

Topic is: In Praise of Small Things

Happy Sabbath! Please see our room information at <http://93.88.247.151/chat.html>

Zahakiel : Let us pray, then. Almighty Father in Heaven, We thank you for the blessing of your sacred hours. We thank you for inviting your People to draw near to you on this day, that we may experience as a community what each of us has received from you in the week. We thank you for your blessings, and your protection, for the ministry of your angels, and the guidance of your Holy Spirit, that we should stand fast against temptation, and rejoice in the victories you give us. Bless our meeting tonight, may hearts and minds be attentive to your gifts, and may we receive what you have intended for us through our fellowship and discussion. We ask this in the name of your dear Son, Yahshua. Amen.

Guest_gadriel : Amen, Amen

Barbli : Amen

Guest_Adriel : Amen

Lucan : Amen

Guest_Elyna_Family : Amen.

Guest_Naraiel : Amen.

Daphna_Matthews : Amen

Zahakiel : Happy Sabbath to all. Tonight, I would like to start our study with a praise report.

Guest_greenhorizon : amen

Zahakiel : Last week I had to get to work at a certain time in order to give a test to one of my classes. Not wanting to be late, I got to the bus station extra early in order to beat the crowd, only to find that a large crowd had already gathered. For those who haven't heard me talking about this already, the public transportation system in my country is not run very well. It has been subject to public criticism, and as a regular passenger on my way between home and work, I can attest that this criticism is warranted.

On that particular day, the service simply hadn't sent the bus before the one I intended to catch because they had, in the words of the station attendant, "run short of busses."

So there I was, in the back of a fairly long line and, I have to say this in addition, not a lot of people who take the bus here actually respect the lines. More often than not, when the gates open to allow people to get to the bus, people will go along the sides and cut in line... and this has become a regularly accepted practice. The station attendees do nothing to stop it, so merely being in the line does not guarantee a seat. Knowing that I might not get one, I tried to call the University, asking them to inform my class that I might be a few minutes late... but I was unable to get through. When the bus finally arrived, what I expected is exactly what took place. Those in the line got in ahead of me, and many of those who were NOT in the line also got in ahead of me, since I will not act like a lawless hooligan.

Now, while this was going on, I was silently praying to Yah, and in response I felt a sense of peace, that everything would be taken care of. As I finally got to the gate, the attendant barred the way, saying that all the seats were currently taken. I was, it turns out, the first person to not get a seat, and would have to wait at least 30 minutes for the next one (assuming that this one actually showed up).

While on most days this would be a temptation to feel frustrated, the knowledge that those who had shoved their way into the line would be allowed on, but I wouldn't, didn't bother me at all. I knew that my prayer had been heard, and so I simply waited to see what would happen next.

Shortly after this, someone tapped me on the shoulder. He was a taxi driver, and he said that he would be taking several people in the direction I was going, and for \$10 he would take me to the university. Now that's a bit high, so I shook my head and he wandered off. A few minutes later, he came back and said, "Five dollars." So... I went with him and got to work even earlier than I expected, and in better conditions than a crowded bus.

Guest_Adriel : 😊

Zahakiel : *In my six years of regularly taking the bus to work, I'd never seen this before.*

Now, some might wonder why, when there are so many "greater" things for which we ought to be praying, I would take the time to praise Yah for such a little mercy as that. But we need to remember that from our Father's perspective, there is no such thing as a "big" challenge, a "difficult" situation, an "intimidating" obstacle. There are no truly "big" or "small" miracles. He knows the end from the beginning, and all blessings, from the greatest to the least, come to us through the ministry of His angels and the guidance of His Spirit, and all come to us because of His immeasurable love for His creation.

Tonight, I do not want to talk about much deep theology. Tonight I want to encourage the brethren, our guests and our readers, by letting them know that every day, every hour, is an opportunity to cultivate an attitude of thanksgiving toward our Father in Heaven.

Yes, there are temptations to overcome in the name of Yahshua. There are conflicts to bear, and there will be people – deceived and carnal – that will speak the words of demons to us, attempting to divert our course from perfection of character; and yet, despite all this, we have cause to rejoice. In the little things, and in the great things, our Father watches over us, ensuring that nothing we have to face will be stronger than the faith He has given us, (1Cor 10:13) and all that we encounter has the potential to refine our faith and character, IF we receive it with the Fruit of the Spirit: "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance." (Gal 5:22, 23)

Anything, apparently positive or negative, that we accept with the spirit of the above principles, will bring us closer to Heaven. This fruit must be the mode of our lives.

Some people think, and it is commonly taught, that the way we respond to difficult times reveals our character. I'm not saying this is false, in fact the Scriptures support this –but, it is equally true that the way we treat the easier days, the beneficial experiences, also reveals our character. When things are going well, do we have a consistent prayer life? Do we give thanks always for those things that we rejoice to experience?

From the perspective I am using now, it is natural for even nominal Christians to fall into fervent prayer when facing a crisis, but are they openly thankful that they have food and clothing? Are they grateful to Yah when they make it to work on time, and make it home safely at the end of the day? Do they fall asleep with a smile?

In many events that I have witnessed, such as prayer before some social occasion, the acknowledgement of Yahweh is a mere formality, an expected obligation...

For many I suspect it is the only prayer they have heard that day, or that week. But for us, for those who are here because we love the Father, and want to learn more about Him, it must never be this way. For each event of our lives, we are to be genuinely grateful. When we are perplexed, we must remember that we are seeing the universe from the perspective of a single mind among billions. We may speculate about the "big picture," but when, in the thousand years after the return of Yahshua, we look back at these days, even the wisest of us will see things that will surprise us.

In light of this necessarily limitation to our knowledge, we really have only two choices: we can become agitated, or we can rest. The Mark of The Beast, which we discussed last week in terms of modern Sun Worship, will ultimately test which of these two options we have chosen.

In the last days, the Bible predicts that a people will arise, like John the Baptist, to prepare the way for the coming of Yahshua. They will come in the “power and spirit” of the prophet Elijah, who restored Israel to purity following its corruption by the priests of Ba'al. We believe that we, the Creation Seventh Day Adventists, are that “Elijah People,” and as such we would benefit greatly from studying what the Scriptures tell us about that individual who was our spiritual predecessor.

On one occasion we read this:

“And Elijah said unto Ahab, ‘Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain.’ So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. “And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees, and said to his servant, ‘Go up now, look toward the sea.’ And he went up, and looked, and said, ‘There is nothing.’ And he said, ‘Go again seven times.’ “And it came to pass at the seventh time that he said, ‘Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man’s hand.’ And he said, ‘Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not.’ And it came to pass in the meanwhile, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel.” (1Kings 18:41, 45)

Like Elijah, Creation Seventh Day Adventists take the smallest sign, the least evidence, as an indication that Yah is working on our behalf. Some may say, “This is just excessive optimism,” but the Word says, “Know therefore that Yahweh thy Elohim, He is the Almighty One, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love Him and keep His commandments to a thousand generations.” (Deu. 7:9)

Those who know Yah, as He is to be known by His people, are already convinced that He keeps His promises, that He works without ceasing on our behalf keeping us safe from both known and unknown dangers. Thus, when we “see” some evidence of this, it merely confirms what we already know based on the strength of His character.

Again, some may say, “Those things that cause you to praise God are just coincidence.” But the Word says, “Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which neither have storehouse nor barn, and Yahweh feedeth them. How much more are ye better than the fowls? “Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then Yah so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith?” (Luke 12:24 27, 28)

Guest_Adriel : [Amen](#)

Zahakiel : *Some say that it is “chance” that some birds find food and others do not. It is “chance,” they say, that some flowers are pulled out and others remain... but it is written that Yah “feedeth” the birds, and clothes the flowers.*

What seems like mere chance to us is a part of a perfectly executed pattern of activities. There is a difference, perhaps one that we should discuss in some detail hereafter, between “coincidence” and “providence.” One is based on a faulty understanding of the universe, a belief in randomness, in chaos. The other is a belief that Yah’s ways are higher than our own, and even if we cannot detect the movement of His will in all things, it is indeed the will of Yah, either by His intention or by His allowance, that is moving us forward to eternity.

Yahshua is called the “Lord of the Sabbath.” (Mark 2:28) That statement ties the Man and the Blessing together forever. The New Testament’s Messiah is called the “Lord” of what many consider to be an irrelevant, Old Testament, Jewish institution. The truth is, one cannot be a Sabbath-keeper while denying the Lord of the Sabbath. The truth is, one cannot accept – truly accept – the “Lord of the Sabbath” without also accepting the “Sabbath of the Lord.” (Exo 20:10)

The Sabbath is a day, but it is also the blessing placed ON that day, a blessing that, as we have examined recently, is a moment-by-moment, daily, keeping of our spirits in the atmosphere of Heaven. One who keeps the Sabbath holy will have those qualities I listed before, these being “love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self-control.”

The Elijah-people know that Yahweh has the hairs on our head numbered. We know that we cannot, by worrying, add an inch to our height or a moment to our lives. (Luke 12:25) We have chosen the Lord of the Sabbath and the Sabbath of the Lord, and we therefore “rest” in an attitude of faith that makes us grateful for all blessings, great and small, and sensitive to the little visible evidences of our Father’s love.

As I mentioned above, the Mark of Beast is about the Sabbath, but many mistake the “Sabbath” for just the day. Just as Sun Worship has a modern equivalent in idolatry, giving respect to the creation and not the Creator, so the Sabbath has a spiritual equivalent for us to understand. We are told that there is a Kingdom of Heaven that will be manifest on the earth, but even before it visibly appears, we claim it by faith, praising Yah that He “hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath [already] translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son.” (Col 1:13) Similarly, the Book of Revelation tells us that those who do not accept Yahshua, and are ultimately lost, “have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.” (Rev 14:11)

In the “letter,” this is a description of the destruction of the wicked in the punishment to come... and yet, just as with the inheritance of everlasting life, those who will ultimately be lost “claim” that restlessness NOW, in this life, because of their lack of saving faith.

To draw the parallel even more simply: Those who are redeemed are going to an everlasting rest, and the evidence of it is that they have a spiritual rest now: the Sabbath. By contrast, those who are going to everlasting destruction show the evidence of their coming torment now, by their lack of rest: the rejection of the Spirit of the Sabbath.

The Mark of The Beast will do nothing more complicated than to separate these two classes visibly, so that the judgment of Yah will be known to be just by the on-looking universe, the un-fallen creatures and the angels of the Almighty One.

It is important to talk about the theology of the last days. It is a part of the Gospel to know the Mark of The Beast, and the various errors in doctrine that lead to an acceptance of it. We’ve spoken about these things in previous studies, and will continue to do so. Last week, as I said, we spoke about the principle of Sun Worship, which is ultimately the worship of the created vs. the Creator, including the rule of law over the Law of Yah. This paves the way for the mind to accept Satan’s principles, so we need to examine these things in order to warn others. But it is just as important to remember that when Yahshua returns, we the Redeemed will be looking up at Him, and not down at all the errors that we avoided in order to behold His glory. When Yahshua returns, those of us who have lived according to the principles of the Fruit of The Spirit, receiving both blessings and challenges with grace, will simply step into the next natural, logical phase of our everlasting lives. We will be filled with awe of the character of Yahweh, which we will be able to see and appreciate more clearly than we do now, and we will praise Him for His mercies, small and large, just as we do now, in this current life. What a

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blessing, what a privilege we have been given, to begin our everlasting lives even here, even in the time of these finite days.

Are there any questions or comments about the study tonight?

Guest_Naraiel : C.

Zahakiel : **Go ahead.**

Guest_Adriel : Amen

Guest_Naraiel : I would say that as Ambassadors we are "samples" or "examples" sort of speak of the Sabbath of the Lord. Reflect a truth from another kingdom. End.

Zahakiel : **Absolutely** 😊 *As we reveal ourselves to others, we are revealing Christ in us, and the Sabbath rest principle of which He is Lord.*

Guest_Adriel : **Amen**

Zahakiel : **All right, if there are no others, I will ask Bro. Luke to offer a closing prayer.**

Guest_Adriel : **c**

Zahakiel : **Go ahead.**

Guest_Adriel : **I have been having a lot of these experiences where Yahweh has been answering prayers. One in particular...We heard from Ian this week. 😊 He is doing really well. He said things seem to be going faster for him than others. He started training for fire camp this week. He said he doesn't get to choose which fire camp he goes to but after he's been in one for 6 months he can ask for a transfer. He was told that his release date is June of 2016, if all goes well. I heard from a reputable source that it was 11-11-16. So that is quite a few months earlier. I praise Yah for watching over & protecting His child. And I too am grateful for the simple things in my life such as my job, husband, children, fresh air when I come home - life itself. Thank-you Yahweh!**

Zahakiel : **Ok. Are there any others, then? All right, then please go ahead with the closing, Bro. Luke.**

Lucan : *Dear heavenly Father... We thank you for the many blessings you have given to us, from the largest to the smallest. We know that existence itself is a gift, and we thank you for the many ways in which you have made ours comfortable. We also thank you for the times of discomfort, and at times, pain; we are strengthened by the opportunity to rest in your providence, and see the trial through to it's conclusion. We ask that your Spirit continue to provide us with opportunities to grow and to share your rest with others. In Yahshua's name we pray, amen.*

Pastor_Chick_CSDA_7 : **Amen.**

Barbli : **Amen**

Zahakiel : **Amen.**

Guest_Elyna_Family : **Amen.**

Daphna_Matthews : **Amen**