

12-25-2015

Zahakiel: If he's able, then, I will ask Pastor to open the study with a prayer.

Barb: PC: Dear Father in Heaven. Thank you for this time that you have given us for worship, fellowship, and rest. May your Spirit attend us mightily and teach us what we need this late moment of earth's history. In Yahshua's holy name, Amen

Zahakiel: Amen.

Barb: Barb: Amen Daphna: Amen

Lucan: Amen

Pete: Amen

Naraiel: Amen

Elyna: Amen

victoria: amen

gadriel: Amen, Amen

Adriel: Amen

Zahakiel: Happy Sabbath to everyone. Tonight's study is called "Because of the Angels." At some time in the past, I have given a study or written an article with a similar name, and it was based on this verse: "For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels." (1Cor 11:10) That study was about the issue of head coverings.

Some Christian groups believe that a woman's head should have an artificial covering on it when praying, or attending public worship. Paul, however, when addressing this issue says "we have no such custom," (1Cor 11:16) and more directly, that "if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given her for (anti, 'instead of') a covering." (Verse 15)

A woman's head should be covered, the apostle concludes, and long hair – specifically long, as a distinguishing sign from men – is that covering. Tonight's study will take the same principle and extend it much further, into a more generally applicable teaching.

What is the reason a woman's head should be covered in public worship? Why is it that a man's head should NOT be covered in public worship? (1Cor 11:7) Paul says it is because of the angels, but what is the connection between the length of a human's hair, and the state of mind of the observing messengers? There are three Scriptural witnesses I will bring in at this point, and they are these:

"Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect

12-25-2015

angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality." (1Tim 5:17, 19, 21)

The Holy Spirit revealed Christ's salvation to the prophets, Peter tells us, "that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the Gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into." "Wherefore," he continues, "gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Yahshua the Christ; as obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance, but as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, 'Be ye holy; for I am holy.'" (1Pet 1:12 – 16)

Thirdly, "For I think that Yahweh hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death, for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men." (1Cor 4:9)

If we examine these three passages carefully, we will find a common thread among them. That thread is "order." The elders are to be respected within the congregations, and care should be taken in correcting, especially rebuking, such individuals – because the angels learn by seeing Heavenly principles such as the structure of authority played out among humans. The angels continue to look into the salvation revealed to the prophets through the suffering, death, and resurrection of Christ; and we, knowing these things, ought to practice mental sobriety, obedience to the Word, and general holiness.

The apostles are set before us, that we should follow their example, and Paul points out that this arrangement is a "spectacle," a sight to behold, not only for earthly believers, but the angels as well. This is all orderly behavior by those who claim to be Christ's.

Inspiration with which Adventist believers have been blessed adds some emphasis to this idea. We might read, for example, "Special direction was given to the armies of Israel that everything in and around their tents should be clean and orderly, lest the angel of the Lord, passing through the encampment, should see their uncleanness. Would the Lord be particular to notice these things? He would; for the fact is stated, lest in seeing their uncleanness, He could not go forward with their armies to battle." [The Review and Herald, June 10, 1902]

In another place, "Much depends on the father and mother. They are to be firm and kind in their discipline, and they are to work most earnestly to have an orderly, correct household, that the heavenly angels may be attracted to it to impart peace and a fragrant influence." [Manuscript Releases 14, 1905]

Ellen White had much to say about the importance of personal cleanliness, extolling the benefits of daily baths, of keeping one's place tidy, of exercising order and neatness in all

12-25-2015

things, and so on. She applies the principle of order, not only to behavior in a congregational setting, but also to the affairs of daily life. While she speaks of these as general principles of one who worships Yahweh, a natural consequence of accepting the Gospel, and necessary elements of character for one who will be saved, she also points out from time to time that obedience in this matter also pleases and attracts the presence of angelic visitors.

This should be no surprise; we know that Yahweh is a God of order, not chaos or confusion, (1Cor 14:33) and so what is pleasing to Him will also be pleasing to His servants, whether they are human or spirit in nature.

This seemingly small matter is actually critical for our sanctification, for it is a part of the testimony of Yahshua. As we know, one of the clearest statements of testimony that the Son gave was, "And He that sent me is with me; the Father hath not left me alone, for I do always those things that please Him." (John 8:29)

Now, we generally apply this to the Victory message, to Righteousness by Faith, and support for the CSDA view of the Bible's central message... and this is certainly an accurate and proper use. We know that sin displeases Yahweh, and we know that He hates transgression with a perfect hatred. And yet, Yahshua does not limit His statement by saying, "The Father has not left me alone, because I never sin against Him." He does always those things that "please" Him. Avoiding sin is a "negative" activity. In other words, we do not do sinful actions. But this is passive. A stone does not sin, neither does a tree.

Righteousness is more than merely avoiding those things that are known to be wrong. Righteousness is acting (positively, doing things) in accordance with Yah's perfect will. Righteousness is seeing a spiritual need, a thing to be done that demonstrates agape, Yahweh's divine love of mankind, and doing it because it is right to do.

With regard to order, neatness, and cleanliness, we know that these are things that please the Father. We know that these are things that please and attract His heavenly servants. Can we, then, honestly have the Testimony of Yahshua, saying, "I do always those things that please the Father," if we are not scrupulous in our practice of these things? Can we claim to follow Yahshua, if we do not walk as He walked, and do as He did? Here is an example of how being faithful in little things leads to faith in large ones. Here is an example of the loving kindness, and the care, that Yah has for His people, in bringing them messages about the deep, great spiritual matters... and also about the ordinary affairs of daily life, which touch us far more often than the breathtaking theological breakthroughs.

As the year draws to a close, we have the opportunity to reflect on the days past, to examine how dedicated we have been to order, to those things that please the Father. We

12-25-2015

can see how we have conducted our own lives, how we have set forth a testimony for others and, if we have had the opportunity, how we have taught cleanliness, neatness, and order (including Gospel order) to our children and others in our care.

There are times when, in composing the notes for our weekly studies, Yahweh brings one or two people to my mind, indicating that they need the light He is shining upon this or that matter. What I am speaking of tonight is for the benefit of all of us. It is a benefit to each one of us, that we should have a deeper understanding of the faith we share, and that we should grow in spiritual beauty.

Earlier this week, I was working on some task on my computer, and I noticed that something fell behind the couch on which I was sitting. Being somewhat occupied, I thought to myself, "Oh, I will just get it later." But as I attempted to resume my task, the Spirit pressed me, very gently... What if I forgot, or became distracted by something that I considered more important? If so, then I would be guilty of neglect, because I was aware of the object falling, and I understood it to be disorder. I was compelled, by the Spirit and conscience, to go immediately and get it, before resuming my work.

As we come closer to Yah, and draw near the perfection of Yahshua's character, we will become more sensitive to smaller and smaller violations of neatness. I am not saying we become legalistic in this or any other matter, to the point of violating other principles, especially when dealing with others. We will, however, feel led to pursue greater and greater heights of righteousness in even these small things.

Order, structure, cleanliness, balance, making the details just right...these are things that please the Father, and His angels. And not only do they please Them, but they also "attract" them. They allow Yahweh's ministers to draw near to us with joy, strengthening their ability to encourage us, and to protect us from harm and temptation. As they encourage us, we become more orderly, and do things that please them and the Father even more, and we have a cycle that spirals right up like a staircase to the gates of Heaven.

One of things that really impressed me about Adventism in general, and the CSDA Church in particular, is that we talk about things necessary for life in the Heavenly Kingdom. Few others religious groups, if any, make the nature and requirements of Heavenly society so "real," so within our grasp, as those who speak of the "ordinary" as well as the "spiritual" with an understanding that neither are beneath the notice of our Heavenly Father. Practically all churches will speak about getting ready for Heaven, but few actually look at the practical steps that must be necessary if our goal is perfection of character, and if our inheritance is a Kingdom with a flawless King.

12-25-2015

Adventism speaks of a health message, of the importance of displaying proper values in clothing, recreation, hygiene, our choice of words... and the Creation Seventh Day Adventist Church adds thought processing and spiritual refinement to this, teaching us how to find the "roots" of sins, replacing false thoughts with true ones, and cleansing the life and mind of things unworthy of the Biblical 144,000.

Nowhere else in the world is this to be found; but I do not just say this to praise our people and our doctrine. I am pointing out the high standard that we above all people are responsible to meet. We who prepare to meet the Son of Man when He appears again, and further, to stand before the Father without a Mediator as human history closes... these are thoughts that ought to occupy our minds, not to cause fear, fear to amaze, to provide wonder, and to give us pause, to think of the kind of people we are and shall be, because of the kind of God whom we worship. As our brother John has said,

"Beloved, now are we the sons of Yahweh; and it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is." (1John 3:2)

That Yahweh is a God of order; let us praise Him for that, and follow His will. That Yahweh is a God of neatness, of cleanliness of both a spiritual and physical nature; let us celebrate that with our words, and also with our obedience.

John says that it does not yet appear what we shall be, and yet I say to you, every day it "appears" what we shall be a little clearer and clearer,

Pete: Amen.

Zahakiel: as sanctification raises us to Heaven, and clears away the dust of the earth from our eyes. But it begins with little things. It must. It begins with order.

I recall the very first CSDA Camp Meetings I attended in Tennessee. Every time, in the first days of the Feasts, usually the very first meeting of the first day, there were announcements about keeping the camp grounds clean, and even how to use the bathroom in a way that was as courteous and considerate to others as possible. At first, I thought it very strange, coming from the mainstream SDA Church... but I also found it very memorable, and the lessons have remained with me to this day,

Pete: Amen.

Zahakiel: affecting the way I do things, and giving me an appreciation for the details that make up the life that Yah has given me.

12-25-2015

The way that inspiration has guided Yah's people is, in a way, not so much a Church (in terms of what that has come to mean) but really a household, a society, a family, one that is not concerned about the "spiritual" health of its members... but its members entire. It is one that is expected to be raised up together to live among the disorder-avoiding angels, and the perfection of He who sits upon the Throne.

It is truly a blessing to be a part of Yah's family, learning what pleases Him, and receiving the grace to accomplish it. And what a blessing it has been to share this lesson on the small, but so very important, things with those who will be strengthened and (I pray) encouraged by hearing it. May Yah's angels attend us all, and more joyfully than ever before, in the days to come as we put into practice the things that we have heard from our Father. Are there any comments or questions about the study tonight?

Pete: Amen

Adriel: Amen

Pete: C

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Pete: I must say praise Yah for this study. It was just before the study that I was sharing with the family along the same lines, and how there must be steps taken to do the things that are needed to bind the family in closer unity. This study was an added bonus sent from above sent even before we talked about it as a family. Let us all rejoice at how Yah works in wondrous ways for the blessings of his children. End

Adriel: Amen

Lucan: C

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Lucan: I recall my first Ellen White book was Desire of Ages, and something that has stuck with me since then was a passage where she described how John knew Yahshua had risen, rather than being taken, because of how He had folded up and lain aside the funeral cloths. I suppose it's equally noteworthy that John knew Him well enough to realize that, but it meant to me that Yahshua practiced cleanliness on a level that was almost "trademark." <End.>

Zahakiel: Very nice, yes 😊

Adriel: C

12-25-2015

Elyna: C

Zahakiel: Go ahead, Jody.

Adriel: I wonder if my name came to mind as you were preparing this study. I have been thinking about the need to be more organized etc. I thank Yah for bringing this study to us today. End

Zahakiel: Go ahead, Guerline.

Elyna: I like the part about what that passage meant "the angels desire to look into" It is interesting to know that the angels are looking to learn from our experiences, (the good ones) Thanks for that light. Reasons more for us, children included to tread softly with our attitudes and behaviors around. End.

Zahakiel: All right, if there are no others, then I will ask Bro. Luke to close the study with a prayer.

Lucan: Dear heavenly Father. We thank you for the blessing of coming together in order and love before you during the Sabbath hours. We look forward eagerly to the day when we all may do so face to face at your Throne. May your Spirit guide us through the remainder of the Sabbath and beyond. In Yahshua's name we pray, amen.

Pete: Amen.

Adriel: Amen

Elyna: Amen

Victoria: Amen

Zahakiel: Amen

Adriel: I have a couple prayer requests. Dean has developed what we think is a hernia in his groin area.

Gadriel: Amen, Amen

Adriel: It isn't hurting him yet but it is causing some concern. We have a doctor appointment, but not for a month. We are planning on going to urgent care to get it checked out.

Gadriel: Doy gracias a YAHWEH porque mis nietos Jesus David y Juan David han escuchado este estudio.Amen.

Elyna: (Amen)

12-25-2015

Adriel: I'm asking for prayer for Yah's will. He also is planning on quitting smoking the first of the year so am asking for prayer for that as well.

Victoria: Amen

Elyna: Yes, will remember that to pray for you Sis Jody

Adriel: Amen to what Brother Jaime wrote. 😊

Elyna: Can I say this to you Sis Jody?

Adriel: yes

Naraiel: I give thanks to Yahweh because my grandchildren Jesus David and Juan David have heard the study.

Elyna: I said that I would pray for you, not for Dean, because I believe that the greatest step for him would be to come into unity with Yah and His plan for his life...You know that Mrs. White says not even to pray for someone if they do not give up their bad habits. So I will pray for you that you can encourage him to do so I know you do that...

Zahakiel: Well...

Naraiel: Although I understand Sis. Guerline's principle, I would pray for Dean, because all need prayer and Yahshua's intervention in their lives.

Zahakiel: I understand what Guerline is saying in principle...but yes, as Giselle says...we can certainly pray that his attempts to do things better, like giving up smoking, will be successful, and that through it, he will come to appreciate the sanctified life.

Elyna: Yes

Adriel: Thank-you to all of you. 😊 I also understand.

Barb: PC: I think Sis. Guerline made a good point. Dean needs to be converted so that he has the power to overcome all his dis-ease. <End>

Barb: It is my understanding that we can pray for Dean's conversion...

Adriel: I understand that as well, so please pray for that for him.

Barb: but not his healing until he repents of his bad habits. Amen

Elyna: Will pray for that Sis Jody.

Adriel: Thank-you. Yah Bless all. Goodnight. 😊 and Good day!

12-25-2015

Elyna: Good night 😊

Barb: Good night, Sis. Jody, and Yah bless