, the Heavens turn to them, to see what they shall do. Their names have come up in judgment, and the final act of probation begins. If they turn away at that point, I explained to the one with whom I was speaking, the voice of conscience is silenced, but other than that, they probably won't feel any different. They will go on doing ordinary things, building, and planting, and sowing, and going to school or work, not realizing until the very Day of Judgment the magnitude of the decision they have made. The Spirit is withdrawn from them, but they have become

insensitive to Its absence, and may think themselves faithful, religious, and maybe even "good enough for Heaven."

He replied by saying, "I always thought you would feel it when the Spirit was withdrawn. As long as you feel guilty about your sins, doesn't that mean that there is time to repent?"

I said, "Feelings of guilt may be present without a genuine desire for repentance. Those who are ultimately lost will 'repent' of their evil works because they understand that they have lost everlasting salvation, but this kind of repentance does not lead to a transformation of character. The grace that Yah uses to convert the repentant into the victorious has passed them by."

After all, it is not the depth of our sorrow, but the depth of our Father's love, that brings about the atonement that follows on after forgiveness. This needs to be understood by all who have heard the Gospel, but think that their reasons for resisting it will be offset by their sincerity.

We do not save ourselves by repentance. Yah saves those who repent; and yet, His longsuffering is not extended indefinitely. To those who hear the Gospel, who hear of righteousness by faith, "Now is the day of salvation."

To the world, there is no great build-up to the return of Christ. In the end, somewhere, in some corner of the planet, a handful of people will be oppressed because they believe in the promises of the Bible and place their trust in its Author.

"But," some may ask, "Isn't Christianity being persecuted in some places now?" We may look at countries in Asia, and in Europe, and find that indeed, people without the full truth are being attacked by the systems of the world. Why should Satan raise the anger of the secular world against those who aren't even teaching the truth? Wisdom reveals that it is so that when the true Church is indeed persecuted, it will register with not a single soul. This is the Enemy's plan... to engulf the world in the mundane, the ordinary, so that they will be doing ordinary things... planting, sowing, building, dismissing the news about the suppression of religious liberty; and they will be entirely unprepared when the extraordinary falls upon them.

Those who know the CSDA Message, but remain outside of Covenant are doing very ordinary things... living their lives, but judgment comes swiftly after the warning comes from the Throne, and for love's sake I am constrained to say, "Come thou into the Ark." The flood is near and very near... and Satan would have people remember that they have heard of the "nearness of the end" before. But the day comes when this warning will be heard no longer, and it will be silence, that deadly silence, and no sudden feeling of urgency, no unexpected, irresistible guilt for sin to force genuine repentance, that will signal the close of probation for those nearest the House of Yah, and swiftly thereafter the rest of the world.

I have little to add to what the Spirit has already revealed of this matter, but I will say this: During ordinary things, lift up your heart to Yah, and if you do not hear His voice urging you toward the Covenant, do not think this means He is not requiring perfect unity among those who claim to be His. Do not let your feelings determine Yah's truth. Do not let opinion be your idol, nor complacency your graven image, for the light of Yahshua comes to destroy all such things.

There is a Covenant, and the Sword of the Spirit cuts men and women out of the world so that they may join it. Yah requires you to make a choice, and to say, "Nothing in my life is worth more than being One with the Father and Son, and with their People." There is no doctrine to misunderstand regarding this matter... the Spirit and the Word both testify that the last saints on earth will not be scattered here and there, one believing this thing and another that. Pray to understand the truth above feelings and thoughts, for only prophets will enter into the gates of the Heavenly Kingdom. Only those on whom the Spirit has fallen, making them ambassadors of the Most Holy, have an Inheritance with the Most High, and prophets may speak and act contrary to what they originally believed, as Yah leads them into perfection.

If you believe you shall be in the Heavenly Kingdom, then rejoice. Be blessed, and enter into the joy of Yahweh, which begins among His Family on the earth. If you do not, then reject the lie, the curse, that Satan has tricked you into accepting: that the Son of Yah did not surrender His blood, and breath, and joys, and sorrows, and comforts, and riches, and sweat, and tears, and all that makes a person a person... for the sake of you... the individual who reads these words.

"Now is the day of salvation," but more than that, "Now is the day of YOUR salvation." You must believe it, for both you and all who depend on you as an example, as a parent, or sibling, or friend... depend on you holding this belief for all that follows for righteousness.

Last week we learned that it is better not to commit, than to commit and not follow through with our vows. This is a true saying, and a cornerstone of sanctification. Beware, however, for Satan will twist this truth as much as he is allowed. "Better" does not mean "good."

When the Word of Yah calls you to commit, and says, "Come thou into the Covenant," the tempter will whisper, "It is better not to commit, than to commit and not follow through with your vow." Thus, those who hear the whisper may wait and say, "I am not yet ready for such a step. I have a wife, a husband, children to care for, a job, and many things to do, before I am prepared to enter into the ark."

But know that when the Word of Yah calls you and says, "Commit," to refuse is to choose your own destruction, and "worse" than that is not a significant consideration. When the "better" option is refusing to commit, and therefore being found wanting in the judgment, wisdom does not hesitate to say, "Here am I! I must go beneath the waters of the grave and arise to new life."

All of Yah's commandments are invitations. The two great commandments are to love Him with all your heart, and mind, and strength, and then your neighbor as yourself. That is the Covenant, and it always has been. Yah says, "Commit to me. Commit to my people. Commit to the finishing of the work in the earth." With these three commitments also, the Three Angels' message may be understood... but some wait to "feel the faith" before taking the first step... repentance.

The Angels must be taken in their order. All who hear this are being told by Yah, "This is my will for your life." Who will refuse the call? I pray that all who are without salvation will hear the angel calling... for the light of mercy is fading all around the world, as even a brief observation of world events makes quite plain. The time is "even at the doors," (Ref. Matthew 24:33) and I pray you have not heard that phrase so many times that it has become dull in your hearing. Satan would have you mistake Yah's longsuffering for delay, but He and all of Heaven wait to see how you respond to this appeal.

Thus far, I have spoken mostly to those at the borders of the Covenant, but for the Brethren, do not think that because you have spoken the truth to friends and neighbors that the work on their behalf is finished. Especially for those who are near the gates... what is written?

"A certain man made a great supper, and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' And they all with one consent began to make excuse... "So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. And the servant said, 'Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.' And the lord said unto the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.'" (Luke 14:16-18, 21-23)

"Compel them to come in" to the feast that is prepared for them. This is our work to do, as we finish the Gospel's commission. I am not ashamed to say that I was among the maimed, and the halt, and the blind; but, because of Yah's love for me, I have been translated into the Kingdom of His Dear Son.

And am I, or any of us, more worthy of everlasting life than anyone else? Certainly not, and so we labor for those who have yet to hear of the Supper that has been prepared, compelling them to come in, not by secular force, nor by worldly reasoning, but by open prayer, by encouragement, by warnings, by truth spoken in love concerning judgment and holiness. We know none can be pressed into Heaven, but may the Brethren, and all who hear, catch a hold of the urgency of tonight's message.

While we search the fields for the harvest, may we not forget to say to those who are near the gates, and who perhaps once had a foot on solid ground, "Join us in the place of safety." It is at these very gates that the harvest must begin, so let us work before the

night comes when no man might, and let it not be said of us, when the Judgment sets, "They were found doing ordinary things."

Are there any questions or comments about tonight's study?

Adriel7777: Amen. C

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Adriel7777: Your comment about "All of Yah's commandments are invitations," reminded me of this quote by Mrs. White: "As the will of man co-operates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent. Whatever is to be done at His command may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enabling's." Christ Object Lessons p. 333.1. So, as well as being invitations, they also carry with them the power to keep them in His strength. 😊
End.

Zahakiel: Yes, thank you for sharing that quotation. That concept is a key one for Righteousness by Faith. We take hold of Divinity, so that they very works Yahshua did on earth, and greater than those, we are privileged to do.

Are there any others? If there are not, I will ask Bro. Luke to offer a closing prayer.

Lucan: Dear heavenly Father. We are thankful for the voice of warning that you send to those you love. We are blessed as we respond, and seek to encourage others to do the same. May your Spirit attend our efforts, that your house may be filled to overflowing. In Yahshua's name we pray, amen.

Pastor Chick: Amen.

Elyna1: Amen.

Zahakiel: Amen.

Adriel7777: Amen

Barb: Amen

Gloria: Amen.

Peter_Jr_18: Amen.

Ruthline: Amen