

Zahakiel: It's time to begin. Pastor, please offer an opening prayer.

Pastor Chick: Dear Father in heaven, we are thankful for the blessings of the week. We request Your Presence with us during this convocation and the outpouring of Your Spirit. We are resting in Your promise of sanctification in Yahshua's holy name, Amen.

Lucan: Amen

Barb: Amen

Zahakiel: Amen.

Adriel7777: Amen

Gloria Bailey: Amen.

Daphna: Amen

Kimberly: Amen

Naraiel: Amen

Zahakiel: Happy Sabbath to everyone. Tonight's study is called "Sending an Angel."

In a number of our studies over the years, we have looked at the nature and ministry of Yahweh's spiritual servants. They act on His behalf as messengers, guardians, defenders, and signs of warning and encouragement. They are not bound by limitations such as distance, and are always available for such tasks as the Father desires. Even with this being the case, however, Yah does not always employ His angels at times, or in circumstances, where it might seem (to us) most useful to do so. Here are some instances in which an angelic visitation was recorded:

"And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of Yahweh, and Yahweh delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years. And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren, and bare not. And the angel of Yahweh appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, 'Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not; but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son.'" (Judges 13:1-3)

"And there came an angel of Yahweh, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah that pertained unto Joash the Abiezrite; and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites. And the angel of Yahweh appeared unto him, and said unto him, 'Yahweh is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.'" (Judges 6:11, 12)

One more, a most significant one: "And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from Yah unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. "And the angel came in unto her, and said, 'Hail, thou that art highly favoured. Yahweh is with thee; blessed art thou among women.' And when she saw him, she was troubled at his

saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, 'Fear not, Mary, for thou hast found favour with Elohim. And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a Son, and shalt call His name Yahshua.'" (Luke 1:26-31)

With these in mind, let us now consider other times in which the Almighty desired to communicate with mankind, and yet He did not do so by means of an angel.

"And, behold, there came a man of Elohim out of Judah by the word of Yahweh unto Bethel; and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense. And he cried against the altar in the word of Yahweh, and said, 'O altar, altar, thus saith Yahweh: Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee.'" (1Kings 13:1, 2)

"And it came to pass after many days, that the word of Yahweh came to Elijah in the third year, saying, 'Go, shew thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth.'" (1Kings 18:1)

A third example, again a significant one from the New Testament: "And Philip said, 'If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest [be baptized].' And [the Ethiopian eunuch] answered and said, 'I believe that Yahshua the Messiah is the Son of the Almighty.' And he commanded the chariot to stand still, and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. "And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of Yahweh caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. But Philip was found at Azotus, and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea." (Acts 8:37-40)

The question might arise in one's mind, upon reading these and other passages, "Why does Yahweh sometimes send an angel, and sometimes send a human messenger?" To understand this completely is to understand one's own place in our Father's plan of salvation, and it begins by understanding why, and under what circumstances, Yahweh sends any messenger at all.

We read, "And Yahweh thy Elohim will make thee plenteous in every work of thine hand, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy land, for good [...] if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of Yahweh thy God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this Book of the Law, and if thou turn unto Yahweh thy Elohim with all thine heart, and with all thy soul." (Deu 30:9, 10)

It is significant that even in the "Old Covenant," which many misunderstand as one which justified by the works of the Law, obedience was not sufficient to claim the promises that were given. It was then, as it is now, obedience rendered in faith, by one who has turned unto Yah with all his heart and soul, that produces the blessings prepared for us by the Creator. If there is no faithful worship then, as Isaiah describes in the first chapter of his book, the words of our mouths, and the actions of our hands, avail nothing.

The intention, however, was for Yah to provide the Way, later perfectly exemplified in the life of His Son, to His saints by means of the prophets' writings, and then to guide them by His gentle Spirit into perfection.

It is written, "The Law of Yahweh is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of Yahweh is sure, making wise the simple." (Psalm 19:7)

The Law and the Testimony, the commandments of Yahweh and the inspired writings of holy men...these are "perfect," sufficient to bring conversion, and thereafter to direct a sanctified life guided ever upward through divine wisdom. To counteract the corrupting and distracting work of Satan in the time between the writing of these testimonies and now, Yah has continued to provide additional light on what His prophets have previously said, and we read that "Elohim, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed Heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds." (Heb 1:1, 2)

There can be no excuse for error, and certainly no justification for sin, for Yah has emptied Heaven of its glory to provide for fallen man all that he needs to prosper in this life, and in the world to come. Those who say, indeed, "We cannot cease from sin," are rightly identified as those who have never seen the Father or the Son, for who can see the majesty of Heaven, who can perceive the Almighty and His Only Begotten, and yet believe that a mere fallen angel, or his own insignificant flesh, can have greater power than They?

So here we see Yah's ideal. He has provided us with the foundation of His covenant, the Law that describes His character in human thoughts and actions. He has provided us both forgiveness and power by the life, death and resurrection of His Son. He has provided each of us with the "earnest," the down-payment of the promised grandeur of our own glorification by the Holy Spirit, (Eph 1:13, 14) by which we may be guided always along the highway of holiness. Peter has said, as we have quoted many times, that He has already given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness; (2Pet 1:3) therefore, why do we need anything further?

Simply put, there is an Enemy, an Accuser of the Brethren, and his agents who seek to keep this Word from those who need to hear it, and to distort its meaning among those

who have already done so. None shall stand before the Throne of the Most High and receive a pardon for sin because of the excuse, "I was misled." Multitudes, multitudes are misled; this is true...and yet to each who hears the falsehood of carnal doctrine, there is a way of escape. Infinite pity, limitless mercy, is expended upon humanity that the lost may be redeemed, and in ways that we know not, the Way, the Truth and the Life is placed upon the pathway of those who stumble toward destruction in the hopes that their eyes will be enlightened, and their souls rescued from death.

Here are the messengers of Yah. If Israel had been faithful in its worship, paying its tithe to the priesthood, giving sacrificially on behalf of the poor, and reflecting the character of their Heavenly King to the world, what need would there ever have been of an Elijah? Why would a Samson appear to rescue a holy, victorious people? What need would there be of a Jeremiah, if a Jerusalem guarded by angels could not be conquered by Nebuchadnezzar?

More recently, what need would there be for the testimony of the Seventh-day Adventist Church if there had not been a universal rejection of the Seventh-day Sabbath by those claiming to be Christ's people? Why did the Almighty raise up the Creation Seventh Day Adventist Church if even Adventism had not accepted the errors of the new theology and its spiritualistic evolution?

But Yah sends His messengers where there is a need. Because those who were called to be saints have lost knowledge of the New Creature that the born-again are made, He has called His people in this generation Creation Seventh Day Adventists, and given them a work to do in these final moments.

But why not send angels? Why did a mighty one clad in gold and white, and holding a flaming sword, not appear at some General Conference meeting years ago to declare that the leaders had fallen into error and sin?

Let us look at the common threads that attend the angelic visitations we've seen in the quotes I have shared.

First, there is a prevailing evil among those who have declared themselves to be Yah's servants. The evil might not be open...it may be something as "mundane" as hypocrisy among the leadership, or apathy among the citizens. It is a lack of faith and zeal that leads to error and confusion; the Law of Yah is considered lightly, or set aside entirely, and thus a rebuke is sent from the Creator.

Second, angels appear to be used as messengers whenever there is a "new" type of miracle. The conception of a child in a barren womb, or when there was no earthly father. A burning bush with a message to lead the Israelites out of slavery. The destruction of a valley of cities in sulfur and brimstone. These are messages so outside

of normal human experience that it required a divine messenger to inspire the recipient with fear and wonder, lest the message be given less weight than it should.

But here is, perhaps, the most important difference. We read of Isaiah the Prophet's experience with the Most High: "Then flew one of the seraphim unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar. And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, 'Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.' Also I heard the voice of Adonai, saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?' Then said I, 'Here am I; send me.'" (Isa 6:6-8)

Yahweh seeks a willing messenger among humanity. When there are none to deliver His message, an angel is sent. We do not see angelic visits in any public fashion during the ministry of Elijah, or Jeremiah, or Isaiah. We do not find any spiritual servants appearing to mankind when John the Baptist preached. At times, angels have appeared to minister to these prophetic servants, and in that they were fulfilling their primary role, (Heb 1:14) but it is when no suitable messenger appears that we see them prominently used.

When Christ was taken from them, and His followers were scattered, confused, and dejected, "it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, 'Why seek ye the Living among the dead?'" (Luke 24:4, 5)

Elijah mourned that he was the only faithful one left in Israel, when in reality there were many who still cherished the religion of Yahweh in their hearts. (1Kings 19:18) It was time for him to be valiant, to be faithful against all that his senses were telling him, for Elijah was to be a type, a foreshadowing symbol, of the 144,000 of these very days. It was not the time for angels to work openly, but faithful men, inspired by Yah.

And it may be asked, "Would not angels still be better, considering that man was created a little lower than they? What is the advantage of a human messenger?" Man may have been "created" a little lower than angels, but a man or woman who is moved by the Holy Spirit is mightier than any other being in the Creation. People, human beings, moved by the Spirit have wrestled with the divine, and overcome. (Gen 32:28) They have traveled for days without food or rest. (1Kings 19:8) They have prayed for water and fire from Heaven, and seen their requests answered. (James 5:17) They have moved, as quickly as any angel, from one place to another, as we read in the example of Philip's sudden ministry between Azotus and Caesarea in the Book of Acts. What more than this can a Heavenly messenger do?

Christ asked His doubting disciples, "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and He shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?" (Mat

26:53) And yet, with all this at His disposal, why would He prepare men to do His ministry, and equip them, often with supernatural means?

It is clear, Yah will send a human if it is at all possible to do so. Should there be any faithful, and willing, He will send that man or woman as His angel, giving them strength, light, wisdom, and divine gifts that overcome the most powerful devil that may stand in our way to oppose us. Yah will have those created "lower than the angels" overcome ancient wickedness, "... and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty." (1Cor 1:27)

The faithful servant testifies, "I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then am I strong." (2Cor 12:10)

Yah does more than sympathize with human frailty. He uses it, not to trouble us, but so that He will be glorified with the child that says to the hypocrite, "You do not have the faith of my Savior." He uses it when the frail prophetess rebukes the rich, powerful, and corrupt. He uses it when the Little Flock opposes the Beast and His Image, and awaits its certain salvation with peace and with joy. Yah will use the testimony of human beings to finish His work, the work for whom He has given all in the Person of His Son.

He sends His angels, four with the Gospel, to remove offenses from His Kingdom, to gather the willing, to minister to His saints, and then the universe marvels as the lowly lift their shining faces and do mightier works than they have ever seen before. These are the promises prepared for us. We are the messengers, the angels, of this last generation. And when we consider how Yah has equipped His human servants in the past, who can doubt that we will lack any least thing? We who are working with Yahweh of Hosts, the God of the Divine Armies, surely have everything we need, and should expect providence to open before us as we move forward in our inspiration. Have we a work to do for evangelism? See things fall into place as we take steps to carry it out. Have we a project to assist in the ministry? Look for the resources we need to come our way.

This is not the "prosperity Gospel," as some have called it, that we should pray for abundant wealth, secular power, or worldly recognition. This is the Agape Gospel, that we should pray for, and receive, that which we need to minister to the godless, and sick, and dying. This is the Gospel of Truth, which gives us words for the sinner to hear, that his heart may be pricked unto genuine repentance.

The people of Yahweh should expect supernatural assistance, for we have received the Faith of Yahshua, to do always those things that please the Father. We have ceased from sin and transgression, living in that Holy Covenant, so that we are called the People of Yahweh, so that we offer prayers with the demand of faith that calls down miracles, so that we are sanctified ourselves even as we sanctify others. It is this, this

holy commitment, that makes Yah's people like Him, and thus suitable messengers of His will.

I have said, in a previous study, that the mighty servants of Yahweh are not often called Warriors, but rather Angels – Messengers – for it is the message that makes them mighty. Let us, therefore, be as they in might and power, for Yah has given us a powerful message, thus calling us to do greater things than any angel. Let us recall, with joy, what Yah has done for, and with, those who have given Him their willing service, and say, by the same Spirit that inspired Isaiah, "Here we are. Send us."

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

Adriel7777: Amen

Zahakiel: If there are not, then I'll ask Bro. Luke to offer a closing prayer.

Lucan: Dear heavenly Father. We thank you for calling us into the work of the fourth and mighty angel. We are blessed to have received your messages, and to in turn cooperate with you in spreading them to the whole earth. May your Spirit unite and guide us as we seek all who will join to the work of the angels in this generation. In Yahshua's name we pray, amen.

Pastor Chick: Amen.

Peter: Amen

Zahakiel: Amen.

Adriel7777: Amen

Barb: Amen

Daphna: Amen

Kimberly: Amen