


Topic is: Choosing the Demon

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

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

 Pastor_Chick_CSDA_7 : **Dear Father in Heaven. As we come before Your Throne to contemplate eternal realities, we ask for a generous outpouring of Your Holy Spirit and we thank you for Your Presence with us at this appointed time of communion with You and Your people. Now we commit our spirits into Your care for this special gathering and thank You for answering our prayers for spiritual benefits expected. In the blessed and holy name of YAHSHUA, AMEN.**

 Zahakiel : **Amen.**

 Barbli : **Amen**

 Guest_Naraiel : Amen.


 Lucan : *Amen*

 Guest_Adriel : **Amen**

 Guest_daphna : Amen

 Guest_Peter : Amen

 Guest_Elyna_Family : Amen

 Zahakiel : *Happy Sabbath to everyone. Tonight's study is called "Choosing the Demon." It's an unusual title for a Bible study, to be sure, but it is not an unusual occurrence. People do this every day, moment by moment, in the world. They choose the demons that beset them, many – maybe even most – not even believing in the demons that they choose.*

A few years ago, I wrote a book entitled Tehom-at, which is about possession and exorcism. Around that time, not coincidentally, I encountered several people online (and in one case by phone) who claimed to be troubled by demons or outright possessed. I am certain that not all of those cases were genuine; it is sometimes the case that body chemistry, poor diet, or illnesses can cause people to act in unusual ways; but I counseled them anyway, taking their claims seriously. Here is what the Bible says about exorcism and its aftermath:

"When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places seeking rest and, finding none, he saith, 'I will return unto my house whence I came out.' And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. "Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there, and the last state of that man is worse than the first." (Luke 11:24-26)

This is one of the major themes of Tehom-at, that the "casting out" is not the end of the battle, but actually a critically dangerous time.

In the mythology of Roman Catholicism, and various works based on its deceptions, exorcism is depicted as a battle that begins, is waged, and then is “won” by one side or another. This is not what exorcism entails. At least, that is not all it entails. A soul is not “won” when it is released from demonic captivity; it is won when it is given to Christ.

The natural state of mankind, the Bible tells us, is not freedom, but rather slavery to sin. This is the result of our corporate accountability for Adam’s transgression. It is only the worst cases that are clearly understood to be possessions, but the end of one such episode does not bring the individual any closer to Heaven if full conversion does not follow the release.

I see a parallel in principle between exorcism and forgiveness. These might seem like words not normally connected, but follow the reasoning here... The world – at least the world surrounding Christianity – thinks that exorcism is completed when a demon is cast out of one it possesses. Similarly, the world thinks that forgiveness is what accomplishes salvation and everlasting life. The world, to throw in a third example, thinks that baptism is the aim or end of the earthly Christian journey. In each of these cases, however, what the world thinks of as the “end” is only the beginning.

Forgiveness does not accomplish salvation. Atonement, being in unity with the Father and Son; that is salvation; that is everlasting life according to John 17:3. Forgiveness is what is given to the repentant soul against the “sins that are past,” (Rom 3:25) based on faith in Yahshua and His sacrifice, and allows unity to occur, but merely praying for and receiving forgiveness does not of itself transform the soul.

Similarly, baptism is the end of the conversion process, but it is only the beginning of the converted life. It is the start of the life of sanctified thoughts, words, and actions without which there is no readiness for the judgment and an eternity of joyful service.

Based on the passage from Luke’s Gospel, we see that the world’s misunderstanding of exorcism is of the same order. It is not an ending, but a beginning, and if the process is not completed all the way through repentance, faith and baptism following an exorcism, the individual will not only relapse, but end up worse than at the beginning.

Now, why am I talking about this? CSDAs have not recently been involved in any such cases of which I am aware. Keep in mind, however, that our enemy would hardly be worthy of such caution if he did not learn from his mistakes, and he began his career as mankind’s tempter being “more subtil than any beast of the field which Yahweh Elohim had made.” (Gen 3:1) Should the demons that afflict mankind act in as open a way as they did before the “scientific” age, they would undo a great amount of the work they have put into lulling mankind to spiritual sleep.

It is one thing to turn humanity against Yahweh in open rebellion; however, it is far easier to simply put them to sleep, and then they are lost by default, following the Beast blindly into the pit of destruction. That being the case, I am using

exorcism as an extreme yet powerfully relevant example of the obstacles that the evangelist must overcome in our work to draw souls closer to the Savior.

For the Body, it is good to be reminded of the error of thinking that one is “all right” with Yahweh if not actively engaged in sin. There are active sins, but also sins of neglect, sins of failing to manifest agape when our Father gives us an opportunity to do so, sins of not daily asking, “What can I do to serve my fellow man today for their eternal good?”

Moses, the faithful prophet of Yahweh, was kept from the Promised Land because of the second of those. He was given an opportunity to reveal the goodness of Yahweh even toward an ungrateful people, and yet he acted in anger and wrath, misrepresenting the divine character.

Some have asked, “Can such a minor thing as that keep one from Heaven?” They ask because their religion is based on works, and not on a faith-developed character.

Moses may not have understood the infinite mind perfectly, but had he merely followed Yah’s instructions, he would have spared himself the grave – perhaps forever.

It is the same way with us. We are not always let into the counsels of the Almighty, not even those with the gift of prophecy; nevertheless, we know that we are to remain true to principle. We know that we are to have the attitude that humbly asks, “What can I do to best serve my Father in this matter?” If we do this, then we follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth.

It is not a complicated thing to be faithful to Christ. As Moses said to an earlier redeemed people, “it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off. It is not in Heaven, that thou shouldest say, ‘Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?’ Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, ‘Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?’ But the Word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it.” (Deu 30:11-14)

The body of Christ may be in Heaven, but the Body of Christ, bearing His Word, that is among us, and His written Word is among us, and the Spirit by which the Word dwells in our hearts is shed abroad among us. Because of this, although it is the “default” of mankind to be destined for death, which is why the sinner is called the “natural man,” it is also – as we have taught Yah’s people – “Easer to be saved than lost.” We have a study online by that very name.

Now as I said at the beginning, there was a time when I was counseling several people who believed, rightly or wrongly, that they were possessed or heavily influenced by demons. I prayed with them, and I prayed for them, and I shared with them the promises of Yah for a life of victory that awaited them at the point of conversion.

But none of them are among us now. None of them progressed past the point of feeling encouraged by my words for a time, because I told them all the truth, and

they did not love it. I told them that if they did not receive Christ completely, to the point where He would transform the clean but empty house into a Throne for His Father and Himself, they would have no protection.

Nothing I could do to cast out a devil would do them any lasting good if they did not repent of all their sins, and submit to baptism into the earthly Body of Christ. I did not press this on them at the beginning, of course. A minister of Yah knows how to meet people where they are, and to address their current needs; but we must also lead them to a point called the “valley of decision,” in which they choose to press forward up the mountain to Heaven, or go back to the darkness of deception and sin.

In each case, those who were speaking with me at that time chose their demon rather than salvation. They did not say, “No, I do not want to be saved, I prefer to be possessed.” Instead, they submitted to the subtleties of their tormentors. They said, “Even if I am free, I don’t see how I can live an entire life without sin.” They said, “Maybe there is someone else who can pray for me without trying to change who I am.” Or, they simply stopped communicating with me.

Choosing the demon is easy to do if one is not supremely careful, and Satan has made it as easy as possible. If anyone (whether in the world or in the Church) is not counting the cost of words and actions and actively choosing the good, then he or she is passively choosing the demons. Those who do this are accepting their temptations, their enticement away from the path of sainthood. Many people believe that they want to get rid of their demons; and certainly, in some rare cases the presence of an evil spirit feels oppressive. Yet they do not want to lose what the demon provides for them in other ways: justification for sin, a quiet conscience while satisfying carnal pleasures, an “easy” life free of persecution for righteousness. These are things that the world loves, and these are the things that choosing a demon provides, especially if it is not too “noisy” a passenger in the flesh.

So, how can one know if he is free from demons?

The Church of Yah should surely know, should surely trust, that Yahshua is keeping them always from falling. The Church of Yah follows the footsteps of Christ, and its faithful, converted members do – indeed – consider their every word and action, weighing them in the divine scales to see if they are genuinely the thoughts and words of Christ before releasing them into the universe. It is not a light thing to be a saint, although it is a joyful thing.

But what if one does not know? What if one has never yet had the opportunity to exercise faith, to experience genuine repentance, to submit to Biblical baptism? These are among the ones we encounter in our labor for the world. These are the questions we are asked in the pursuit of souls for the Messiah. What do we tell them?

We tell them the truth... that the religion of Yahshua is not about feelings or works. It is not about what they do, or what they think of themselves. If they will give themselves to Christ, if they will receive His sacrifice on their behalf, then –the Bible tells us – the Father and Son will cleanse them.

However, many who ask for release are not released. Many who ask for help and healing receive silence in return. : Why is this? It could be that, in some rare cases, they are being prepared through trial. Paul had such an experience. But this generally takes place among those who are already Christ's.

One who is not yet fully committed, and living a victorious life, cannot take comfort in the idea that Yahweh is leaving them with an affliction for some "greater purpose." Such an individual needs to be cleansed.

In those cases, no response is given because that person is not ready for the second part, for the conversion that MUST follow the cleansing. If it does not, Yahweh is doing them no favors by simply making them more suitable for greater oppression by the original demon and "seven other spirits more wicked than himself."

One may be living a morally "good" life, maybe even an outwardly Biblical life – attending Bible studies, giving to the poor, reading the Scriptures, faithfully returning tithes and offerings (realizing that failure to do this is robbery of the very God whom he would ask for healing), etc. But if such an individual is not willing to say, "I forsake sin and self forever," Yah will not provide this healing, nor will any healing His agents are permitted to accomplish last.

So, how does the sin-sick soul receive freedom? How does the demon-oppressed individual find release? They must count the cost, seriously, solemnly, and then, if they truly wish to be free of the demon and ALL that it means to them (including those supposed "benefits"), let them ask in faith, not wavering.

Yah will then send His servants, and the demon will be cast out – not according to the Catholic perception of restoring the soul to health... but of restoring the soul to its place of freedom to choose. Those who have demons cast out, and those who give up a particular sin, they are brought to a point of choosing. If they have counted the cost, if they have made themselves truly willing to be saved, they will walk forward, in faith, by repentance, through baptism, and into the Kingdom that does not pass away.

Let us, as those agents and ministers of Yahweh, be educated about such things. The casting-out of demons does not have to be any great, dramatic thing. It can simply be a prayer with a sinner, who – by the amazing grace of Yahweh –truly wants to be free from the misery of being one who lives according to the flesh.

Let us be intercessors between those who are hungering and thirsting after righteousness. Let us find them, searching the field diligently in this time of harvest, and know – because we follow the Lamb of Yahweh – how to show them the way to be whole. Are there any questions or comments about tonight's study?



Guest_Adriel : C




Zahakiel : Go ahead.



Guest_Adriel : Give me a minute... I heard in a study this week a quote from EGW that the power of Satan is 10 fold greater than it was in the days of the apostles and that it would continue to increase until it is taken away. I share this so we can be aware. There was also a quote from 5T pg. 514...may take too long but it was something

to the effect that when we call on Yah for help...he will immediately take possession & deliver us from sin & self's rule & reign when we cry out to Him. I was blessed by that study and blessed by this one as well, to be able to share this with those who are struggling with sin & demons. End


 Zahakiel : *With regard to that quote from 5T, keep in mind that this was advice for those who needed deliverance from sin and self's rule... and as I've said above, and in fact as Christ said in that quote from Luke... merely being cleansed is not sufficient. One must be prepared, when making that request, to step into a life of victory once that delivery has been provided, or else it will either not take place at all, or only open the door for a seven-fold worse experience.*

 Guest_Adriel : **Right**

 Zahakiel : *Are there any others with thoughts to share on the subject?*

 Guest_Peter : C:


 Zahakiel : **Go ahead.**

 Guest_Peter : I must give Yah praise for keeping me awake to the end of the meeting, for healing within and without, for the study that was shared this evening, for the victories that his power wrought through me this week and the blessings of having a God fearing wife and children that are helpful in the little ways they can in the home. End.

 Pastor_Chick_CSDA_7 : **C**

 Guest_Adriel : **Amen**


 Zahakiel : **Go ahead.**


 Pastor_Chick_CSDA_7 : **The unconverted heart "strives for the mastery" and even deceives itself, even believing it is striving to overcome sin while it struggles to keep the flesh alive. The unconverted heart is "deceitful above all things and desperately wicked" and while we might be in fervent prayer for those poor souls who "struggle with sin" we must KNOW that their struggle is really a deception. One that struggles to stay alive... but, "life is easy living when SELF is DEAD." (EGW). END.**

Zahakiel : **Right** 

 Guest_Peter : Amen.

 Zahakiel : *All right, if there are no others then I will ask Bro. Luke to close the meeting with a prayer.*

 Lucan : *Dear heavenly Father. We thank you that you accept no partial surrender, and offer no partial healing. We would not want either of these empty gestures, and are blessed to serve You fully through your limitless power. We ask that your Spirit be with your people as we seek others who are not satisfied with what the world offers at will... Continue with us through the remainder of the Sabbath hours, we ask in Yahshua's name...*

 Lucan : *Amen.*

 Pastor_Chick_CSDA_7 : **Amen.**


 Zahakiel : **Amen.**


 Barbli : **Amen**

 Guest_Adriel : **Amen**

 Guest_Peter : **Amen.**

 Guest_Elyna_Family : **Amen.**

 Guest_Adriel : **I have a question about "striving for the mastery" [1Co 9:25 KJV] 25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they [do it] to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. How does what the apostle said here fit in with what Pastor was saying?**


 Zahakiel : *That quote is talking about someone trying to exercise self-control. Striving for the mastery of one's self. Pastor's quote is in reference to an unconverted heart controlling the entire self through emotions, passions, etc. In fact, Paul's statement is an analogy to athletics. Everyone that is trying to win a race by being a good athlete. Similar words, two very different contexts 😊*

 Guest_Adriel : **okay, got it.**

 Pastor_Chick_CSDA_7 : **A**

 Guest_Adriel : **Thanks** 😊

 Zahakiel : *You can go ahead, Pastor* 😊

 Pastor_Chick_CSDA_7 : **We are to strive... "Strive to be among the 144,000", BUT our "striving" is NOT what many see it to be. Our STRIVING is "implicit trust" in YAH's promises, which is simply accepting "the faith of YAHSHUA" -- believing what YAHSHUA believes...**

 Guest_Adriel : **Amen**

 Pastor_Chick_CSDA_7 : **when we DO that, we are "striving to be among the 144,000."** 😊

 Guest_Adriel : 😊