

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

Zahakiel: Let's pray. Father in Heaven, we come before your Throne with thanksgiving, grateful for another week of blessings that has passed, and for sacred hours of peace and joy. We ask that your Spirit rest upon us, opening hearts and minds to the message you have given to us by your servant, drawing us closer to your perfect will, and equipping us to save others for your Kingdom. We thank you for hearing our prayer, and granting our petition, for we ask it in Yahshua's holy name. Amen.

nattie: amen.

Adriel777: Amen

Lucan: Amen

Naraiel: Amen.

gadriel: Amen

Elyna: Amen.

Lucan: Tonight's message is called "A House of Merchandise."

Barb: Amen

Lucan: One of the things that struck me about the article, "From the Caves to the Courts," was how the concept of trademarks, and commercial trade in general, were front and center during the time of the apostles.

Pastor Chick: Amen

Lucan: From silversmiths opposing Paul for unfair competition to the prominence of trademarks in Rome during and after the time of John, Scripture and history offer several threads that weave together to form the principles of protest in this generation. Tonight we will be looking at one thread in particular that runs much longer than I had expected, and that is the concept of "merchandise." There are a few verses that may come to mind immediately:

"And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Yahshua went up to Jerusalem, And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables; And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise." (John 2:13-16)

"Happy [is] the man [that] findeth wisdom, and the man [that] getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it [is] better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She [is] more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her." (Proverbs 3:13-15)

"And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: ... cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men. (Rev. 18:11, 13; NKJV)

I've quoted the NKJV for the verse in Revelation as it renders the Greek more accurately; where we read "slaves, and souls of men" in the KJV, the passage itself says "soma kai psyche," or literally "bodies and minds/spirits/souls" of men. While the traditional reading would have us understand that souls are being bought and sold as goods in addition to slaves, the Scripture here shows us a church – Babylon, the great city – that trades in men, specifically both body and soul, with the merchants of the earth.

Neither the selling of men's bodies into slavery or the merchandising of the body and soul were new concepts to the apostles. We read in the Law of Moses: "If a man be found stealing any of his brethren of the children of Israel, and maketh merchandise of him, or selleth him; then that thief shall die; and thou shalt put evil away from among you." (Deut. 24:7)

Let it be shown that this verse is in the beginning of Deuteronomy 24, which is precisely where we find two other notable laws to Seventh-day Adventism; first, the law against a woman (or a church) remarrying her first husband after being put away and joining to another, and secondly, the law against taking either the upper millstone or the lower millstone (the means of refining grain during a harvest) from a man as pledge.

When a church uses civil power to prevent the ministry of those represented by the gathering angels, they attempt to "take the millstone." When they attempt to take either "Creation 7th day" OR "Adventist," they attempt to take either the commandments of God or the faith of Yahshua. They attempt to take down part of the banner, one of two pillars, one of two witnesses, one of two millstones between which the faithful are sanctified and separated from the chaff in the last great division of mankind. To those who offend in this manner, "it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea." (Matthew 18:6)

We may read of "men stealers" elsewhere in Scripture, however for now it is evident that kidnapping to sell into slavery was known. What of the spiritual component of man in addition to the physical?

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not." (2 Peter 2:1-3) (LMK)

Zahakiel: Finished.

Adriel777: F

Pastor Chick: F

Pastor Chick: Barb: F

daphna dee: F

nattie: F

Elyna: F

Peter_Jr_18: F

Lucan: To this day the Church encounters those who through covetousness attempt, with feigned words, to make merchandise of the gospel dispensation. In Australia, in Canada, in Africa, and abundantly in America we have encountered those who seek the work of ministry so they might live off the tithe, "making merchandise" of the saints through their covetousness. While abusing the spiritual lives of others for personal profit is not a new disease, we may fail to realize how very old it is:

"Thou [art] the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee [so]: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou [wast] perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire... Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee." (Ezekiel 28:14-16, 18)

"By the multitude of thy merchandise" was Lucifer, and the king of Tyre in symbol, filled with violence. "By the multitude of thy merchandise" was he cast out as profane, and rejected from the position of covering Cherub. "By the iniquity of thy traffick" are his sanctuaries defiled; the Hebrew word for "traffick" here is the same as for "merchandise," and is notably also defined as "trade."

A number of questions may arise here. Why does Lucifer have sanctuaries to defile? Does this speak of literal merchandise? Was he pawning baubles and trinkets in the courts of Heaven, a place without currency as we know it? No; there is evidently a spiritual component at work here.

Lucifer took his great advantages as a sign of personal worth; he presented himself to others in his pride, and he sold himself and his leadership to them in place of the light of Yahweh, with which he had been entrusted. Those who bought what he sold found that they had actually sold themselves to him, and were now slaves. So it is with every one that "opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so

that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." (2 Thess. 2:4)

So it is that "the iniquity of thy trade" defiles what were once sanctified houses. So it is that Yahshua made a whip of cords, and drove out those who would turn the temple of Yahweh into a house of merchandise, for through the multitude of merchandise they had filled the midst with violence.

It should be no surprise, then, that the mark Satan seeks to impose over the earth in his final show of authority is one that deals not only with the Sabbath, but also with the merchandising of spiritual things, the claim of a fallen church to own what proceeds from the voice of God, and the abuse of the faithful as "customers" in the house of God. Under the most benign of pretenses, the enforcement of the Seventh-day Adventist trademark name is an attempt to silence the sharing of the gospel for personal gain, reputation, and protection. It is the very spirit and course of Lucifer, who lifted himself up at the cost of others, and to this day seeks to lessen his own judgment by preventing the "buying" of the lost and the "selling" of their sins. We will revisit that concept in a moment.

Those that use the methods of the world to control and convert are buying "bodies and souls of men" using the means of the world – their trade is with the "merchants of the earth" rather than the merchant of Yah. That Yahweh buys and sells may be well established: "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see." (Rev. 3:18)

"Buy the truth, and sell [it] not; [also] wisdom, and instruction, and understanding." (Proverbs 23:23)

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it." (Matthew 13:44-46)

"Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth." (Luke 12:33)

"And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." (Revelation 13:17)

"And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred [and] forty [and] four

thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, [being] the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb." (Revelation 14:3-4)

"And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four [and] twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth." (Revelation 5:8-10) (LMK)

Zahakiel: Finished

Adriel777: F

Pastor Chick: F

nattie: F

daphna dee: F

Pastor Chick: Barb: F

Peter_Jr_18: F

Elyna: F

Lucan: These last two verses in Revelation may seem out of place in the study, however they have something notable in common: they are the only three times in all of Scripture where the Greek word "agorazo" is translated as "redeemed." In every other instance, including Revelation 13:17 and the other passages quoted, the word is translated as "buy."

If we conclude that both translations are accurate, Revelation 13:17 may read thus: "And that no man might redeem or sell, save he that had the mark, the name of the beast, or the number of his name."

If we conclude that only the word "buy" is accurate, then the other passages in Revelation read thus: "And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred [and] forty [and] four thousand, which were bought from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were bought from among men, [being] the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb." (Revelation 14:3-4)

And again: "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast bought us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth." (Revelation 5:9-10)

Do we begin to see the reason why Satan would seek to prevent buying in the last days? This is not an unusual proposal; as the Scripture says, "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (1 Cor. 6:20)

And again, "Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men." (1 Cor. 7:23)

Revelation deals with trade and spiritual commerce as fully as the rest of the Scripture, if not more so; it is fitting, then, that the mark of the beast should be aimed at restricting such trade, lest any should be redeemed, "bought from the earth" to form the 144,000. We know that the 144,000 are bought as the result of the message given by the three angels, which are repeated in the power of the fourth. We know these are they who have received the message to Laodicea, and have bought gold tried in the fire, eyesalve that they might see, and white raiment that they might be clothed.

Why should this message be repeated under the fourth angel, with the denunciation of the sins committed by the church added?

It can only be because the church itself became corrupted, "the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." (Rev 18:2) It can only be because those who were to be the merchants of the things of Yahweh have "defiled their sanctuaries by the multitude of their iniquities, by the iniquity of their trade." It can only be because those who were made the repositories of sacred trusts have "by the multitude of their iniquities been filled with violence, and have sinned."

What church is it that makes merchandise of the bodies and souls of men, through the merchants of the earth? What church is it that prevents those that would "buy and sell" under the three angel's message, having been cast out from their high estate to be a terror in the earth? What church is it that will suffer the wrath of Yahweh, such that He will "bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee?" It can only be that church that has followed the very path of Lucifer, whose leadership sits in the temple of God, showing themselves that they are God by claiming to be the source of that which God Himself has provided. "Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong [is] the Lord God who judgeth her. And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning." (Revelation 18:8-9)

May every professing Seventh-day Adventist hear assuredly what Yahweh has said of their organization: "...Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies." (Revelation 18:2-3)

"Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong [is] the Lord God who judgeth her. And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning... And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast [it] into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all. And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft [he be], shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived. And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth." (Revelation 18:8, 9, 21-24)

The mention of the bridegroom and the bride is not made idly, nor is the mention of the millstone, or the oil among the things that the merchants of the earth sell to the fallen church of Revelation 18: "And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, [Not so]; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut." (Matthew 25:6-10)

Such will be the end of all who persist in buying and selling after the manner of the earth and not the manner of God, making merchandise of the saints and the house of God. May Yah have mercy as the winds of strife are held back a little longer, awaiting the sealing of those who are to be bought from the earth and among men. May His voice be heard through all the earth: "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." (Revelation 18:4)

May we, as His chosen people, fulfill the message committed to our trust in giving the loud cry of warning and rebuke.

Are there any questions or comments?

Pastor Chick: C

Zahakiel: C

Lucan: Go ahead, Pastor

Pastor Chick: I am in tears ... tears of joy and thanksgiving for this inspired study. I believe it needs to be formatted in some way for distribution in the final declaration of the message. END

Lucan: Go ahead, Bro. David

Zahakiel: Thank you for the study you've given us tonight. As I was reading, I had three thoughts... The first is the connection you made between trade and "redemption." I will look into that further, as I want to see if, and what other, verses use that term. That may be revealing.

The second is that concept of the "two millstones." I will pray for further insight into the modern application of this symbol, because it does appear a number of times in the Scriptures, and I believe it has some spiritual significance for us.

The third... is the reference to Satan's connection with the Sabbath commandment. From my mainstream SDA days, I've heard it said (and its true) that this was the particular target of his wrath, because it names Yahweh as the "Creator," and it is therefore the seal of His authority. This study really highlights this, and deepens our understanding of its significance, since a thief, before he can sell something he has stolen, must obscure the identity of the rightful owner. Satan, in attacking the fourth commandment, has removed Yah's authority from it by claiming it is a day that a man, or the church, can decide..."a" day of rest, rather than Yahweh's blessed day into which He has invited us. So, these are matters I will be considering tomorrow. End.

Pastor Chick: Amen.

Adriel777: Amen

Elyna: C

Lucan: Go ahead

Elyna: I like this study as well with all the parallel, symbolism. I will go over it again. Praise Yah. 😊 End

Lucan: Re: Pastor, I teared up a few times myself while writing, so, I'm blessed to hear that you had a similar response. 😊

Pastor Chick: Amen.

Lucan: Re: David, I'm interested in knowing what you find out, especially about the millstones...

Adriel777: (yes)

Lucan: The thief comment is interesting; it occurs to me that a thief not only has to obscure the rightful owner, but pass himself off as the rightful owner; otherwise, who would buy?

Pastor Chick: C

Lucan: Since no one will buy Satan's inventions in his own name, he does so in the guise of fallen churches...

Adriel777: C

Lucan: Whether it be a day owned by a church, or a name owned by a church, or a heritage owned by a church. Go ahead, Pastor

Pastor Chick: It does appear this spiritually fulfills Satan's impersonation of Christ. END

Lucan: Go ahead, Sis. Jody

Adriel777: "And no wonder for Satan transforms himself as an angel of light". End

Lucan: There does seem to be a trend there that I'm seeing. Something like "ownership" vs "leasing" almost, or something given by debt vs grace. Lucifer mistook Yah's blessings as being his own rather than gifts given and maintained. The same for the Jewish church and Yah's favor as Abraham's seed...

Zahakiel: C

Lucan: The same for the authority of the Catholic Church, granted on obedience. And the same for the name Seventh-day Adventist, given to describe a faith no longer held. Go ahead, Bro. David

Zahakiel: Yes, I noticed that too... that statement you made about Lucifer's mistake. Truly, any form of pride is stealing the glory of Yah, and misrepresenting it as our own merits. In the Bible, the word "glorying" is used instead of pride in a number of places, and this isn't a coincidence. That kind of emotion that many people direct toward their own selves is really the worship that should be given to Yah. End.

Lucan: Are there any other comments? If not, I'll ask Pastor to close with prayer.

Pastor Chick: Dear Father in Heaven. We thank You for touching us with revelations from Your Throne. It is exciting to see new and renewed light bursting forth from Heaven. May we build upon what is revealed as we seek to save the merchandized souls before it is forever too late ... in Yahshua's holy name, amen.

Lucan: Amen

Adriel777: Amen

Zahakiel: Amen

Peter_Jr_18: Amen.

gadriel: Amen

Naraiel: Amen

Elyna: Amen.

daphna dee: Amen

Pastor Chick: Barb: Amen

nattie: amen.

Pastor Chick: I just saw two categories of people who we must evangelize. The lost, who have no Savior, and the merchandized, who have a savior that is a false one, saving them in their sins.

Adriel777: Amen