

Zahakiel: Hello, everyone. Let's begin. Pastor, please offer an opening prayer.

Pastor Chick: Dear Father in Heaven, we come before you in thanksgiving for the week's blessings. We pray for the Sabbath blessing to be shed upon us even now, as we worship you in Spirit and in truth. in Yahshua's name, Amen.

Lucan: Amen

Zahakiel: Amen.

Naraiel: Amen.

Adriel777: Amen

Barb: Amen

Elyna: Amen.

Ruthline: 😊 Amen

Zahakiel: Happy Sabbath to everyone. Tonight, I would like to examine two deadly temptations that first slow and then stop evangelism, and then remove the potential messenger from the message altogether. A part of the study is based on a Bible verse that Bro. Luke shared with us last week, and so it is called "They Have Filled Thee."

As we know, the Scriptures tell us that the choices of the redeemed have a hand in determining the time of Yahshua's return. Peter writes, "Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?" (2Pet 3:11, 12)

The reason why the redeemed are a factor in Christ's return is because of the condition that Yah has set upon the close of probation. It is written in another place, "And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." (Mat 24:14)

It is not until the message is preached "in all the world" that the end shall come. It should be noted, however, that this does not necessarily mean that every individual must speak to a CSDA about the Gospel before probation closes. I recall a conversation I had once with an elderly Jehovah's Witness member. We were talking about the prophecies in Daniel, and I was pointing out some inaccuracies in the things he believed regarding their fulfillment. At a certain point he seemed to become frustrated that he could not convince me with his well-scripted presentation, and so he said, citing the verse from Matthew, "Jehovah's Witnesses are in every nation of the world. We are clearly giving the message of Heaven. I had never heard of Creation Seventh Day Adventists before meeting you, so how can you think that your Church will be the one to finish the work?" I said to him, "You ask a good question. How is it that a little Church, known to very few, can finish a work that even much larger organizations cannot? I said, "If what you were teaching was the truth, surely Christ would have come by now, for every nation knows who the Jehovah's Witnesses are, and can find their message if they choose to do so. The verse you're thinking about does not say that everyone will accept, or even hear, the truth... only that it

will be within their grasp to obtain." I went on to let him know that the important thing was having a message of truth, not about the extent of the work, for if numbers proved validity then surely the Roman Catholics have both of us far outpaced.

But it must be "this Gospel" of the Kingdom, not just any message calling itself the Gospel. It must be one apt, perfect, for convincing the sinner to let death do its appointed work, to lie in the grave and arise a saint, and then to prepare to meet the Creator in peace. And to do this, to convince carnal man to give up the flesh, all that he knows, is the work of divinity, not human brilliance. It is the Holy Spirit, in other words, that does the true evangelism, and we are but the agents of the Father and Son, setting forth the bread of life where we can, taking every opportunity to do this, so that the Spirit may say to the sin-sick heart, "Take and eat."

We do not know the impact our work has had. Just last week I received an email from someone named Selena, asking if she could print out the Sar'im Chronicle books to share with her family. I had not "seen" any activity concerning these books in years, but they are material with which the Spirit may work. This leads me to the first of the two deadly temptations – uncertainty.

One could hear, if he was listening carefully, the voice of the serpent in the older gentleman's question to me: "Why do you keep going? What good do you think you can possibly do?" The demons surely know more about the world than any human being, and have plans upon plans for keeping the light from reaching anyone who might be touched by it. They have worked with kings and national leaders for generations to suppress the knowledge of the Father and Son, and to misrepresent and corrupt the message in the event that it is somehow heard. What they could not silence with violence or coercion, they have shouted down with noise, for there are so many counterfeit gospels today that only by a miracle as impressive as any recorded in the Bible could anyone find and recognize the truth.

And yet, for all this, here comes a little Church, a little Flock, daring to say, "We know the Way, the Truth, and the Life."

Adriel777: Amen

Zahakiel: We know the desire of the Father of Creation, to enter into a covenant with a people, and to prepare them for the glory of His Son's soon return. We know the heart He wishes to place within human beings, eager to show love to others, etched with the divine law, and separated entirely from the works of the flesh. And so powerful is this knowledge that it strips away both cultivated and inborn traits of character that are anchored in sin, restoring the image of Yah in the character of those who are born again.

And of course, Satan seeks to silence this little voice that, generation through generation, simply will not die out. Through uncertainty he seeks to blind the messenger to the result of his work, saying, "You are not accomplishing anything," and to keep the messenger from hoping in the as-yet unseen results of his work.

But Yah has sent us the Comforter, and every now and then He will lift the veil and reveal a little bit of what is happening, even under the shadow of this generation's many transgressions. In every generation, the bread is being laid before the people. We will not likely see, until we see with translated eyes, what our work has accomplished, but by faith we cast aside – and vigorously, eagerly – the idea that our mere senses can reveal the work of the Gospel that our sites, our writings, and our daily conversation, have been doing. There is no place for uncertainty among the saints of Yah.

The second deadly temptation is rarer in a sense, but it is the thing that befell Lucifer himself during his work in the Heavenly realm. We read, and this is the passage from last week that I mentioned, "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." (Ezek. 28:14-16)

The general principles here certainly apply to the human King of Tyre, and yet, many of the elements of the colorful prophecy cannot possibly relate to a man. We have little reason to suspect that the human monarch would even know what a "covering Cherub" was, at least in the sense that the prophet was using it, and so when looking at the specifics, we can draw insight into the state of mind of the first rebel while he was yet "upon the holy mountain of God."

As Bro. Luke pointed out last week, the term "merchandise" is a most significant one in prophetic passages. Here we see that the merchandise, the thing that the Covering Cherub was to "trade" or in which he was to involve himself as his business, were the holy things of Yah. It was the wisdom and knowledge with which he was entrusted, and his talents and gifts were to be employed in making "profit," in increasing the value of his fellow angels by means of his trade. We know a successful trade when it "turns a profit," when it increases value. With this spiritual merchandise, the people of Yah "buy and sell" the very things Lucifer was given before his fall, with the employment of the very same talents, with the intention of making profit for the Master.

"And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, 'Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.' "His lord said unto him, 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.'" (Mat 25:20, 21)

"And [the Redeemed] shall be mine,' saith Yahweh of Hosts, 'in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.'" (Mal 3:17)

Instead of doing this duty that the Church is now doing, Lucifer did not increase the value of his fellows with the merchandise that had been placed in his care. Instead, it is written of him, "By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned." Lucifer did not see the value he had been given as a gift for those around him; indeed, he saw it as his own right, his own personal merit, and he became susceptible to sin.

But now, here is a curious phrase... It is written of this, the very first sinner, "they have filled the midst of thee with violence." Who were "they?" If Satan was indeed the first being to fall into transgression, who is it that enticed him, and why is the plural "they" used? It is not the talents, or the merchandise... for it is "by" these things that they accomplished their goal. This part, actually, may be applied to either Satan or the King of Tyre; the answer, and the lesson, is the same regardless of how one applies these prophetic words.

Lucifer, we already know, surpassed all the other angels in wisdom. Tyre, as was revealed last week, was well known for its prosperity, and also for the wisdom of its king. Is it not written, in the same chapter quoted above, "Behold, thou art wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that they can hide from thee?" The King of Tyre, and Tyre itself, parallel in many ways Israel under the reign of King Solomon during the time this prophecy was made. They are alike in some significant particulars, including material wealth, character, and strong, wise leadership.

The difference between them was faith... and I am not, of course, overlooking Solomon's many transgressions. Solomon's early life and (by Yah's limitless mercy) closing years are recorded with him speaking inspiring words, and doing the very thing he was called to do – using his talents to bless others.

The King of Tyre, on the other hand, became an earthly manifestation of Lucifer's spiritual pattern. He grew proud of his gifts, and as he grew proud, potential and existing allies flattered him, hardening him on his path of rebellion against his Creator.

Consider the fall of the angels from Heaven. When Lucifer was cast out, a third of the angels went with him. This is an event, the catastrophe of which is impossible to conceive from our current perspective. We may think of human traitors from our own human history, who turned against their countries, or allowed foreign powers to overcome their nation's armies. We may think of those who betrayed their superiors, and caused all manner of disaster. And yet, these were rebellions against limited powers and authorities; a third of the angels rebelled against One whom they knew was all-knowing and all-powerful. We cannot imagine what it must have been like to turn away from the Almighty, having beheld Him in His glory.

The angels knew no other life; they had no other point of reference than service to Yah, and yet they fell. It is the great mystery of iniquity. This could not have been the work of a moment, but the long result of transgressions cherished, and discontent unresolved. The

angels that ultimately stood with Lucifer must have trusted him supremely; but even this is not enough. They had to have taken an active part in nurturing his rebellion, and they must have fed his pride, doing so to ensure that he would remain the strong, confident leader they needed, if they were going to turn away, even in subtle, slight ways at first, from their own Creator. They, the ones who had been first deceived by Satan, began to participate in their own continuing deception, and they built up their deceiver, ensuring that he would not repent of his rebellion. If he were to do so, their own cases would stand without even the false excuses to which they clung, and so they spoke of liberty, and lawlessness, and nobility, all in conflict, they now believed, with the Law of Yah.

Yah watched, to see what His angels would do... The Father and Son counselled, in Their infinite wisdom, regarding what was about to happen. With perfect foresight, They knew that They must let this terrible ordeal begin, and then work itself to its conclusion, or else even more souls would be lost in the conflict. We know how the war in Heaven proceeded, and was ultimately resolved, and in the words of His prophets, the Father has left us a warning. In addressing Lucifer openly, for all the universe to hear, we are given a transcript of sufficient information to know what we must avoid.

The second deadly temptation, the ditch on the other side of the road, is complacency. Before pride, and even before discontent, there is complacency. This is what made Lucifer susceptible to his own perception of his glory, and also the flattery of others. Since that time, he has learned how to use it against others who would be messengers of Yah. It is the counterfeit of the Sabbath Rest for, while both may appear similar outwardly, the true Sabbath Rest cannot be corrupted. It cannot be made into slothfulness and discontent. It will receive no flattery from potential allies, nor will it permit us to turn away from the Source of our contentment.

When it comes to the Gospel, we ought not to entertain the thought that our efforts are doing little good in the world. That is the first temptation. But neither should we ever "rest" in the idea that we are doing enough – that we have the truth, we are the right people, and that is sufficient. There is a "truth" that we are doing enough if we are doing all that Yah commands us to do, yes... but there is a difference between being content that we are faithful, and being complacent in the idea that there is nothing more we can do.

The Gospel must be taught with eagerness, with urgency, for what shall we do with our merchandise? What shall we do with the silver, and gold, and precious ointments that our Father has given to us? All of us are merchants, buyers and sellers in spiritual things. The ten wise virgins have bought their oil ahead of time. The 144,000 successfully "buy and sell" the Gospel despite the prohibition of the Beast's Mark. The Redeemed buy gold tried in the fire, eyesalve, and clean white garments from the Savior.

And what shall we do with these things that we have bought? It is our duty and privilege to use our blessings to bless others. As Lucifer (the "Bearer of Light") was intended to do, we must use our brightness to make others brighter as well, to turn our five talents into ten, to turn a spiritual "profit" and to prepare the jewels for which Yahshua is returning.

The "Golden Rule" is not only Golden because it is, itself, precious, but because it is also about spiritual gold. When it comes to the Gospel, let no opportunity pass you by to share it with others. Seek others desperately, for if you were in the world, you would want others to be desperately seeking after you. Let us live by the Golden Rule when it comes to the Gold we have bought from the Savior, the gold of that tried, invincible faith that does not perish, and that leads to everlasting life.

Let us avoid the two deadly errors of uncertainty and complacency, which would prevent us from giving to others what we have received. Let us always, even in this time of the Beast and His Image, "buy and sell" in one sense, and in another freely give what we have freely received. In doing this, and only by doing this, can we say with honest conviction, "I do always those things that please my Father."

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

Adriel777: Amen

Zahakiel: If there are none, then I will ask Bro. Luke to offer a closing prayer.

Lucan: Dear heavenly Father. We thank you for your message of encouragement and cleansing. As we rest in your perfect knowledge, we reject the false thought that our work for you may be measured externally. As we go forward, having nothing to do with consequences in your work, may our merchandise be a sweet savor before your throne. In Yahshua's name we pray, amen.

Pastor Chick: Amen.

Barb: Amen

Adriel777: Amen

Zahakiel: Amen.

Peter_Jr_18: Amen.

Ruthline: Amen

daphna dee: Amen