

12-4-2015 The Word Made Flesh.

**Zahakiel:** Let's begin. Pastor, if your network allows it, please offer an opening prayer.

**Freedom Walker:** No keyboard and network coming going

**Zahakiel:** Ok, let us pray, then. Almighty Father in Heaven, we give you thanks for the week that is coming to a close. We thank you for the days of labor, in which we have been able to reflect your perfect character to the world through our daily interactions. We thank you now for these sacred hours, in which we lay down the cares of the world, and draw near to you. We ask for your blessing of spiritual rest to be ours in every moment, that our rejoicing may be complete, and that we may be strengthened for the days ahead. May the words you have given to us tonight facilitate our continuing sanctification as we maintain the walk of victory before you. Bless our time together in this gathering, we ask in Yahshua's holy name. Amen.

**Freedom Walker:** Amen.

**Barb:** Amen

**Lucan:** Amen

**peter:** Amen

**daphna:** Amen

**gadriel:** Amen, Amen

**Naraiel:** Amen

**Adriel:** Amen

**Zahakiel:** Happy Sabbath to everyone. Tonight's study is called "The Word Made Flesh." It concerns the nature of Yahshua as He walked among us for a time, and it concerns the nature of Yahshua as He walks among us now, by the presence of His Holy Spirit, and through the operation of His Bride. We read of Christ's incarnation, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the Only Begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)

So, here is a question that ought to be asked more often: Why? This is not as flippant as it sounds, if we understand Yahweh to be who He is. If we ask a typical Christian why Yahshua came into the world, they may answer according to – and perhaps even quoting – what is probably the Bible's most popular verse:

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

So, we see here that Yahshua came into the world, being made flesh, because of the Creator's love for us and so that we should have everlasting life. But this still doesn't get to the heart of the question "Why?"

We may go a step further, and read, "Grace be to you and peace from Yahweh the Father, and from our Lord Yahshua the Messiah, who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father." (Gal 1:3, 4)

12-4-2015 The Word Made Flesh.

All right, so Yahshua came to us because of the love that He and the Father felt toward us, and specifically so that He could give Himself over to death for our sakes, so that we should have life even though the wages of sin is death. But, one last time, "Why?"

The reason why this question, simple though it is, is so important is because it speaks directly to who Yah is, and the means by which He accomplishes His goals.

In his criticism of the teaching of papal indulgences during his "95 Theses" document of 1517, Martin Luther wrote, in points 81 and 82 together, "This unbridled preaching of pardons makes it no easy matter, even for learned men, to rescue the reverence due to the pope from slander, or even from the shrewd questionings of the laity, to wit, 'Why does not the pope empty purgatory, for the sake of holy love and of the dire need of the souls that are there, if he redeems an infinite number of souls for the sake of miserable money with which to build a Church? The former reasons would be most just; the latter is most trivial.'"

Now, one might wonder what this has to do with what we are discussing, but the "shrewd questioning," the reasonable thinking, of Yah's people may be employed to reveal much with regard to truth and error. In asking why the pope would free individuals from purgatory for the sake of money, and not for the sake of his love for those souls, we expose a spiritual weakness of the papacy.

We may ask a similar question of Yahweh, exposing – in this case – the strength of His character. It may be asked, and quite reasonably, "Why does Yah not save people from everlasting destruction for the sake of holy love, and the dire need of the souls on earth, by the mere authority of His Word, declaring us to be saved, rather than requiring the suffering and sacrifice of His Son? Would not His mere declaration that we are saved be sufficient, considering His absolute authority over the creation?"

The Word was made flesh because of Yah's love, for our sakes, so that Yahshua could be offered in our place on the cross. But the question is, specifically, why was this suffering and death necessary? If Yahweh is all-powerful, and all-loving, why did the Son have to become flesh? Why must Christ continue to suffer in His people, as Christians bear the insults and slings of the Enemy, being persecuted for their faith as even in these days, so that the divine will can be satisfied?

We are told to have a child-like faith, and sometimes these "simple" questions can reveal great things. The problem that Luther had with indulgences was largely this: acts of faith and genuine penitence are what show a redeemed character, not whether or not one had funds sufficient to purchase indulgences. The preachers of his day were teaching that one could do the wickedest of deeds, and yet if he had coin enough to purchase a certificate of pardon, he could avoid many of the consequences of his acts. Money was substituted for faith and repentance, so that the soul would not grow in love by its experiences toward a Heavenly destiny.

Imagine, then, if Yah were to forgive all of mankind's sin without revealing the consequences of that sin; that is to say, if "letters of pardon" were given out, not even for money rather than

12-4-2015 The Word Made Flesh.

repentance, but for free. If given for free, this would be even worse than what Luther was protesting, for sin would be seen as trivial, and a violation of the Holy Law as literally inconsequential – having no consequence. Everlasting life would then be no improvement over the misery of this world, for in eternity we would encounter (if not become ourselves) greedy, lustful, wrathful, fearful, and selfish individuals who never learned why these things are “wrong” and to be resolutely and eternally avoided.

Now, it is true that, from our perspective, salvation is free. Yahshua is the One who paid the cost of it; but we are made to see – we have needed to see – that cost being paid. Let us consider the cost, and the thing from which we have been redeemed. It is not merely from “destruction” in hell, but something far worse than even that. The purpose of the judgment is to cleanse the Creation, which Paul says is “groaning,” travailing in pain for the weight of transgression that it currently bears. (Rom 8:22)

We do not feel it directly, but human beings exist in an atmosphere that exerts about 15 pounds of air pressure upon us for every square inch of our physical bodies. If you have ever lifted something weighing 15 pounds, you know that this is not an insignificant amount, and yet every square inch of our bodies has this weight pressing inward upon it. How do we survive it without being crushed? It is because the pressure in our bodies presses out just as much, and we are thus in a state of balance. We were designed to exist within an atmosphere of pressure, and because of this we can function normally. If we were to be placed in a vacuum, without the pressure of air, we would die very quickly.

In a somewhat similar sense, the natural man, the carnal man, lives in a spiritual atmosphere of sorrow, misery, and transgression. He is in balance with it. He is pressed down by fear of the unknown and death, of anxiety for the future, of concerns about health and safety. Even if he is not aware of it, his survival instincts are programmed by his experiences, so that he could not imagine any other way to live. He seems designed for this “heavy” environment.

When we are converted, we begin to feel what it is like to live without this tremendous pressure, and this is what we call the “Sabbath Rest.” As long as we are in these bodies, and on this earth, we must deal with circumstances that lead to sorrow and cares, but we can face these with perfect confidence, because we know that we have become inheritors of everlasting life. We continue to live on this earth, but the process of sanctification is that which prepares us to live in the world to come, with characters refined and perfected to survive without the “pressure” of this broken creation that causes the groaning and travailing in pain. We will be able to exist in a state of perfect joy, of perfect holiness, which would quite literally destroy those who are attuned to the pressures and torments of sin. This is the true nature of the Lake of Fire, the second death.

It is Yah that accomplishes this refinement within us, but the way He does so is by pardoning us through the power of His Word because of love – exactly as a shrewd questioner of His kindness might expect – and then by ensuring that we know exactly what it is we have done, what it has cost us to transgress His law, and what infinite power it requires of Him to set the wages of sin aside from our spiritual accounts.

The Word became flesh, because it was necessary for this to take place, “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly

12-4-2015 The Word Made Flesh.

lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Yahshua the Christ; who gave himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." (Titus 2:11-14)

Now, here we have a clear answer to our apparently simple question of "Why?" It is so that Yah's grace would "appear" to us. If He merely spoke from Heaven, saying, "Your sins are forgiven," the human mind would have no conception of the wickedness of sin, and no true appreciation of Yah's goodness. If Yahshua had somehow been sacrificed in the Heavenly realm, or if He had come to earth but died in obscurity, we would not have known the evils of transgressing the Law.

For the nominal Christian, whether he will admit it or not, fear of Hell is a primary motivation. But the Bible tells us that in the true faith, it is beholding the goodness of Yah that leads to repentance and conversion. The Gospel has nothing to do with fear. Yahshua tells us, right before that most popular verse, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:14, 15) This refers back to an incident that took place during the Exodus, "And Yahweh sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died. Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, 'We have sinned, for we have spoken against Yahweh and against thee; pray unto Yahweh, that He take away the serpents from us.' And Moses prayed for the people. "And Yahweh said unto Moses, 'Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole; and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.' And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived." (Num. 21:6-9)

Mankind must be given an opportunity to exercise faith, to turn its eyes willingly to Yahweh, or else he will not be prepared to live in a kingdom of glory. What Adventist writers have called "cheap grace" is a belief that one is forgiven even without genuine, life-changing repentance; that is, without seeing the Son of Man lifted up on the cross, with the understanding that it is our transgression that nailed Him there. This does nothing to prepare the soul to inherit everlasting life. It was necessary for Yahshua to be made flesh, to stand before us and teach us how to live according to the Law, and then to be rejected and slain by those who would not accept His teaching, so that we might understand what we have become by indulging in sin, and what we might be like if we repent and follow the Messiah.

So far, there is little I have said that is "new," beyond perhaps drawing a few connections. The question for us, then, is, if we have known these things, what have we done in response to this knowledge? We know that Yah's love, without the manifestation of His Word, would not have accomplished its purpose. The Word was made flesh to redeem us, but also, as it is written to Titus, to "purify unto [Yah] a peculiar people, zealous of good works." This is the end-result of the Word becoming flesh, not merely a forgiven people, not merely a people who are saved from Hell and going to Heaven, but a people who are pure of character, and because of this, eager to do good, eager to work righteousness in the world as long as we are here.

**Adriel:** Amen

12-4-2015 The Word Made Flesh.

**Zahakiel:** This is the great "Why" of tonight's study, and this is the mindset of the Victorious Christian. This is the reasoning employed by those who truly receive the doctrine of Righteousness by Faith. We have learned, from the Word being made flesh, the "sinfulness of sin," as we have heard it, and also the "goodness of righteousness" in beholding the cost of redemption. We have learned what it is to be dedicated to the Creator, to the Almighty Father, and what the world will do to those who prefer the spirit to the flesh.

The Gospel is not a message of conquest, of force, as are the messages of the false religions and the counterfeits of truth. It does not force the wicked to respect and uphold the righteous; thus, we are persecuted, we are harassed, by those whose works are evil, even as Cain abused his brother Abel. But for all this, we know that we are loved by the Father. The Word made Flesh revealed the depth of His love for humanity. Mankind has been given infinite value before the universe, because the Father and Son have declared us worthy of Their love, even unto the death of the Only Begotten.

In a sense, the Father did redeem us "merely" by speaking His Word, but that Word is revealed to us as Yahshua. That Word was made flesh, and accomplished the Father's sure purpose. This is a mystery of faith, and teaches us the responsibility that we (as those made in Yah's image) have as our own words are made flesh, as we speak blessings into the world with our prayers, and as we testify of this great love, this great Gospel.

Who would not be an evangelist? Who would not be a fearless witness? Again, we know what the world does to the Word made flesh, and when the Word is made flesh in OUR flesh, we can expect no different treatment. Man does not love sin less now than it did in the day of the crucifixion, and in fact has become far more cunning at justifying itself. Many do Satan's will, all while believing they are devout worshippers of Yahweh – and the world rewards them for their deception.

We look forward to a day of truth, when the Word made flesh is revealed to the universe in His glory, and anything that we have had to bear, anything that we have had to endure, seems insignificant compared to the joy of standing with the Son at the right hand of the Father. No persecution, no obstacle, no annoyance, whether from unjust laws, the betrayal of false friends, or even the unbelieving among our own household (as we discussed a couple weeks ago) can compare to the eternal inheritance that Yah has prepared for all His children, and for all whom He calls to become His children through our labors in the world.

Therefore, we let nothing keep us from giving our all to this great work, the objectively best work that a person can do, as we put the King and the Kingdom above all else. What a glorious day this is, in which such things have come upon us.

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

**Adriel:** C

**Zahakiel:** Go ahead.

**daphna:** q

12-4-2015 The Word Made Flesh.

**Adriel:** Again, as always I praise Yahweh for this study though I do not think that abused is a strong enough word for what Cain did to Abel, and I saw almost first-hand the result of hearts that follow evil, in what happened 2.5 miles from where I work. I look forward to the day when Yahweh puts an end to all evil. End

**Zahakiel:** Yes, I saw that on the news, even here. Go ahead, Daphna.

**daphna:** Would tonight's study be the answer to if Yah is a God of love why is there so much sin suffering and pain in this world?

**peter:** C.

**Zahakiel:** Well, it is certainly the answer to why He allowed the sin and suffering in the world to fall on His Son. We know from inspired writings that Yah is allowing sin and suffering to be revealed in this world for a number of reasons,

**daphna:** c

**Zahakiel:** including as an object lesson to the universe of what Satan's position results in. Go ahead, Peter.

**peter:** I am thankful for this study and it helps us to see what sin is when humanity rebuff the love of God. When I think of this world I see some light that is shining bright but there is also darkness and this is what some have chosen as the bible states men chose darkness rather than light. That being said it breaks my heart to see in spite of all this happening around us the light of Yah's love is still calling all those who are willing to accept His invitation. Let us work as he instructs us and keep his light burning by his power to all that is in need. End

**Zahakiel:** Go ahead, Daphna.

**daphna:** I have heard lately "where is your god" when bad things happen like the little girl of 7 years old was abused then killed and thrown into a pond. This happened to her after a ball game where she was cheering for her brother as he played in the game. End. How would you answer such a question? ...

**Zahakiel:** Those comments come from people who do not know what it means to be free, so they expect Yah to stop people from doing evil with force. The answer to that question,

**daphna:** I tell them we are not robots to be jerked around on a string. End

**Zahakiel:** is that Yahshua came to bring us a message of Yah's love, and if man would accept it, such things would never happen.

**daphna:** ok,

**Adriel:** C

**Zahakiel:** Go ahead.

12-4-2015 The Word Made Flesh.

**Adriel:** I have shared versions of that answer, but yours is very direct and to the point. I like it and will remember it. 😊End

**Zahakiel:** Ok 😊 are there any others with thoughts to share?

**Lucan:** C

**Zahakiel:** Go ahead.

**Lucan:** I remember trying to decide when I was younger what I wanted to do professionally. I knew I wanted to help people in some way, but there were a few options available for that. I considered trying to become a policeman, or some kind of medical professional. But what I remember realizing was that, while I might stop an emergency and even keep someone from dying, I wouldn't have really changed that life except for... extending it... I might be able to stop someone from bleeding to death, but I wouldn't have made a real contribution to that life being any better. They would continue to live as they were, which for most people without Yah means an existence of confusion, anger, and loneliness. I don't say this to devalue those who do those jobs; they are necessary to be done. But, they are only necessary because of a world that lives in sin. The only thing I could consider doing with my life that seemed to make a lasting difference - or have potential to - was to work for Yahweh in ministering to others, and offering them to change their hearts. Of course, I hadn't heard of the victory message yet, so that decision only became truer later on. But, despite all setbacks, I have been and remain very blessed to participate in the "objectively best work that a person can do..." I hope all of my brethren have made similar decisions and examinations about their life and energies.

**gadriel:** Amen

**Lucan:** If not, I hope my story gives some opportunity to do so. 😊 <End.>

**Zahakiel:** Amen 😊

**peter:** Amen

**Adriel:** Amen

**Zahakiel:** I can appreciate that, especially the part about jobs that only extend lives that will ultimately end.

**Naraiel:** Amen.

**Zahakiel:** They are important, as you say, but we are called to a better task. I have an all-or-nothing approach to life...If we do not live forever, and eventually go into nothingness, then that life is ultimately meaningless, wasted. I know that the humanist mindset would disagree with this, but we know that life given by Yah is supposed to last forever, and death is an enemy. It is amazing how people have come to accept the idea that "nothingness" is the ultimate fate of everyone. It makes me sad that this is seen as normal, the way that the universe is supposed to work, but the truth makes me thankful to Yah for His salvation. Any other comments or questions? All right, then I will ask Bro. Luke to offer a closing prayer.

12-4-2015 The Word Made Flesh.

**Adriel:** c

**Zahakiel:** Go ahead.

**Adriel:** Or that everyone, regardless of how they live their life is going to heaven. I don't understand that. End

**Lucan:** C

**Zahakiel:** Right.. well, they do not know what Heaven is. An eternity of praising a God they have rejected their entire lives? That is not something they would even want. Go ahead.

**Lucan:** Re: Jody; people like happy endings. For most people, the afterlife is question for storybooks, whether they're nihilists or evangelicals. It doesn't affect their day to day lives in any meaningful way, so they go with whatever is being said and sounds good to them. Ironically, that's almost the correct approach...The afterlife really isn't our focus either; the focus should be on the day to day living of life. We have a mind for eternity, in how we make our decisions and priorities, perhaps... But for the most part, showing people that Yahweh's message will improve their lives and give them happiness is something more moving than theology, for exactly that reason...  
<end.>

**Adriel:** Amen

**Zahakiel:** All right, go ahead and close when ready, Bro. Luke.

**Lucan:** Dear heavenly Father. We thank you for the sacred hours of the Sabbath. We ask that your Spirit continue with us during and beyond the appointed hours. May our meditations and recreation be blessed. In Yahshua's name we pray, amen.

**YahBarb:** Amen

**Zahakiel:** Amen.

**daphna:** Amen

**peter:** Amen

**Freedom Walker:** Amen.

**Naraiel:** Amen

**gadriel:** Amen, Amen.

**Elyna:** Amen.

**Adriel:** Amen