

Lucan: It's time to begin. Bro. David, will you please offer the opening prayer?

Zahakiel: Dear Father in Heaven, We thank you for the experiences of this past week, both the obvious blessings and the challenges. We thank you for the work of sanctification that you are performing in those who are One with you in Spirit and in truth and that you have given us a witness to the world of the joy of your salvation. May the Sabbath blessing rest upon us during these sacred hours, and may our time of fellowship be a sweet savor before your Throne. We ask all this in the name of your Son, Yahshua. Amen.

Pastor Chick: Amen.

Adriel777: Amen

Lucan: Amen

Barb: Amen

daphna dee: Amen

Elyna: Amen.

Kim: Amen

Lucan: Tonight's message is called "receiving the promises," and we will be looking at examples of three different responses to two promises of Yahweh. Here is the first promise:

"And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir. And, behold, the word of the LORD [came] unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be." (Genesis 15:3-5)

And what was Abram's response to this promise, from the One who created the stars he was counting?

"And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness." (Genesis 15:6)

We see here the correct response to the promises of Yahweh, so much so that it is written:

"And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which [he had yet] being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also." (Romans 4:11)

Here is the second, similar promise:

"But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy

Ghost, even from his mother's womb. And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." (Luke 1:13-17)(LMK)

Pastor Chick: F

Kim: F

Barb: F

Adriel777: F

daphna dee: F

Elyna: F

Naraiel: F

Zahakiel: F

Lucan: And what was Zacharias' response to this promise?

"And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years." (Luke 1:18)

Abraham believed on the word of Yahweh, based only on the word of Yahweh. We know that being old and stricken in years was not a matter far from his own experience, as we see in our third response:

"And he said, I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son. And Sarah heard [it] in the tent door, which [was] behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah [were] old [and] well stricken in age; [and] it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?" (Genesis 18:10-12)

Sarah, we see, had a reaction more akin to that of Zacharias than that of her husband. Where Abraham responded in faith, Zacharias asked how he might know the thing would be, and Sarah secretly laughed at the absurdity of the promise. The thing promised was impossible, of course; if any other than One who created the concept of "possible" were to promise it, it would be laughable indeed.

We know that Yahweh "counted it to Abraham for righteousness" that he believed the promise without qualification or evidence. We may understand from this, and what is written of Abraham as the "father of faith," that even from the earliest interactions with humanity Yah has not changed.

Childlike trust in the promises of Yahweh is counted righteousness, as it is the only means of righteousness – any righteousness – existing in us. Any good deeds separate from faith are merely "our own righteousness;" good works, regardless of how good, cannot save or improve the soul.

As it is written, "But we are all as an unclean [thing], and all our righteousnesses [are] as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." (Isaiah 64:6)

Even before Abraham, it is written that "by faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh." (Hebrews 11:4)

And what was that excellent sacrifice? Merely the thing Yahweh had asked for.

And why did it obtain witness that he was righteous, if good actions do not save? Because he did not do it in order to "be good," but because he trusted Yahweh who gave the instruction.

We see that Yahweh does not change in His response to those who believe His word. Those who believe the Creator without asking witness from His creation are counted righteous, given righteousness, and made righteous.

Now, how did Yahweh respond to the other two reactions? Of Sarah, we read:

"And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old? Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son. Then Sarah denied, saying, I laughed not; for she was afraid. And he said, Nay; but thou didst laugh." (Genesis 18:13-15)

"Is anything too hard for Yahweh?" Sarah seemed to think so, though she likely would never have said such. There are many who, as Sarah, focus on their own weakness over the strength of Yahweh who has promised, and who is able to perform.

How does Yahweh respond to this, then and now? Did He gloss over the matter? No; He asked her husband, "why did she laugh? Is this too hard for Yahweh?" Here Sarah compounded skepticism with fear, and "denied, saying, I laughed not." Yahweh plays no games with Sarah in this interaction. He inquires as to the cause of her laugh, and when she denies it in fear, He tells her plainly "No, but you did laugh." The sooner Sarah acknowledged her laughter, the sooner she might examine and come to answer the "why," and be healed of her unbelief.

Love – agape love – required confrontation. It required heart work. It required a mirror to be held up, and when fear and denial was the response, it required a straight testimony. Let us learn from this example well, for it is one required of us both to endure and to perform if we would see Yahweh in peace.

Note that Sarah laughed "within herself;" she might well have had an argument that she did not laugh, at least not physically. Yahweh gave her no such argument; "Nay, but thou

didst laugh." The truth of her heart was of more importance than the movements of her lips.

Yahweh has not changed; His Spirit has not changed. In our self-examination, we are to look deeper than the actions, and to the heart – to judge as Yahweh judges. In ministering to the needs of our brethren, we are to look deeper than the actions, and to the heart; to heal as Yahweh heals.

We have seen one who believed in heart, and one who laughed in heart; what was the response of Heaven to Zacharias, who asked "whereby shall I know this?"

"And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings. And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season." (Luke 1:19, 20)

The way by which he would know it was that it was promised. No leeway was offered Zacharias for this unbelief; the Word had been spoken, the message delivered. More than this, as a ministering and faithful priest, Zacharias was familiar with the examples of both Abraham and Sarah. We read from the Testimonies:

"Zacharias well knew how to Abraham in his old age a child was given because he believed Him faithful who had promised. But for a moment the aged priest turns his thought to the weakness of humanity. He forgets that what God has promised, He is able to perform. What a contrast between this unbelief and the sweet, childlike faith of Mary, the maiden of Nazareth, whose answer to the angel's wonderful announcement was, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word"!

The birth of a son to Zacharias, like the birth of the child of Abraham, and that of Mary, was to teach a great spiritual truth . . . In ourselves we are incapable of doing any good thing; but that which we cannot do will be wrought by the power of God in every submissive and believing soul. It was through faith that the child of promise was given. It is through faith that spiritual life is begotten, and we are enabled to do the works of righteousness." [DA 98](LMK)

Zahakiel: F

Pastor Chick: F

Naraiel: F

Kim: F

Barb: F

Elyna joined the chat

Adriel777: Amen. F.

daphna dee: F

Lucan: The promises of Yahweh are not limited to offspring and the establishment of nations. The power of Yahweh, so far from being dependent on the vessel, is more marked and pronounced the weaker the vessel is. Yahweh might have given Abraham, Sarah, and Zacharias children in their youth; yet that would have been no miracle. Yahweh might have poured His Spirit on unfallen and holy beings; yet that would have been no testimony.

In the world to come, and eternity thereafter, we will have a unique testimony among all beings. The holy angels never rebelled; Yahshua, who became sin for us, overcame every temptation while in our flesh. Only humanity will be able to speak of a past life of rebellion, the experience of slavery to sin, and the infinite transaction by which we were created new and born again. We may say from experience that the life of Yahshua is greater than the life of sin; so much so that we "love not our lives unto the death."

Sin will never rise again, (Nahum 1:9) in no small part because of eye-witnesses who testify to the time it did.

"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 5:9, 10)

This new life begins now; and on what basis?

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." (1 Peter 1:23)

And what is that Word? What is the promise?

"Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him... Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." (1 John 3:6, 9)

"Cannot" is the promise; and why? Is it because of our own abilities, or talents, or righteousness, or gifts?

No; "Because he is born of God." And to be born of God is to be born "of incorruptible seed;" the seed cannot be corrupted, and therefore, the tree cannot be corrupted; we "cannot commit sin," because He who lives in us "cannot commit sin." This is not because of the tree, but because of the One who planted it, and who keeps it alive.

Elyna: F

Lucan: The promise of life in an elderly body was counted impossible; how much more the promise of the very life of God in a body dead through trespasses and sins?

This promise, to be sure, is far more absurd to the flesh than an elderly couple having a child. Zacharias was rebuked and judged for doubting that which he had familiar evidence to support, and reason to believe.

The life of Yahshua removes all possible doubt that the promises of Yahweh extend to keeping us perfectly from falling to temptation, and more so give us the very righteousness of Yahweh to exactly the extent that Yahshua Himself revealed it. Like Zacharias, we have not only the testimony of promise, but the example of One who has come before to demonstrate the reliability of those promises.

There is, in short, no excuse for anything short of the testimony of Yahshua among His people. And yet, among those who profess to be Christians – who profess to be Adventists! – such promises are met with unbelief, laughter, and the doubting question of “Whereby shall I know this?”

“Is anything too hard for Yahweh?”

Much like Zacharias, the root of all such questions is looking to the weakness of the flesh and not to the power of Yahweh, who performs what He has promised. Even our own willpower is insufficient for such a surrender and new life. What joy, then, that we who have been made the sons of God “were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” (John 1:13)

It is this failure that is at the root of all apostasy; to look to “the creature rather than the Creator.” Lucifer looked to the creation rather than the Creator, and became enamored with himself. Eve listened to the creature rather than the Creator, and ate of the fruit. The Jewish church looked to the creature rather than the Creator, and crucified Him for fear lest “the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation.” (John 11:48) The Adventist church looked to the creature rather than the Creator, trusting in the second beast rather than Yahweh to protect their name and punish dissenters.

In every case, the promises of Yahweh, received and cherished, were both antidote and prevention against apostasy. In every case, when those promises were laid aside as the foundation of life, death and oppression followed.

We are not to pray for the promises of Yahweh and then wait to see “whereby shall we know this” has been fulfilled. This is true whether the “sign” sought is without or within; waiting for a feeling or thought is as waiting for a sign in the heavens. We are not to hear the promises of Yahweh and laugh within ourselves, thinking these must be for others better or more fit than ourselves. We are to pray for the promises, and thank Yahweh that we have received them by His Word and will; we “believe Yahweh,” and this is accounted to us for righteousness. That belief is manifest in word and action. Abraham had confidence to use his new name, meaning “a father of many nations,” though the promised child was yet unconceived. Zacharias had confidence to write the name that the angel had told him to write for his son, and his muteness was ended.

We, too, have confidence from on high to use the name Yahweh has assigned us. Every good and perfect gift – “all things pertaining to godliness” – are emptied out of heaven and into us through Christ.

Do you have patience? Let there never be a confession of anything but perfect patience, for Christ has it, and has given it without restraint. Do you have love, joy, peace, a thankful and cheerful spirit, kindness, wisdom, etc.? If you have received the new life, let the words and actions never imply otherwise. Let there be no “laugh,” in heart or in speech, as to the promises of Yahweh in your life. Let there be no decisions made or actions taken on the basis of anything other than the perfect character of Yahshua.

To those who live the gospel, “What Would Jesus Do?” is a question that gives way to praise rather than guilt, for we both know and do what He would do according to His Spirit within us. To claim these gifts, outrageous as they are, would be arrogance and folly if done on our own authority or initiative. If Abraham had claimed to be the father of many nations, but Yahweh had not promised this to him, he would have been deranged or a liar.

If Yahweh had not promised us complete victory and a new heart, to claim any good thing in ourselves would similarly be folly. Those who do not know Yahweh will accuse, and do accuse, the saints of the same; they do not know Him who has promised.

Yet we know Him and His promises. We believe the One who has given them, for that is the very profession of a “Christian,” and especially an “Adventist,” and unmistakably a “Creation 7th Day Adventist.”

And yet there are many, even among Adventists, who have not heard these things. There are many who laugh at the notion of Yahweh raising up prophets in His church, despite His promise to do exactly that. There are many who laugh at the notion of Elijah having come, despite Yahweh’s promise to do exactly that. There are many who laugh at the teaching that Yahweh will have a visibly united people, free from sin and reliance on the world, before Yahshua’s return. All this despite the plain and unmistakable promises of Yahweh, who is able and willing to fulfill His Word.

Those Adventists who scoff at latter days prophets would have rejected Mrs. White in her day for the very same reason. Those who scoff at organization and unity would have rejected the Testimonies on organization and unity in Mrs. White’s day, for the very same reason. Those who scoff at complete victory over all known sin would have scoffed at Righteousness by Faith in 1888, for the very same reason. Those who scoff at the trademark being the mark of the beast would have scoffed at the need to be “Seventh-day” Adventists after the Great Disappointment, and for the very same reason. As was stated, “We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.” [CCh 359]

The judgment on Zacharias was not out of character for Yahweh; according to our light, and for the examples with which we are familiar, we are held accountable. Sarah laughed, and received a rebuke; Zacharias asked for a sign, and was given the sign of judgment.

It is not the apparent extent of the unbelief – laughter would be a more scornful response than asking confirmation. Rather it is our response to the light to which we are exposed that determines our fate.

As CSDAs, we are blessed to be exposed to greater light than any generation before us; never since Pentecost has a church been fully united on the platform of Yahweh's righteousness fully manifest in the believer. May our testimonies reflect these abundant promises clearly, that others may see and believe.

Those who are saved at last are the "children of Abraham;" the children of faith, the children of the promise that believe on the basis of the One promising, and nothing else. The promises of Yahweh are our heritage, inheritance, and very life. They are the foundation and law of the kingdom into which we are translated, and the language of Heaven. Yahweh will have, and does have, a people that stand perfectly united on the platform of present truth. May each of us stand resolutely on the promises, rooted in the Rock that cannot be moved. By the promise of Christ we can do no other:

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave [them] me, is greater than all; and no [man] is able to pluck [them] out of my Father's hand." (John 10:27-29)

Pastor Chick: Amen!

Lucan: As we rest in that hand this Sabbath and all that will ever follow, let us rejoice in the Father that is "greater than all," and from whose loving, careful protection "none is able to pluck."

Adriel777: Amen!

Lucan: Are there any comments on the study tonight?

Naraiel: (Amen)

Elyna: Amen

Zahakiel: C

Lucan: Go ahead

Zahakiel: It is my prayer that all here tonight internalize the message of this study...

Elyna: Lovely!

Zahakiel: Some need it for themselves, and others for a witness to those with whom they speak.

Naraiel: Amen.

Zahakiel: Bro. Luke spoke about Abraham's unquestioning faith being counted "for righteousness," and so it is... in this generation it is counted in just the same way. In sharing the message of Victory Over Sin, or Righteousness By Faith, we are saying to people just as Yah said to Abraham, "Yahweh is going to bring forth a life from you."

As Christ was formed bodily in Mary, so He is formed spiritually in all who accept the messenger from Heaven, in this case the First Angel of the three who bear the Everlasting Gospel. We who have been evangelists have seen all three of these reactions in those who have heard us. As Bro. Luke has recounted, some disbelieve, and laugh... even the professed Christians will say, "This is not possible." Others ask for proof from the life of the creature, sometimes accusing us of exaggeration or hypocrisy, saying, "Surely you aren't telling me YOU do not sin... what about this, or that, common wrongdoing?"

There are few, very few, who say, "What a wonderful message. I must accept it immediately, for I know my Father wants this beautiful thing for me. Surely, it is the way to everlasting life, and Christ has made it possible to be as He is." These are the ones whom Yah Justifies, saying of each, "This one is righteous."

It is not by effort, or will, or strength...it is by faith, by accepting Yah's promises that the human lays hold of life. I earnestly look forward to hearing of, and seeing for myself,

Naraiel: C.

Zahakiel: more of these responses as we continue to hold out the Word of life to the world. End.

Lucan: Go ahead

Naraiel: I was looking at a movie recently about Jonah, and Jonah is another example similar to Zacharias. David said that the victory is not about effort, or will or strength. But the book of Jonah teaches us that is not even about understanding either, but about complete faith and trust in Yahweh even though we may not understand certain things. The book is about accepting Yahweh's leadership and word even when we don't understand it. :) It is about faith like David said. Most people get stuck or find excuses to the victory message because they have to understand everything. End. Today's generation is about believing what you understand, if they don't understand is not real. End.

Lucan: Personally, I have thought that Jonah had a pretty good idea of what Yahweh was going to do; He even predicted Yahweh would turn from His wrath after Nineveh's repentance. But, that was not in line with what Jonah desired - he would be accused of being a false prophet, bad reputation, etc. In my experience, anyone who professes Christ has enough understanding to know who Christ is, and affirm that His character is desirable...

Naraiel: Well, I am not sure if his prediction of Assyria's repentance was due to trust in Yahweh or fear of Assyria to live long enough to cause Israel problems later.

Lucan: If they truly WANT that life, they can have it to the fullest of their understanding, wherever it is...

Naraiel: It was Assyria who took Israel captive later on, before she was destroyed by Yah.

Lucan: But, those who do not want that life, because it does not fit with what they desire - their cherished sins - will find excuses... "Not understanding" being a frequent one.

Adriel777: C

Lucan: Go ahead

Adriel777: I just want to praise Yah for His precious promises. End.

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

Pastor Chick: Dear Father in Heaven. We thank You for the study that precipitated the necessary heart work for our deep sanctification, for it is by claiming Your precious promises with implicit faith that we become partakers of Your DIVINE NATURE. As we need corporate cleansing from unbelief, may we NOW claim resolutely the holiness, without which, no one will see You face to Face. We thank You for mercy and grace to overcome every defilement of the flesh, in the blessed and holy name of Yahshua, Amen.

Barb: Amen

Lucan: Amen

Adriel777: Amen

daphna dee: Amen. Goodnight.

Barb: Good night, Yah bless

Marie: Goodnight all

Pastor Chick: Goodnight all.

Lucan: Goodnight, Yah bless

Adriel777: Goodnight and good day to all. Yah Bless.