

Zahakiel: Pastor, please offer an opening prayer.

Pastor Chick: Dear Heavenly Father. We ask for your Spirit this sacred hour to refresh us with an inspiration from above. Thank you for hearing us and answering our prayers. In Yahshua's holy name, Amen.

Elyna: Amen.

Gloria: Amen.

Lucan: Amen

Barb: Amen

Gadriel: Amen, Amen

Naraiel: Amen

Adriel: Amen

Peter_Jr_18: Amen.

daphna dee: Amen

Zahakiel: Amen

Zahakiel: Happy Sabbath to everyone. Last week, we had a study entitled "Water to Wine." We looked at this first recorded miracle that Yahshua performed during His earthly ministry, and its symbolic significance, a sign of what the Gospel would do to and with humanity. Tonight, we are going to go from the alpha to the omega. This week we look at (and the study is called) "The Last Miracle."

Before we get to what Yahshua's last miracle is, I would like to engage you with a parable of sorts. I wonder what life would be like if this was all finished already, and we "knew" how everything that we are presently experiencing would turn out. Consider for a moment that you are already in Heaven. You've held fast to the end, you have run the race, and when Yahshua appeared, you received Him with joy. You have been taken, with your other faithful brothers and sisters, into the Kingdom. You have attended the Wedding Feast, clad in your white robe lined with purple and gold, and you are now settling into your new role, a wonderful task that replaces one (or several) of the fallen angels in the orderly society of Heaven.

Now, you are already there, and during the course of your interactions with the other redeemed, someone asks you what your life was like. You could tell them. You can recall every detail with perfect clarity; however, instead of just telling them, because this is Heaven, you can actually show them. You can put yourself back at any moment in your previous life and re-live it, allowing others to observe, as an eternal testimony to the universe. So here you are, back in this life, knowing that everything you are experiencing is actually already over, and you know how every trial is going to turn out. You know every blessing you will receive, but you go through the motions, making the decisions, because you are showing someone else what a sanctified life looks like. Can you imagine, if this was possible, what confidence you would have in those decisions?

You know you already “made it,” and so every trial, every temptation, is something you can laugh at. Every hard time can be observed, not with anxiety, but with interest, even fondness...rejoicing at how you know that the Father and Son will deliver you. You know how it turned out, that you resisted each and every suggestion of the Enemy, and overcame the world with perfect, divine Power. Now here is the question: Would your re-visited life look any different than it does right now? If you say, “Yes, things would be different,” then you have something to learn about trusting in Yah’s promises.

You see, because of faith, we have Yah’s own word that just what I have described is actually true. You have overcome the world. Every trial that comes to you, you can laugh at. Every one of Satan’s attacks you know will fail, because you have seen the salvation of Yahshua already – you have experienced it, and it is as if you are now merely looking back at a memory. You KNOW that you have overcome the temptations, for you have experienced it firsthand. You know that every trial, no matter how intense it may seem at the time, has a happy ending. You know that every sorrow is just the gateway to a greater joy.

Now, in my scenario, you knew it because you had experienced it already, and you were “rewinding time,” as it were, to show someone else your life. But in reality, our hope is based on something even greater, even more secure, than our own knowledge and experiences. This is the point. If we would act with perfect confidence, perfect assurance, because we knew for ourselves that it would turn out well, how would we act based on what Yah Himself knows?

As I said, our hope is based on something even more certain than our own memories, knowledge, and experiences. It is based on the Word of Yahweh. I consider this an interesting experiment in thinking about what it means to “trust” Yahweh. If we trust in our Father, we live this life knowing, maybe not the specifics, but the overall arc of our experiences already. It has been laid out for us by Yahshua, and therefore we can relive (for the first time, if that is not too much of a contradiction) all the joy He has for us, and receive, with fresh wonder, every blessing that He has planned for each of us from the foundation of the world. What a life can be lived, if we live it by faith, by perfect trust that everything Yah said would happen for us will happen.

Perfect trust in Yahweh transforms our lives completely, because if we could be perfectly happy, and confident, because WE have seen how our lives will turn out, then we can be exceedingly happy, and gloriously bold, because HE has seen how our lives will turn out. He has indeed, and He has assured us that all things are working together for our good, we who love Him, and are the Called according to His purpose.

What a perfect miracle this is; in fact, after this miracle, after this genesis, the creation of this life of trust, what other great works would we need to see?

In examining miracles, we best start with its most basic definition. The dictionary.com website gives us, "an effect or extraordinary event in the physical world that surpasses all known human or natural powers and is ascribed to a supernatural cause."

As students of the Bible, and worshippers of Yahweh who know His character, we might also add that since our Father does nothing arbitrarily, the purpose of such an effect or event is to demonstrate His power, and to provide an initial impulse toward, or confirmation of, faith.

Now, I have chosen my words carefully. I did not say that miracles were designed to produce, create, or develop the faith of those who witness them. In fact, they cannot. Yahshua actively discouraged those who were following Him merely for the miracles, or for the "loaves," the physical benefits received by miracles. (John 6:26)

The miracles that Yahshua performed were as much a reward for existing faith, and the answers to prayer, as they were demonstrations of His limitless spiritual might. Those who did see them, however, were immediately convinced that there was glory present. This went beyond simply marveling at the effects, but when Yahshua performed these great, supernatural works, His character was revealed as well. At times, even without the works, His glory was manifest, and His enemies fell back at the glimpse of His majesty. (John 18:6) Notably, in most such events, He did not win any followers; the miracles did not create new faith where no faith initially existed.

Now, if a miracle is an "extra-ordinary" event, for any of these reasons, then I consider that there are actually two answers to the question of which of Yahshua's miracles is the "last," depending on whether you are with Him, or you are with the world.

For the world, the last miracle is the return of the Son of Man. When He comes in His Father's glory, He comes to purify. The plagues, all miracles, have already passed. The dead have just been resurrected (also a great miracle) and the heavenly bodies are moved out of their courses. The glory of Yah's presence, the fiery Shekinah, is released, and every creature infected with sin is laid to rest. The world ends... it stops, until the judgment resumes after the Millennium, and there is no more worldly witness to any event, supernatural or mundane. Truly, that must be the last miracle. Except...

For the redeemed, none of these things are actually "supernatural." None of them surpass "all known human or natural powers." In coming to know Yah, we actually come to know nature better. Just as there is a "Sabbath more fully" that can only be known by those who experience the Sabbath, so there is a "nature more fully" to those who know and experience the Author of nature's laws.

All that Yah does is natural – all that He does has been ordained from the beginning of the creation, and could therefore happen in no other way. I do not say that Yah is inflexible, or some mere “force,” and does not actively respond to His children’s desires; but according to His foreknowledge, all this has to come pass as He has fore-known. It is only natural, it is only the result of perfect order, that this is so. For the world, Yahshua’s last supernatural event is the resurrection of the dead and the destruction of the world, because it is outside of the nature that they know. It is above, and beyond, all that they can conceive. For us, it is the natural – the most natural – fulfillment of our greatest desires, and the completion of our expectations.

Remember the parable I shared with you at the beginning...we have perfect confidence that this will happen just as we expect, because One greater, and infinitely more trustworthy than our own experiences, has foreseen it, and foretold it by those who speak for Him.

For the born again Christian, the last supernatural event we experience is conversion. All that is old dies, and passes away but, miraculously, the heart continues to beat. The eye continues to see. The brain continues to generate the mind... only that mind is now cleansed, and made new according to the likeness of the “mind of Christ.” He came down in the likeness of sinful flesh. We come forth with the likeness of the sinless mind and spirit – a perfect reversal of what was “natural,” a supernatural event.

A miracle.

Henceforth, the things that the world call miracles are, if not commonplace, at least expected. We expect answers to the prayer or faith, for example. We may have the same sense of wonder as someone in the world, if we should see something truly remarkable – I am not trying to take away the impact Yah’s work must have on any human observer – but while they of the world respond with confusion, we respond with joy. It is merely “nature more fully” carrying out the orders of its Master. Nature is the servant of the Divine, to which we are all heirs, and that is all it is.

The children of Yah will live forever with perfect health. They will resist the least intrusion of temptation and sin for ceaseless ages. They will visit other planets, and do things that would now be called “magical” and “impossible” in their daily lives. They will work the ground, and grow the food that their redeemed bodies enjoy, but not the way food is grown now. Nature will be our servant just as it is our Father’s, and we will dress and keep the land as Adam was to dress and keep Eden, and expand it over the entire earth as Yah originally intended. We will lose nothing of perfection because sin will once have existed. Eye has not seen, and the mind has not imagined, the things that await us in Yah’s Kingdom. Nevertheless, He invites us to imagine. He invites us by giving us glimpses

through His prophets, to know that all will be well in the universe, and we may be a part of that new creation, once again to be called "very good."

By Yahshua's last miracle, we become partakers of the new creation, becoming "new" ourselves, understanding the natural and the super-natural in "new" ways. The idea that a life can be lived with perfect peace, and confidence, becomes perfectly natural, even though for the world it is utterly impossible. Even many who claim to be Yahshua's own followers do not believe it is possible for Him to give us this kind of life. They will not use such words, however, or may believe that (for some reason) He does not want to. Those are really the only two options, when it comes to a "Christian" life that is not victorious. Yahweh is either unable, or unwilling, to convince us to cease from sin, to give us the power and desire to cease from sin, as if the flesh were more powerful than He. The nominal Christian, the secular believer who accepts this, still sees the life free of sin as supernatural, beyond all known power to accomplish... therefore, they are still waiting for the last miracle of Yahshua.

We who are His children have the Sabbath more fully. We have a life lived with a greater confidence than if we were seeing it play out a second time. Things still surprise us in the moment, and the works of our Father still fill us with wonder... but we are not confused, we are not frightened, by the mighty acts of our Creator. We are on the other side of Yahshua's mighty work in our hearts, and for this, we rejoice.

I would like to conclude tonight with this thought... Recently, Giselle and I have been watching a series on the Internet – perhaps Giselle will share the link – that is hosted by a theology and history teacher.

https://youtu.be/kHtCDU-v-BU?list=PLYFBLkHop2aLjioK9sr37uazi_TG7hRD

The series covers the history and spread of Christianity from a global perspective, starting with the apostles and going down through the time recorded by Eusebius, through Augustine, the various martyrs, and so on. It is more history than theology, so... there isn't much need to filter out false doctrines, and we see many great works of Yahweh through the New Testament heroes of faith, and we see the impact of their testimony on both commoners and kings. In this time, before the Catholic Church became apostate, Yah could really use His organized religion to accomplish great good. In fact, the teacher of this series made a most extraordinary claim, and yet one that is perfectly true. He said, essentially, in the ancient world, wherever Christianity was spread, literacy, culture, justice and civilization, went with it. Yah used His message as a vehicle to educate His people, not only about spirituality, but about science, sociology, medicine, law, true education, and so on. We know that many influential scientists were Christians, and creationists at that. And

so we see that knowledge, that great antidote to fear and anxiety, follows Christianity. Peace follows Christianity.

In this generation, it may be harder to convince someone of that claim, for the world only knows Christianity in its modern, corrupted, secularized state. Nevertheless, as CSDAs, as those who have already borne witness to the Savior's Last Miracle we know, and teach, that where true Christianity exists, there is peace. These lives that we now live are lives lived in Christ. This means that they are fore-known by our Father, because He has chosen us, and we have chosen Him. This means that they are fore-ordained to greatness, for He wishes only the best for His people, and so we may make every move with confidence. This means that they are fore-told, because He has sent His prophets, and apostles, and teachers... and His angels, with the greatest and simplest of "good newses," and it is simply this:

"Fear not."

Are there any comments or questions about the study tonight?

Adriel: Amen!

Zahakiel: All right, if not then I will ask Bro. Luke to close our meeting with a prayer.

Lucan: Dear heavenly Father. We thank you that you have translated us into the kingdom of your Son. We thank you for the opportunity to walk presently on streets of gold, in preparation for the actuality. We are blessed as we consider the revelations you have given us of these last days, and our part within them. May we who know the end of all such things be anointed by your Spirit as we seek to warn and persuade others by your love. In Yahshua's name we pray, amen.

Gloria: Amen.

Pastor Chick: Amen.

Zahakiel: Amen.

Peter_Jr_18: Amen.

Adriel: Amen

Gadriel: Amen, Amen

Elyna: Amen.

daphna dee: Amen

Barb: Amen

Naraiel: Amen