

Zahakiel: Pastor, can you offer an opening prayer?

Pastor Chick: Dear Father in Heaven. We come before your presence with thanksgiving. during this season of refreshing and seek more of your Spirit. bless your people with latter rain power and bless this hour and Sabbath day according to your good pleasure. in Yahshua's holy name, AMEN.

Zahakiel: Amen.

Naraiel: Amen

Elyna: Amen.

Barb: Amen

Lucan: Amen

Adriel: Amen

Gadriel: Amen, Amen

Zahakiel: Happy Sabbath to everyone, and welcome to the Feast of Tabernacles of 2016. I do not wish to speak for very long tonight, although certainly if there are any who wish to have a discussion afterwards, this is often as valuable a part of our time together as whatsoever I happen to present. What I want to speak about tonight, as we open the Feast, is actually just a continuation of the study from last week, "Thou Shalt Be Joyful."

It is Yah's intention, and expressed wish, that His people be joyful. This is why He remains with us. This is why His Spirit rests upon us, to guide, rebuke, correct, and comfort. That is why He has given us these times of refreshing. He has given us instructions regarding our health and moral choices. We know what is righteous, not because of our own opinions and limited experiences, but because He who is infinite in wisdom and knowledge has set it before us in language that we can understand. As it is written, as the Book of Hebrews begins, "God, 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)

In times past, the Creator has taught us through the words of the prophets, and through the teachings He delivered to us through them, including those contained in rites, rituals, and ordinances. In this time, the Son has fulfilled many of these activities; however, the message that the Father has for us has never changed. His means of speaking to us has been "diverse," and sadly, those who have not had the Spirit of Christ have always been left behind when the means has changed, caught on the hooks of familiarity or complacency. We see this, as CSDAs, very clearly with regard to the proper understanding of the Beast and its image.

A few weeks ago, we spoke at some length about the idea that Yah will sometimes permit errors among His professed people to stand. Disappointment reveals humility. Remaining

within a group of believers despite their miscalculations reveals loyalty, and we have seen this very clearly at such times as the dawn of Adventist history.

The Feast of Tabernacles represents the very last moments of human history, the great harvest of the earth. "At sundry times, and in divers manners," Yahweh has revealed to us the spirit and the truth of this Harvest. We understand the parables of the Savior and its symbolism of seeds, growth, maturity, and finally the reaping. We see in this language the path of sanctification, performed by the Son, and revealed in our victorious testimonies.

The symbols associated with the Feast have changed over time, of course. Moses received instructions for revealing its sanctifying influence to the Israelites. The Hebrews who settled in Canaan, and then the apostles received different observances, such as the Last Supper, which likewise, and appropriately for the time, revealed those things given to them for their perfection.

In our day, Yah again speaks to His people through His Son. The message is the same, but the times and activities are different. Here we are, scattered across the world, and yet the Father has not left us without His holy witness. Here we are, few in number and persecuted from both the enemies of the Gospel...and, at times, those who claim to be Its believers. But in all this, through all troubles and trials, we rejoice. We are commanded to be joyful. We have this time in particular to celebrate before Yahweh, and to rejoice.

As we have long taught, we can experience nothing, we are asked to endure nothing, except that which the Father and Son permit to penetrate Their loving embrace, and the mighty wings underneath which we shelter. If something comes upon us, whether a benefit or a challenge, whether a praise or an accusation, we can know with certainty that it has been measured for us – with infinite wisdom and limitless care – from the foundation of the world for our sanctification and blessing. Do we believe this? If so, then how can we be anything but joyful? How can we be anything but settled into the Father's love, so that nothing can by any means move us?

This is what the Feast of Tabernacles is for us. This is the lesson that Yahweh desires His people to know, and in which to rejoice during this appointed time. Whether we have a meeting together, or whether we are reading our Bibles on days when we have no official meeting, or whether we use the time to evangelize, this is our cause for rejoicing.

It is not every day this week that we have a formal convocation. This is good... again, the experience has been measured for us, and permitted to be just so, by our Father. I encourage us to make the best use of however we use the time. We have been placed within the light of Yah's blessings, and we must by all means make sure our hearts are prepared to receive them. Even now the Creator is showing us new, and ever more glorious, ways to participate in His blessing. I suspect that the next feast will have some considerable differences from this one.

And yet, as we see how the activities have changed, from Moses, through the early and then later dynasties of Israel, through the early followers of Christ, and down to us, we also see that the Word, and its benefits for us, are constant. Our current needs for this age are being met, even as it was promised, for "my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Yahshua." (Phil 4:19)

Tonight, I rejoice in the provisions that Yahweh has revealed, both for my benefit individually, and for the Church and my brethren collectively. We shall not fail, nor be discouraged, for He does not permit His people to be ashamed before the world, nor to suffer and know want beyond what is strictly for our good.

Finally, I want to say this: Although we do not have "themes" for our feasts as such, I would like to suggest an area of focus. It is nothing new. The best lessons are those we hear again, but in a new way, with more sanctified and enlightened eyes and ears. I would suggest that we think, and pray, and meditate, on "communication." Perhaps, for example, during one of our days we can review the STARS study. On all days, I pray we will have free, sanctifying conversations.



5-29-2015Ye Stars of Light.pdf

Ours is a world-wide Church, and yet we remain strongly connected, rather than separating into distinct local groups. While there are a number of factors that have contributed to this phenomenon, the most significant is the unity that the Scriptures and Ellen White indicate are a characteristic of those led by the Third Gospel Angel of Revelation. This, like all the gifts of our Father, is received by faith, and then lived out in the lives and testimonies of the receivers.

Communication is at once our greatest strength and our greatest need. While we are each judged individually before the Father and the on-looking universe, much of our sanctification depends on the gifts we have been given to serve one another. I ask that you bless me, this week and for all time, with your communication, and I will do the same for you. I look forward to seeing this blessing in the days to come, and I invite you to share your thoughts and expectations for this time of thanksgiving and rejoicing. That said, I open the floor to any who may have such thoughts to share.

Naraiel: I want to thank Yahweh for all his blessings and protections I and my family have received so far.

Naraiel: C.

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Naraiel: I am also thankful for the opportunities and new experiences I have gained by living in Belize, and new friendships I have made in Colombia. ...

Adriel: Amen

Naraiel: and I pray that all these experiences and current contacts blossom for Yah's glory. I am also thankful for Yah's protection of my parents, and His daily guidance on our spiritual lives, and physical lives and for the energy and enthusiasm to accomplish ideas and projects. Dealing with people is not easy, and we don't always see the results and influences we originate in them. End.

Elyna: C: Gloria

Zahakiel: Amen.

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Elyna: I am thankful for the blessings bestowed upon us for the past weeks and months and for some good weather and being able to get provisions for winter, and for a family, a house to live in, clothes to wear when it is cold and for the bible to read, and to be able to claim and believe it's promises. End

Pastor Chick: C

Zahakiel: Go ahead

Pastor Chick: I rejoice that we have hired a worker with a Christian spirit. He is the 62 year old gentleman I recruited from Kampala. While he is Catholic, he has shown dependable and always pleasant in demeanor. All praise to Yah. END

Adriel: Praise Yah!

Gadriel: Amina!

Elyna: Amen!

Elyna: C: Natashua

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Elyna: I am praising Yah for helping me overcome temptations and trials this week! End

Zahakiel: Amen.

Adriel: Praise Yah!

Zahakiel: Are there any others?

Naraiel: Amen 😊

Barb: C

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Barb: I have much to be thankful for. I thank Yah for his protection, provision, pleasant weather, etc. He has given us many workers and much work has been accomplished, and though we do not see all the results of our health work and spiritual seeds planted, we thank Yah for the results. End

Adriel: Amen. C.

Pastor Chick: Amen

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Adriel: I also have much to be thankful for and will go into detail for my presentation. 😊
End

Zahakiel: Ok 😊

Lucan: C

Naraiel: Amen.

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Lucan: I am thankful that we have a season of "thanksgiving" that goes for far longer than the one I grew up with in the world... 😊

Adriel: 😊

Lucan: I am thankful for Yah's protection and safety, both during the storms here currently, and beyond them. The times I've been delivered from a traffic accident, bodily harm, or other loss are often "small" events, and pass quickly, but are blessings each one. I am thankful for Yah's hand in protecting me spiritually, and the opportunity to show His character in the midst of a city full of sin and licentiousness. I am thankful for the "cause and effect" results of His Word, including the blessings of health. I am thankful for the various bits of leaven and remnants of the flesh that He's shown me, and the gift of righteousness in their place. I am thankful that I am given to be thankful; we are told that

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we have nothing to fear except that we should forget how Yah has lead us in the past. And, as I consider how He has done so for us, both individually and as a people, I am blessed, and my expectation - to answer Bro. David's request - is for that to continue into eternity, according to His promise. <End.>

Pastor Chick: Amen

Zahakiel: Amen

Adriel: Amen

Barb: Amen

Elyna: C

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Naraiel: Amen

Gadriel: Amen

Naraiel: C.

Elyna: I am thankful for Yah's providence, protection, for trials and tribulations. Though the past couple of months have been particularly trying for me and my family. I have seen Yah's hand of guidance and mercy upon us. I know we are living in the very last moments of this earth's time, I cannot but notice people making up their mind regarding the truth presented to them. I was given the opportunities to testify in particular to a few individuals of Yah's everlasting truth, though they apparently turned it down, I rejoice that there were these opportunities to testify to them. I am also thankful for my Church family, though communication has not been steady on my part, (that is how I feel it), I have been nevertheless been blessed to know that you are there and to reach out when I am in need. Praise Yah for his people. End

Pastor Chick: Amen

Naraiel: Amen

Barb: Amen

Gadriel: Amen

Lucan: Amen 😊

Adriel: Amen

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

Naraiel: C

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Naraiel: I forgot to mention that I got my Belizean nationality this September, and my social security card, which allows me to work. However, right now, Yah has opened doors in an international school to tutor children in Spanish. Two of my students are sons of the Mexican ambassador here in Belize. Never expected that to happen. End.

Zahakiel: Right. We are hoping that will open some interesting doors.

Adriel: Amen

Pastor Chick: Amen

Elyna: Amen

Barb: Amen

Gadriel: Amen 😊

Zahakiel: All right, please go ahead when ready, Bro. Luke.

Lucan: Dear heavenly Father. We are thankful for the joy you have given to us freely, as we rejoice in your salvation. We are blessed as we see prophecies being fulfilled, and others potentially beginning to be fulfilled, as your people are brought into association with the "great men" of the world. We thank you for the opportunity to speak of your praises among brethren, as we go forward to share them also among those we hope will become such. May your Spirit remain upon your people through the Sabbath day, the feast, and beyond. In Yahshua's name we pray, amen.

Pastor Chick: Amen

Adriel: Amen

Zahakiel: Amen.

Barb: Amen

Elyna: Amen.

Naraiel: Amen

Gadriel: Amen, Amen