

Lucan: It's time to begin; Bro. David, will you please open with prayer?

Zahakiel: Let us pray. Almighty and loving Father in Heaven, we thank you for the week you have given to us, both the blessings in which we rejoice, and the challenges that build character for your Kingdom. We thank you for hearing the prayer requests we have lifted up before your Throne, both those shared privately, and those shared with the brethren, and we thank you that we may rest now in these sacred hours, knowing that you have heard us, and will provide all that your perfect will allows. May our minds be open to the message of your Spirit this night, for we ask it in the precious name of Yahshua. Amen.

Gloria: Amen.

Pastor Chick: Amen.

Lucan: Amen

Naraiel: Amen

Adriel7: Amen

Barb: Amen

daphna dee: Amen

Elyna: amen. Danielle: amen

Lucan: I have a relatively brief message to give tonight, beginning with a verse in Exodus: "And Yahweh appointed a set time, saying, To morrow Yahweh shall do this thing in the land. And Yahweh did that thing on the morrow, and all the cattle of Egypt died: but of the cattle of the children of Israel died not one." (Exo. 9:5, 6)

When Yahweh says that He will perform an action at a certain time, it is certain that He will do so.

"Is any thing too hard for Yahweh? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son." (Gen. 18:14)

When Yahweh appoints a time, that time is honored. This is rooted in the fundamental principles of honesty and truth; that what He says He will do, He will do. As those who are preparing to teach the saints of all ages the ways of Yahweh, the 144,000 reflect this aspect of His character perfectly. This much I expect we all are aware of and in agreement with. What I would like to look at more closely tonight is the means by which this happens – the type of legs we are to put on our prayers.

Yahweh prefers to operate within the universal laws that He Himself has set into place; this includes the law of cause and effect. The faith of Yahshua is a practical faith; while He may bring things into existence from nothingness with but a Word, we know that His providence often involves preparation, sometimes very far in advance:

"Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? Or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail, Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war?" (Job 38:22, 23)

"Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:" (Matt. 25:34)

"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." (1 Cor. 2:9)

"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:" (Eph. 1:4)

"And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days." (Rev. 12:6)

"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you." (1 Peter 1:18-20)

In short, Yahweh is a planner. Yahweh does not prepare in advance for His own sake; He does not require a schedule for Himself. All things were made by Him and for Him. Yet preparedness is His character, and the character of those who follow Him. We have spoken often of a "vision of excellence" – receiving an inspiration of what the end result of a project, plan, or commitment will look like. Preparation is the work of thinking ahead; considering how that result will be achieved, and from there taking the individual steps to bring it about.

"For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple. Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned? It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. (Luke 14:28-35)(LMK)

daphna dee: F

Pastor Chick: F

Naraiel: finished

Zahakiel: Finished.

Barb: F

Adriel7: F

Gloria: Finished.

Elyna: f

Lucan: "And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes." (Luke 12:47)

"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come." (1 Cor. 16:2)

There is a work of planning and preparation to be done for all, whether it be for efficient collections of donations, building projects, warfare, or the return of Yahshua to receive His Kingdom and Bride.

"And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat... And it came to pass, that on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for one man: and all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. And he said unto them, This is that which Yahweh hath said, To morrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto Yahweh: bake that which ye will bake to day, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning." (Exo. 16:15, 22, 23)

We see that this practice continued in spirit until the time of Yahshua and beyond: "And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath," (Mark 15:42)

Yahweh could very well have simply given the Israelites their Sabbath portion of manna on the day itself, only causing it to appear in some vessel, or before their tents, etc. There is no true limit to the means by which Yahweh might perform something, so the means He chooses by which to do so is always worthy of contemplation, as it reveals something about His character. While Yah sought to test the Israelites regarding the Sabbath, the "preparation day" continued well past the giving of earthly manna, and is as much a part of Sabbath-keeping as the Sabbath itself. Just as the Sabbath is to teach us how to live every day in perfect rest, the preparation day is to teach us to prepare every day, both for the next Sabbath and the life of rest it symbolizes. Just as neglecting preparation causes the Sabbath to suffer disorder, neglecting preparation causes the life to suffer disorder. We cannot, without preparation, keep the day holy. We cannot, without preparedness, "labor to enter into that rest."

"But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself." (Daniel 1:8)

Daniel did not wait until the test was upon him to make his commitment; he purposed in his heart beforehand what his course would be, having thought ahead to the test to come. He prepared for the test accordingly, and was blessed with victory and reputation.

"Thou hast proved mine heart; thou hast visited me in the night; thou hast tried me, and shalt find nothing; I am purposed that my mouth shall not transgress." (Psalms 17:3)

David did not wait until the moment of speaking to commit not to transgress, but that He purposed in advance that his "mouth should remain a sanctified mouth, his tongue a converted tongue."

When someone is regularly late to their agreed meetings, we may know that preparation is lacking, whether of checking their equipment, confirming their route, or of setting an alarm to arrive early. When projects are begun and not completed, it is frequently the case that preparation was similarly uncompleted.

Yahweh will not do for us what He has given us the ability to do ourselves; He will not prepare for us what we ourselves may plan. To us is given the work of not only acquiring a vision of the end result, but of bringing it about with practical work to His glory. As we approach the upcoming camp meetings in various fields, we are blessed with the opportunity to prepare. As we gather weekly and monthly for worship, we are blessed to be told in advance the appointed times that Yahweh has set to meet with us. As we come together weekly for the Sabbath, we are blessed with an entire day of preparation beforehand. It is today our privilege to be fit to receive the kingdom prepared for us from the foundation of the world. Such a kingdom will never be inherited by the unprepared, the uncaring, or the tardy.

"And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Yahshua, and by the Spirit of our God." (1 Cor. 6:11)

May our actions in all regards match our profession, that Yah may be glorified in us.

Are there any questions or comments about the study tonight?

Pastor Chick: Amen

Naraiel: No. great topic 😊

Adriel7: Amen

Zahakiel: C

Lucan: Go ahead

Naraiel: (thank you)

Zahakiel: I had two distinct thoughts when reading the study.

First... Several of the objections that skeptics raise when speaking to believers is the idea that if they were Yahweh, they would do things differently. They will look at something Yah has made, for example, and point to what they perceive to be its flaws and say, "A perfect God would not have made something imperfect." They fail to take into account two factors, however... first, that not everything as it exists now is the way Yah made it, for we have seen that the world has been corrupted, almost to the point of destruction, by sin.

Second, Yah knows more than we do, and even those things that still reflect His creative beauty do so in ways that are beyond us. We, who cannot create life, are not in a position to criticize He who can. This study reminded me of this...particularly the phrase, "Yahweh is a Planner." Even though He has no obligation to reveal His ways to His creation, in a way He has made Himself accountable to us. He invites us to behold His patterns. He has even asked His disobedient children to testify against him... to ask what cause He has given them for their disloyalty, so that those who beheld the punishments of Israel might know that they were treated justly.

Naraiel: C.

Zahakiel: The saints will not only be redeemed, but they will be taken to the Throne, to sit as judges, teachers and kings over even those that have never fallen... and this is the greatest of all honors. This vision, this knowledge, ought to always inspire praise, and thanksgiving, an unfailing faith in the promises that our Father has given us, and a desire to perfectly emulate His character in all ways, including what Bro. Luke has pointed out for us tonight.

My second thought/comment is in regard to the nature of preparation itself. Luke gave two examples, Daniel and King David who "purposed in their hearts" not to defile themselves, either with the King's meat, or with unsanctified words. I think this is a powerful teaching on the nature of the Victory. Even those who might believe in Righteousness by Faith as we teach it might hold back, afraid to "fail," to make a commitment that they want to believe in, but uncertain as to whether or not they can actually live a life free from sin. These verses teach them that if they say the words with their mouths, and receive Yahshua's faith in their hearts, the Father will bring out of them the thing that they desire. End.

Adriel7: Amen

Lucan: Thank you for sharing those insights. Your comments about skeptics criticizing Yah's design brings to mind food and medicine. I have noticed that those who think they have better ideas than Yahweh are often believers in the gods of science. And, in the pursuit of designing some better thing, dissect and rearrange what Yahweh has put together for a reason. "We can break down this natural fruit or plant, and take out or imitate this one portion we think is the important one, and that will be better than this poorly designed whole..." And it sounds well and good, until the results are seen within a generation; sometimes more, sometimes less. Then, the science catches up, and realizing some OTHER component was also necessary for the first. Yahweh's planning and designing is perfect. Those who would tinker with it have little understanding of their own limitations, until cause and effect reveals it to be too late to undo the harm.

Go ahead, Sis. Giselle

Naraiel: This study can also teach subtly that if Yah is a planner, He must be also a good communicator, and warn us against sins of presumption, arrogance and foolishness in many contexts of the saint's lives. In regard to health, it is amazing how science is always behind or trying to catching up (understand) the power of herbs and its complex functions, to give an example. End.

Pastor Chick: C

Lucan: I would consider prophecy to be "communicated planning." 😊 Go ahead, Pastor.

Pastor Chick: I discern the study to be a warning to sleepy saints who are not redeeming the time. Who have perhaps voiced commitments or made agreements that have not been fulfilled. I am reminded again of the "vision of excellence" in all that we do. And I notice in my life experience that no project, no matter how well planned, is ever fully completed without the need to improve or upgrade in order to form a more perfect glory to Yah. END

Naraiel: C.

Lucan: Thank you for sharing that. Are you speaking of the "vision of excellence" being updated with new understandings of Yah's glory?

Pastor Chick: New insights, as in sanctification -- no stopping place.

Lucan: <nods.>Okay, thanks for clarifying. 😊 Go ahead, Sis. Giselle

Naraiel: I have seen this as well in my personal experience, however, with proper planning, we can avoid unnecessary and additional difficulties. For 90% of the consequences we see around us is directly connected to our actions or lack of actions. End.

Lucan: I see conditional prophecy as a good example of plans adapting to circumstances... And, we are warned in James about the need to consider Yah's (at times yet unrevealed) plans when making our own statements and commitments. So, it would be unwise to consider planning, in and of itself, to be "foolproof..." Although, as I look at that word, I actually dislike it. But, the point being, I agree that planning is a matter of avoiding unnecessary obstacles.

Pastor Chick: C

Lucan: Go ahead, Pastor

Pastor Chick: Some may be tempted to use "conditional prophecy" as an excuse for not fulfilling commitments or completing projects and while circumstances do change, we are obligated to keep our word even with potential for altered plans. END

Naraiel: C.

Lucan: Right; I think this is where communication comes back in as well. When something requires a prophecy to be taken conditionally, Yah reveals that change; He "does nothing without revealing His secret to His servants the prophets..." With an agreement or commitment, if something does occur to cause a change, the very least to be done is to communicate it...the word needs to be kept "even to their hurt," however; which also touches on the need to take care in our words and commitments in the first place.

Pastor Chick: Amen.

Lucan: I doubt any of us would sacrifice our daughter, but, the example is there for a reason. Go ahead, Sis. Giselle

Naraiel: Yes, Ellen White said that character was not made out or model after circumstances, but that character was stronger than circumstances. This is where the example of King David and Daniel comes in. They decided in advance, despite anything, to remain faithful, even though they did not know the future. End. (Yahshua promised to give us our way out of temptation, and find the way).

Lucan: What I like about the example of Daniel is that his story begins with being aware of the specific temptations that were to come, and making up his mind beforehand on

them. And then, the ones he had no way to foresee, we also see him overcoming; Yahweh foresaw them, and made his character ready. Had he not been committed to specifically overcoming those he had a way to see coming, he could not have been prepared for the ones that he did not.

Are there any other comments on the study tonight?

Naraiel: C.

Lucan: Go ahead

Elyna: Thanks for the study.

Naraiel: Yes, that's why prayer, spiritual discernment (awareness) and wisdom is necessary) end.

Lucan: Incidentally...While I do not know of any failed commitments or agreements on my part, if I have any that my brethren know of, I invite you to please let me know. Preferably in private, but, as openly as such commitments might have been made.

Pastor Chick: (thanks)

Naraiel: the same here.

Lucan: If there are no other comments on the study tonight, I'll ask Pastor to close with prayer.

Pastor Chick: Dear Father, thank You for arranging all things for our benefits, and please impress upon all of us the need to be prepared in all of our endeavors. We thank you for the Shelter in the storm You have provided, and may our perpetual rest be manifested in diligent action for the Kingdom. In Yahshua's holy name, Amen.

Barb: Amen

Lucan: Amen

Naraiel: Amen.

daphna dee: Amen

Zahakiel: Amen.

Gloria: Amen.

Elyna: amen.

Elyna: Danielle: amen

Peter_Jr_18: Amen.

Naraiel: This study brought to my mind the following image

<http://www.faithofjesus.to/baptism.html> 😊

Adriel7: Amen