

Zahakiel: Almighty Father in Heaven, we give you thanks for the week that has passed. We thank you for the many occasions of blessing we have experienced, for the guidance of your Holy Spirit, and for the ministry of your watchful angels. We ask for your continued presence with us during these sacred hours, set aside that we may draw near to you, and we ask for the opening of hearts and minds to the light you have set before us, that we may continue to please you in all that we say and do. We ask this in the name of your dear Son, Yahshua. Amen.

Elyna: Amen

Lucan: Amen

Adriel: Amen

Barb: Amen

Zahakiel: Happy Sabbath to everyone. Tonight's study is called "Yahweh the Builder," and I would like to talk about progress. Last Sabbath, I spoke about personal progress; specifically, I discussed the growth of character. When we learn a doctrine, truly learn it, the substance of that doctrine becomes more than just a belief memorized, or a habit adopted. There are many who will do the "works" of Christianity, and become convinced that they are on the right track...but all they have done is trained themselves to act and react. Even animals can learn behavior, but Yah expects more from His children who were created in His image. If anything less than full conversion of the soul is taught, or received, then the heart is not changed, the "self" is not dead, and Christ has not come to reside within.

For those who are born again, we expect nothing less from our Father than everything He has promised us. When we are told that those who are in Christ do not commit sin, we do not expect anything less than that. When we hear that we are called to be perfect, even as our Father in Heaven is perfect, we do not expect to be anything less than perfect. When we read that Yahweh will bless our faithful obedience, we need not get caught up in arguments about salvation by works... those who love the Father and Son will obey Them by faith, and that is the simplicity of the truth about beliefs and actions.

For those who are born again, when they learn a doctrine, the essence of that doctrine, the principle that underlies the doctrine, it becomes character. It becomes a part of the personality that can never be forgotten, and – as long as that person is alive to Christ – can never be betrayed or overcome by the flesh. Free will becomes the means by which we are always choosing the right course, and rejoicing that we do so, rather than an opportunity to turn away from the light. When we understand this, we will not fear freedom... and therefore we do not fear our Father's judgment.

This, so far, should be simple enough, and we should all be on the same "page" with our understanding. I would like to add to the concept tonight by speaking of progress on a larger scale, not the progress of an individual human, but the progress of humanity as a whole, and how this may be applied to evangelism.

Yahweh is a Builder. He is a Creator, a Constructor, and a Developer. While His individual acts of creation are instantaneous, which is one of the reasons why we see the secular concept of biological evolution as contrary to both history and God's character, it is also true that He layers his instantaneous acts to create things by stages. In other words, the work of Yah is not accomplished

by long, slow processes, but instead by fast, distinct steps. The first chapters of Genesis reveal this principle as applied to the universe, and we are given this record very quickly.

The rest of the Bible, and indeed, all of universal history, show how Yah applies this work of creation to His living, intelligent creatures, with humanity at center stage. Here is one way of demonstrating the principle.... We read: "And Yahweh Elohim planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom He had formed." (Gen 2:8)

Following that: "And if thou wilt make Me an altar of stone, thou shalt not build it of hewn stone, for if thou lift up thy tool upon it, thou hast polluted it." (Exo 20:25)

At the end of human history, we read this: "And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from Yah out of Heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass." (Rev 21: 2, 21)

Now, I have made this observation in a much earlier study, that humanity's intended environment changes over time. It goes from living in a garden, to living in a city. It goes from one kind of order to another, for there is certainly order in the growth of trees and vines, but it is not the same kind of order as seen in the construction of streets of gold or a walled city with gates.

Even the worship of Yahweh, or the site of that worship, seems to change. We begin with stone altars made of un-hewn stones to the worship of the Father directly before His Throne, which is described as being like an emerald, and situated in New Jerusalem when it comes down to earth.

It is certainly true that man's need for shelter beyond the provisions of Eden's garden began when he was cast out for transgression. This does not, however, mean that the progress itself depended on the entrance of sin. Man was always intended to grow and develop, and the earthly structures such as the Tabernacle of Israel were patterned after eternal realities revealed in vision. What this means, then, is that had man never sinned, he would nevertheless have progressed to the point at which construction and more lasting structures were a part of our civilization.

Workmen in the Scriptures are commonly praised by the inspired authors; therefore, it seems pleasing to Yah that His people use their skills to create items out of the materials He has provided. Think about how this may apply to us in this generation. Yahshua Himself, a carpenter, engaged in building things, and all that He did brought honor to His Father's name.

If our Father is a Builder, we ought likewise to be the same. Each of us has been given gifts of intuition, creativity, and cleverness in some aspect of our lives, and it is our responsibility to learn how to use these gifts in the act of building.

As I read the Scriptures, I find that Yah has always sought to make a lasting and visible impact in human history. He does so with memorials, with temples, pillars and altars. If we were to seek to apply this observation, it would be easy to spiritualize this concept too much, and say that with our

words and testimonies, we are creating a building of sorts. Now, I do not disagree with this. After all, we have a workbook called *The Two Temples* that outlines how we are the Temple of Yah on the earth in two ways.

First, individually we are Yah's temple because His Spirit dwells within each of the redeemed, and our bodies are therefore the structure that houses it for its presence in the world.

Second, collectively we are Yah's temple, because as a Church we represent the fullness of Yah's righteousness, the conduit of blessing by our intercession and prayers for the world. We ought, in light of this, to be praying always for others. It is natural for us to pray for ourselves and our brethren, but we ought to spend as much time, if not more, speaking to Yah on behalf of those who are lost and in need of the Gospel. While Yah cannot always directly bless those who are outside of His Covenant, He can certainly bless us with gifts to bring to them indirectly. This is, ultimately, one of the reasons why the Gospel is committed to human beings. We, with our free will, may choose to bless others with the things we have received from our Father, who may give them freely to us as His children.

And some may say, "Isn't Yahweh free to give His gifts to anyone? Why does He need His Covenanted people to bring gifts to the unsaved?" We spoke about this in an earlier study, how the process of blessing others with the gifts we have received from Yahweh has two obvious benefits.

First, it refines us and develops our faith toward everlasting service in Heaven. Second, the unsaved do not have the discernment to recognize a gift from Yahweh. They will not accept it as a sign of love. They must be given these gifts by someone who is Yah's messenger, and KNOWS that he or she is Yah's messenger, so that the gift, combined with a testimony, can counter some of the blindness that a life without faith has caused.

Our Father is a Builder, and He has called us to be His evangelists, the messengers of His Gospel. These two ideas go together. Consider the development of "order" as I have pointed out a short while ago. The environment of mankind goes from a garden to a city. It goes from the natural development of biological growth to the deliberate acts of construction.

In considering the "building" of the Kingdom of Heaven, all men were originally to be born into Yah's grace, and expected to live free from the sorrows of death. Because of transgression, however, nature became twisted, including the nature of humanity, so that the "natural man" is a stranger to Yah.

Now, as I have said, the development from garden to city would have taken place regardless of mankind's transgression; however, sin stripped us prematurely of the natural course of development, and so Yah needed to step in and teach us directly how to survive. We read, "Unto Adam also and to his wife did Yahweh Elohim make coats of skins, and clothed them." (Gen 3:21)

In His mercy, Yah did not allow the accelerated need for protection to overcome His children, but taught them to dress, to make bread, and various other skills they would need as they learned to survive in a more hostile environment.

Similarly, although Yah calls all men to Himself, the corruption of nature has required Him to step in and send messengers – deliberate messengers – to reclaim His lost sheep from the darkness. We read, to this end, “How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?” (Rom 10:14)

The idea is that Yah’s voice in nature is no longer sufficient to lead men to saving truth. Hopefully my point here is clear enough. Mankind lost its natural tendency to draw nearer to Yah by its transgression and, just as the natural world was once a comfort and sheltering environment for us, the entrance of sin necessitated a need to rapidly develop and adapt to a world in which blessings had become considerably less common.

Spiritually, Yah has had to build His Kingdom with deliberate effort; where once it would have grown as a garden, naturally working out its in-built genetic “programming,” now it must be the result of diligent labor, and at the hands of dedicated workers.

We are those who are called to be the workers. We are they who must construct the spiritual Jerusalem on earth, knowing that nature has become corrupted, and that the nature of mankind is hostile to the Gospel’s principles. We must work the soil. We must build the walls, and we must pray, always, for Yah’s Spirit to attend our work and make the labor fruitful. We cannot leave nature to itself and expect that human souls will be saved. We must intervene, just as Yah intervened to give clothing and instruction to Adam and Eve, and just as we must now work with stone and lumber to construct a building. We must build, and so be like our Father in Heaven.

As I said a little while ago, this is a spiritual interpretation of the principle. However, we must beware of over-spiritualizing the principles with which we work. The understanding of the “buildings” of Yah as spiritual things is a true interpretation, but not a complete one. We must not see only the spiritual application here, but Yah constructs in the physical world, and we must as well. We must have a physical presence in the world, and this entails everything from pamphlets to websites, to buildings to books.

When we evangelize, people ask, “And where is your church located?” We may have had the tendency to consider these questions “non-spiritual,” but the truth is, they are reasonable questions. Where do you gather? Where do you hold your worship services? We know that worship is to be open, and a testimony to the world and universe. I am not advocating anything like a centralized church building... the Scriptures tell us that the time has now come to worship not on this or that mountain...but in Spirit and in truth. Yet, we must ensure that there are objects, items, tokens of our Covenant. These are the physical “proofs” that the Gospel exists among men.

At this time, we as a Church are being led by providence and the inspiration of Yah to a renewed discussion of evangelism. Let us remember, in these conversations, that our Father is a Builder, and that every covenant must have a token, a physical representation, of its existence.

Men will not recognize even fire from heaven as a miracle from Yahweh in this day of man-made wonders. Nevertheless, if we become builders, as our Father is a Builder, and work with cunning

hands and minds, we can create items, icons of faith, leaflets, booklets, web-pages and so on, that will work to shake off some of the dullness of mankind's senses. Combined with our fearless and steady testimony, of victory over sin, of the beauty of holiness, of the joy of Yah's salvation, the things we create may impress and inspire minds when they behold the products, the physical proof, of Heaven's love toward them.

In summary, I would say this: Our Father is a Builder in the world of men. He has given us great and wonderful spiritual constructs: prayer, worship, testimonies of truth. But we are not to limit His work in the modern world, and thereby our work, only to these things. We must recognize that Covenants have tokens, physical evidences of their existence, and therefore it would be to our benefit, and the everlasting good of others, if we consider how we might incorporate this idea into our efforts to save the lost from the destiny of all flesh.

Let us commit this idea to prayer, and hear what the voice of Yah may be saying to each of us through these words. Let us, ultimately, be joyful in the blessings we receive from our Father, and hasten to share them always with others.

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

Adriel: Amen

Naraiel: Amen.

Elyna: Amen.

Pete: Amen

gadriel: Amen, Amen

Zahakiel: All right, if there are not, then I will ask Bro. Luke to offer a closing prayer.

Lucan: Dear heavenly Father. We thank you for the work you have given us, as a wise master builder, to accomplish on your behalf. We know that no structure can be erected without careful planning, consideration, and measurement. May we exercise all of these with utmost diligence and wisdom, by the power of your Spirit. In Yahshua's name we pray, amen.

Zahakiel: Amen.

Adriel: Amen

Naraiel: Amen.

Pete: Amen

Barb: Amen D: Amen

gadriel: AMEN, AMEN

Elyna: Amen

Pastor Chick: Amen.

Gloria: Amen. 😊

Adriel: 🙏

Elyna: Peterson had a reflection over a part of the study and he would like to share it. Will let him do so now.

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Elyna: Peterson: I was reflecting on what Yahshua said to the Samaritan woman. He said that we shall not worship in this mountain or that mountain, but in spirit and in truth. I believe he saw down to our time as now we are spread out all over the world and use the internet to communicate with each other. The internet is invisible like the spirit but we communicate thru it as Yahshua communicates with us, invisibly. End

Barb: Thank you for sharing.

Naraiel: thank you for sharing.

Adriel: Yes 😊

Naraiel: 😊

Elyna: Natashua: C

Adriel: She can go ahead. 😊

Elyna: I love this study. 🤔

Adriel: What was your favorite part?

Elyna: Writing for her: how we will live from the garden to the city.