

Pastor Chick: I just received notice from Lucien that his wife is critical now, having malaria. He requests urgent prayer.

Zahakiel: Ok, thanks for letting us know. It's about time to begin. Please offer the opening prayer, Pastor.

Pastor Chick: Dear Father in Heaven, we come before your Throne, requesting a blessing for your people, both for this worship time and for our sister struggling to remain among the living. We know and accept that You are the great Physician and have power over every disease and affliction, therefore, knowing this family is doing all they possibly can to live out the laws of our being, we set this critical case before You for the best possible resolution. Resting in Yahshua, we now look forward to the Sabbath blessing as Your Spirit refreshes us according to your good pleasure. In Yahshua's precious name, Amen.

Lucan: Amen

daphna dee: Amen

Barb: Amen

Adriel777: Amen

Naraiel: Amen

Elyna: Amen.

Zahakiel: Amen.

Peter_Jr_18: Amen.

Pastor Chick: BTW...This woman had a complication during her last child birth. Lucien asked me to pray, and that very day, Yah worked what was considered a miracle, and both mother and child came out with life and health.

Adriel777: Praise Yah!

Pastor Chick: The mother has never met me, but she has told her husband to ask me to pray for her and take my counsel seriously. She claims me as her "pastor." End.

Zahakiel: We will keep this in prayer as well. Please let us know what develops.

Pastor Chick: Amen.

Zahakiel: So for tonight, our study, a slightly shorter one, is entitled "An Eager Heart." It is, I believe, very appropriate for the news we have just received, an urgent prayer request for one suffering from a critical illness.

With such a title as this one, one might expect that this will be about our willingness to submit to Yah's sanctifying providence, to give sacrificially toward the completion of the Gospel outreach, or to engage in effective evangelism. While these are all important aspects of our experience, the "heart" to which I refer is actually that of our Father in

Heaven. We all know the passages that speak of His generous nature; for example, "Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" (Mat 7:9-11)

While we know these things from reading them, this needs to be the living experience, and the open testimony, of every believer in Christ Yahshua. We ought to say, "We read this in the Scriptures, and we also know these things are true, because our experiences confirm the promises of the Word."

The character of our Father, to quote an inspired source, is "everything to us as a people;" thus, it is our duty and our blessing to keep this aspect of His personality in the forefront of our minds...not merely when we are praying for what we need, but also when rejoicing in what He has given to us, and speaking to others of His covenant.

The preacher has written, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear Elohim, and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." (Ecc 12:13)

Note that the word "duty" is singular; there is no difference between fearing Yah and obedience to His instructions as far as our relationship with Him is concerned. Were this a human-to-human relationship, we would be subjecting our eternal destiny to the authority of another, flawed creature. In this case, however, the promises and instructions of the Divine heart are all for our everlasting benefit. As a result, we can safely trust our course of sanctification, and the inheritance of everlasting life, to the "Author and Finisher of our Faith." (Heb. 12:2)

Adriel777: Amen

Zahakiel: Remember, our role is to represent Yahweh's character to the world and the universe. As we manifest our reverence for Him in joyful, trusting obedience to His commandments, we tear aside the veil of deception placed over the divine character by the Enemy. To the flesh, this seems to be an impossible task in today's cynical world, but it can be done, and it will be done, by those who know Yah's true nature.

Now, here is a truth that is so close to a falsehood that only those led by the Spirit can tell the difference: False religions represent the Father as distant and judgmental, and before whom we need a mediator. Thus, when those who follow these imperfect faiths pray for anything, they envision "layers" between themselves and the Throne. They cannot speak to the Father directly – and this is exactly what the Enemy wants – so instead of praying to the Father in the name of the Son, they will pray to Christ Himself.

This, so far, is not so bad...but some will see even this as being "too close" and so they pray to the dead, His mother Mary, or even the various individuals considered to be "saints." The hope is that these third party messengers will be "kinder" to them than the Father would be, and plead for their desires on their behalf. It does not take much thought to realize what a terrible, hurtful doctrine this is. It completely misrepresents Yah's character, and reveals a deep misunderstanding of the mediator's role.

Here is the truth... while we do need a Mediator so long as sin exists in our lives, and as long as we continue to discover and cleanse ourselves from false thoughts, the true heart of the Father is forever toward His people. He longs to strip away both the imagined and real barriers between His divine presence and our experience. He wishes nothing more than to gather us before His throne so that we may rejoice in the reality that is Yahweh, and so that He can say, finally, "Welcome home; receive the inheritance prepared for you from the foundation of the world, and enter into the joy of your Lord."

Our Father does not need to be appeased. Our own Creator does not need to be pled-with to favour our petitions. The Mediator – the one Mediator that is Christ Yahshua – permits us to stand in His presence in fragile, sinful flesh while probation lingers. His work is for our sakes, not the Father's. And from there, we may open our hearts to Him directly, that we may know Him, and that He may acknowledge that He knows us.

This is a very different view of Him than the angry Judge who needs Christ and a selection of once-mortal ghosts to stand between us and His wrath.

As Adventists, we know there will come a time when we must stand before the Father without a Mediator; that is, when Yahshua leaves the Temple. The mainstream Church, in my experience, has portrayed this as a mysterious, frightening experience that does nothing but lead the believers to hope He will delay His coming a little bit longer.

But the true version of this doctrine, as the true version of all doctrines, is Gospel – it is "Good news." It is solemn news, but it is good. A part of how we are able to fulfil this prophecy, to stand before the Father without a mediator, is to realize that we no longer need one. Now, the carnal mind will hear that and say, "You see, this is what this 'Victory over sin' doctrine does; it diminishes and eventually removes the need for Jesus completely." This is the furthest thing from the truth. The only way we can put away sin and obtain victory, and the only way we can stand in the Father's presence, is when "self" is dead and the only life we have left is the very life of Christ HIM-self. It is only by continual dependence on Christ in us, the hope of glory, that we shall inherit and maintain everlasting life. We are perpetually connected to the divine "life line," and this, rather than removing the need for Christ, increases our understanding of our dependence on Him. In Christ, united with Him, we and the Father are One.

In that day, when we come to this pure and perfect understanding, we are not a House divided, but a true Family of the divine and the perfected flesh. In the day that we stand

before the Father without a Mediator, we will experience His love in a way most direct, most glorifying, and because there is no sin in us, we shall shine with holy, reflected fire rather than being consumed. This is to be greatly desired, rather than feared.

Adriel777: Amen

Zahakiel: We recognize that our Father has always been on our "side," instituting the sacrificial system the instant that Adam fell, leading Israel to freedom so they could teach the world His faith, sending Christ as a propitiation for our sins, and receiving the Savior's work in the Heavenly Tabernacle on our behalf...these are not the actions of one who is eager to condemn, nor one for whom there needs to be constant pleading on our behalf...For the sinner, yes, there must be constant mercy extended, for by Yahshua, as it is written, all things consist. (Col 1:17)

That which is sin, or associated with sin, ought not to exist anywhere in the universe, and yet for love of the person that He created, Yah holds together and preserves even the worst of sinners against the natural consequences of transgression.

But the saints, who have received the forgiveness for sins that are past (Rom 3:25) and who never thereafter "commit sin" in order to return to that state of guilt (1John 3:9, 2 Pet 2:22) have passed from this state of death (in which they need to be kept alive artificially) to life (in which we exist through our union with Christ in His resurrected state). We have no need of a mediator when we have been sanctified so that we stand before the Throne without spot.

Yah will never take from us that which we need, and so in that day we will recognize: we are One with Christ, and He need not stand between us and the Father. We are eager for this, even as our Father is eager to see it happen.

The Scriptures portray the return of Christ, the Second Advent that reveals the redemption of humanity to the universe and re-unites us with the Father and Son in a manifest way, in very descriptive language. Yahshua is called the "Bridegroom" several times, at least once in each of the Gospels. (Mat 9:15, Mat 25:1, Mark 2:20, Luke 5:34, John 3:29)

Here we see the symbolism of a husband-to-be eagerly awaiting his intended bride. Even for those of us who have not experienced that sensation directly, we all know what it is like to long for a loved one who is far away. Our Father endures this for His children, for His saints, and desires above all else that the day arrive when we sit before the Lamb at the wedding feast. This is the state of affairs from this large, universal view, but it also has applications for us in daily life while we await this great Appearing.

When we pray, when we petition our Father for our desires in the name of the Son, how do we imagine He hears our prayers? Do we believe that He acts slowly, or begrudgingly – if at all? Does he wait for the Son or some designated angel to convince Him? Not at all.

While He does all things in order, and at a time best calculated for good, it is written "Shall not Yah avenge His own elect, which cry day and night unto Him, though He bear long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily." (Luke 18:7, 8a)

As the verses I shared earlier in this study show, He is eager to delight His people with His goodness. This is but a foretaste of the eternal inheritance to which we go. Does this not fill you with joy, to know that this is the heart of the Savior, and the One who sent Him? Our Creator loves us, and desires our best good. This is a wonderful universe in which we exist; and yes... it has been marred by sin, and yes... it has been subject to sorrow and death for thousands of years; but as large as it looms before us, this is a momentary sorrow in an eternity of holiness and joy.

Yahweh is the Almighty One, and nothing we may encounter during this time of sin has changed that. The knowledge of these things ought to make us, in turn, all the more fervent to see the Great Controversy ended, so that the cosmos can return to what their Designer originally intended them to be: a vast stage on which the pleasures of divine love may be revealed, and repeated, for ceaseless ages.

Adriel777: Amen!

Zahakiel: Truly, eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor mind imagined, what this will all be like. What little we have been allowed to see of it, however, fills us with wonder. We have many and wonderful promises, that Yah is our Redeemer, and that He has the very hairs of our head numbered, so great is His care for us. While the extent of this is not yet something we have experienced, for this flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom, and cannot endure even the reflection of His glory... at this time, at this very moment, we may rest, truly and joyfully rest, in what He has revealed to us so far.

This is the Gospel, this is the "good news" that Yahshua came to deliver, and that the angels have been saying to us all along. Glad tidings, fear not, and rejoice greatly...for Yahweh the Almighty loves His people, and prepares the way for them to share in His glory with an open, eager heart.

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

Adriel777: Amen! C

Pastor Chick: C

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Adriel777: I was very blessed by this study. I was really struck with the word picture of those without sin shining and reflecting a holy fire. 😊 End. Sorry.

Zahakiel: Thank you for sharing that 😊 Go ahead, Pastor.

Pastor Chick: Barb and I are in the refugee settlement here in western Uganda. I am getting a real taste of what a missionary's life might be in the impoverished areas of Africa, so, I am blessed by this study's reminder of the spiritual realities of which we do partake.

As we were meeting with 2 brothers in the faith yesterday, I likened their situation to slavery and I reminded them that for us, this suffering will also pass, but in the meantime, we are to be "good slaves" no matter how oppressive our slave master might be. It is really unbelievable what these refugees face here, struggling daily for survival and little food which cannot sustain a healthy life. ...

Adriel777: 😞

Pastor Chick: So, they have the choice of going home and being killed in the war, or dying a slow death, starving in the refugee camp. Some are blessed to find a job, making very little money, but enough to eat better, but few healthy choices of food exist unless you grow your own. Most exist on sugar water drinks, refined GMO corn flour, and occasionally something more...it is enough to test faith to the max. END

Zahakiel: Amen. Thank you for sharing that. Are there any others with thoughts to share? All right, if not then I ask Bro. Luke to offer a closing prayer.

Lucan: Dear heavenly Father. We thank you for the love you have towards all of your creation... We thank you for the blessings we have as a result, as well as the trials that refine your faith in us. May your Spirit continue with us through the remainder of the Sabbath hours. In Yahshua's name we pray, amen.

Barb: Amen

Zahakiel: Amen.

daphna dee: Amen

Pastor Chick: Amen.

Elyna: Amen.

Peter_Jr_18: Amen.

Adriel777: Amen