

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

Zahakiel: Dear Father in Heaven, We come before you this night to rejoice in your divine presence, to open our hearts to you as a trusted Friend, and to receive the blessings promised to us from the foundation of the world. May our time of fellowship be pleasant to our spirits, acceptable in your sight, and sanctifying toward everlasting glory, for we ask this in Yahshua's holy name. Amen

Pastor Chick: Amen.

Barb: Amen

Lucan: Amen

Adriel7777: Amen

Gloria: Amen.

Elyna1: Amen.

Kimber: Amen

daphna: Amen

Ruthline: Amen.

Lucan: Tonight's study is called "The Living and the Dead." We read, "And the LORD God formed man [of] the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." (Genesis 2:7)

We have here the origin and equation of life. The breath of Yahweh combined with a body of flesh produces life; that life is a living soul. Until the breath of Yahweh was breathed into Adam, he was not living; he was formed, but not a living soul. When the breath departs, the soul ceases to exist, and this is called "death." A failure to understand this has led to countless errors over the ages, most commonly that of spiritualism. Spiritualism, broadly defined, is a belief in communication with the dead – or more accurately, that the spirits of the dead are available to be communicated with in the first place. We may read the results of one such example:

"So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, [even] against the word of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking [counsel] of [one that had] a familiar spirit, to enquire [of it]; And enquired not of the LORD: therefore he slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David the son of Jesse." (1 Chronicles 10:13, 14)

And, we may read elsewhere:

"And he said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Forasmuch as thou hast sent messengers to enquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron, [is it] not because [there is] no God in Israel to enquire of his word? therefore thou shalt not come down off that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die." (2 Kings 1:16)

Both of these are examples of spiritualism; and, as we have come to see in recent weeks, of blasphemy also. Those who seek counsel of dead spirits and those who seek counsel of dead idols both commit the same sin.

We may read in Isaiah of those who "say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie":

"He that killeth an ox [is as if] he slew a man; he that sacrificeth a lamb, [as if] he cut off a dog's neck; he that offereth an oblation, [as if he offered] swine's blood; he that burneth incense, [as if] he blessed an idol. Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations." (Isaiah 66:3)

It is notable that in the Septuagint - the Greek translation of the Old Testament in circulation in the time of the apostles - "blessed an idol" in this verse is translated simply as "blasphemy." We understand, in light of Mrs. White's writings, that not only was going to the god of Ekron spiritualism, but also that going to lawyers not of our faith is equivalent to going to the god of Ekron.

CSDAs have understood on this basis that to go to secular lawyers for advice and counsel, particularly in spiritual or religious matters, is to engage in a form of spiritualism - to say nothing of the concept of blasphemy. This is rather significant, as we have understood from certain prophecies that spiritualism is to play a significant role in last day events. We see this fulfilled in the trademark law, obtained through worldly policy, and which men professing to represent God "pray to the court for relief" in the enforcement of the "mark of their name" on Yah's remnant people; that they may not "buy or sell." As far as the world is concerned, literal spiritualism - along with belief in spirits of any sort - has largely been cast aside in favor of secularism.

While in Mrs. White's day spiritualism was just beginning to rise to prominence, in the present day a widespread spiritualistic revival would be such a massive and sudden shift that it would jolt awake the most deeply slumbering soul. Much like a national Sunday law, any indication of this modernity must be manufactured; those who do so would have us believe that Satan has spent over 100 years lulling the earth into a secular sleep only to undo all of his own work with a loud and sudden change in course.

But while the world may scoff at devils and ghosts alike, it is a difficult thing to find a soul who does not view "relying on the strong arm of civil power" as an allowable, valuable, and even necessary thing for vindication. And all this as the result of listening, not to the voice of Yahweh, but to the voice of the world.

What must be understood is that secularism is itself a form of spiritualism; it is seeking knowledge and guidance from the dead as opposed to the Living. The Scriptures did not end with describing the sin of seeking false counsel; Saul was condemned not only because he sought counsel of a familiar spirit, but further that he "enquired not of Yahweh." To the king who enquired of the god of Ekron, the rebuke was not merely for this, but "is it not because there is no God in Israel, to enquire of His Word?" We may see from both of these that the failure is not merely in wrong belief as to the state of the dead or existence of false gods. Even if the dead were living; even if false gods existed; why should we seek out counsel from these sources? Is there not a God in Israel? Paul offers similar warnings:

"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." (Colossians 2:8)

And why is it that we should beware of this?

"For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:" (Colossians 2:9, 10)

If we are complete in Christ, and in Christ is all the fullness of the Godhead, and we are filled with all the fullness of God through Christ, of what necessity are philosophy, tradition, worldly wisdom, other gods, or the words of the dead? Is not "all the fullness of the Godhead" greater than all of these combined?

Adriel7777: Amen

Lucan: There is a false thought of "I need" rooted in all such beliefs. As Bro. David has spoken of recently regarding blasphemy, it is the thought that something other than Yahweh not only can, but must fulfill these needs. In other words, that "ye are not complete in Him."

As we read a few verses later:

"And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses." (Colossians 2:13)

"Quickened" means simply "Made alive; brought to life." We are "made alive together with Him." Remember the equation of life; the body of flesh, filled with the spirit or breath of life, equals a living soul.

What can be said of those who are "living" in the flesh, but do not have the Spirit of Life?

We know what Life is:

"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen [it], and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)" (1 John 1:1, 2)

And again: "When Christ, [who is] our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory." (Colossians 3:4)

If we do not have Christ, we do not have life, regardless of what honor the world may bestow. If we do not have Christ, we do not have the Spirit of Life, "for the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." (Romans 8:2)

If one does not have life, and does not have the spirit of life, yet walks and talks and breathes in the flesh, are they not truly dead? As it is written:

"And you [hath he quickened], who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others."
(Ephesians 2:1-3)

There are many who are yet "dead in trespasses and sins," walking according to the course of this world, etc. There are many who are in the lusts of the flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and mind. To those who realize this condition, we are sent with hope. To those who choose this condition, we may read the words of Yahshua:

"Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God." (Luke 9:60)

And what manner of preaching of the kingdom might we expect this to be?

"Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light." (Ephesians 5:14)

We may give this testimony as ones having arisen from death and into light ourselves:

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised [us] up together, and made [us] sit together in heavenly [places] in Christ Jesus:" (Ephesians 2:4-6)

There are but two classes: Saints and sinners, the living and the dead. Are we sitting together in heavenly places in Christ? That is the promise, and it is past tense. If we are sitting in heavenly places, we will not seek light among the spiritually dead, for "Christ shall give thee light." If we are sitting in heavenly places, we will not seek fellowship among the spiritually dead, nor depart the fellowship of the living, for we are "raised up together."

Together, not alone; we thus "sit together in heavenly places." Let this forever dispel the false doctrine of independence and disorganization among Yah's people; that some are to "sit alone in heavenly places."

We read: "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ [be] in you, the body [is] dead because of sin; but the Spirit [is] life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up

Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you." (Romans 8:9-11)

It is the Spirit that gives life, and that, "because of righteousness." Those who do not do righteousness do not have the Spirit of life. Those who do not have the Spirit of Christ are "none of his." Those who are none of his are yet dead in trespasses and sins, and not among the living. Shall the people of the living God go to such dead ones for light and counsel, and yet remain innocent of the sins of spiritualism and blasphemy? "Is there not a God in Israel?"

When Ezekiel was called to the valley of the dry bones, he was not called to pray to the bones, or to seek counsel of the bones, or to inquire what message the bones might have for him. Were they not dead? Rather, he was sent with a message to give:

"Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I [am] the LORD." (Ezekiel 37:4-6)

Ezekiel's message to the dead was to hear the word of Yahweh, and thus, to come to life - a freely offered, freely given, and fully righteous life. This is the message Yahweh gives everyone to bear who has received His life; the dead may bury their dead, but we are to "preach the kingdom of God" to those who wish to rise from the grave. And what result may be expected? Even the same as we have experienced ourselves:

"So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army. Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. And ye shall know that I [am] the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken [it], and performed [it], saith the LORD." (Ezekiel 37:10-14)(LMK)

Adriel7777: F

Barb: F

Pastor Chick: F

Zahakiel: Finished.

Ruthline: F

Gloria: F

Elyna1: F

daphna: F

Lucan: Is it not so that Yahweh has opened our graves and brought us out of them? Is it not so that He has put His spirit within us, and we thus live? Is it not so that He "hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated [us] into the kingdom of his dear Son?" (Colossians 1:13)

Thus, so much better than placing us in our own land, He has "made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." We therefore know and testify that "Yahweh hath spoken it, and performed it."

Adriel7777: Amen

Lucan: Shall we not prophesy this to the dry bones that have not yet accepted the Word of Life, and have not yet been raised up by the Spirit to quicken their mortal bodies? If we are living, we have a message to bear to the dead; let us do so faithfully. If we are not living, we have a life to receive from Yahweh that will never be found among the dead; let us not waste time seeking wisdom among the uninspired and unbelieving, but receive it while time remains.

For those who are yet dead in old doctrines, unable to see and hear the signs of the times, let us heed the warnings of Christ:

"And he spake also a parable unto them; No man putteth a piece of a new garment upon an old; if otherwise, then both the new maketh a rent, and the piece that was [taken] out of the new agreeth not with the old. And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish. But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved. No man also having drunk old [wine] straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better." (Luke 5:36-39)

We find many in our ministry who prefer the old wine, and are themselves unequipped to receive the new from the keepers of Christ's vineyard. Let us not be drunken with such, but rather "take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees." (Matthew 16:6)

This leaven is both doctrine (Matthew 16:12) and hypocrisy (Luke 12:1). Those who have doctrines - even true doctrines - without the true gospel cannot help but be hypocrites, for they teach what they have no power to obey. To any who are comfortable in such hypocrisy there is little hope; these prefer the old wine, and have no desire for the new bottles or their contents.

The most correct of doctrines, when presented by one who does not live them, will invariably contain leaven. The most pure of teachings, in the hands of one who has stared into the light without applying and walking in it, cannot help but reflect the darkness of the path they are in.

"A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh." (Luke 6:45)

If the heart is not made new, then hypocrisy is preserved through self-justification; one who does not live the gospel must justify this to themselves if they are to preach it. Self-justification will necessarily pervert the truth as it is in Yahshua, for the truth as it is in Yahshua is wholly incompatible with self-justification; it is the entirely opposite principle. Any false belief held in the heart to justify disobedience will come forth in the teaching; for "of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." The more subtle the deviation, the more dangerous it is to those preserving a pure faith, and the deadlier it is to those who have yet to be grounded in that faith.

To one who is not comfortable in such hypocrisy, one who sees their need for victory, the words may well be said, "our bones are dried, and our hope is lost; we are cut off for our parts." It is to these that we, as Ezekiel, are sent; let us deliver our message with the same faithfulness, turning neither to the right hand nor the left; that we might see the same results to the glory of Yahweh.

It is not only the message, but the testimony and life of righteousness by faith that brings power and glory to the third angel's message, and swells it into a loud cry. It is the victory that gives power to our testimony, truth to our teachings, and personal experience to our witness.

While men may quibble over theology and theories, the true practicality of the gospel has a power none can deny. As we reach out to those in our influence, may we keep this message ever before us, for it is the purpose of our calling; the very first of those messages which must be received in their proper order. Only with a new heart may a man receive and benefit from new wine. Only with the eyesalve may a man see and judge rightly.

Let us share Life with those who are perishing, knowing the unfulfilling vanity of the world as those who have "all had our conversation in times past" among them.

"So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army." (Ezekiel 37:10)

This is the final result of those who heed the messages of the first through fourth angels, worshipping Yahweh in the fear of holiness, for the hour of His judgment has come.

Are there any comments on the study tonight?

Adriel7777: Amen

Pastor Chick: C

Lucan: If not, I'll ask Pastor to offer the closing prayer. Oh, go ahead.

Pastor Chick: Slowly, Yah is inspiring members with their calling for this final hour of Earth's history. The Belizean Field has its commission... feasts are renewed ... Jody has taken on Letters to Rachel... and I now see the work in Seattle was always there, but we could not perceive it. I will elaborate more after the closing prayer. END

Lucan: Well, are there any other comments before said prayer? If not, please go ahead when ready Pastor.

Pastor Chick: Dear Father in heaven, we are blessed to be among the Living having been raised from the dead and seated together in Heavenly places. We pray that our latter rain message will catch fire and finish the solemn work of the Gospel Angels in Yahshua's holy name, Amen.

Gloria: Amen.

Adriel7777: Amen

Barb: Amen

Elyna1: Amen.

Lucan: Amen

daphna: Amen

Ruthline: Amen

Kimber: Amen

Marie-kadeth: Amen

Zahakiel: Amen.