

Topic is: Why They Failed

Happy Sabbath! Please see our room information at <http://93.88.247.151/chat.html>

Zahakiel : *Let's get started, since it seems most are here. Pastor, please offer an opening prayer.*

Pastor_Chick_CSDA_7 : **Dear Father in Heaven. Thank You for this time of study and spiritual refreshing. May our hearts be lifted high as we sit before Your Throne by faith. Thank You for blessing us abundantly for this hour and for this, Your holy day, in YAHSHUA's holy name, AMEN.**

 Barbli : Amen

 Lucan : Amen

 Zahakiel : Amen.

 Guest_Adriel : Amen

 Guest_Elyna_Family : Amen

 Guest_Naraiel : Amen

 Guest_Peter : Amen.

 Guest_daphna : Amen

 Zahakiel : *Happy Sabbath to everyone. Today's study has the unusual name, "Why They Failed." And yet, despite the title, we will not be speaking much about failure. We will revisit a topic that I've touched on before in previous studies, but apply it both to specific situations in our (Christian) history, and generally so that we can make use of the principles in our walk of sanctification.*

Some time ago, I presented a study based on a portion of this passage, which reads,

"And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the Law of Moses, which Yahweh had commanded to Israel.

"And Nehemiah, which is the [governor], and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, 'This day is holy unto Yahweh your Elohim; mourn not, nor weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the Law.

"Then he said unto them, 'Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy unto our Lord; neither be ye sorry; for the joy of Yahweh is your strength.'

"So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, 'Hold your peace, for the day is holy; neither be ye grieved.' And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them." (Neh. 8:1, 9-12)

Reading that the Israelites “wept” when they heard the words of the Law brings many things to mind.

First, it shows that, although they had become ignorant of the Law due to their Babylonian captivity and later their time spent under Media/Persian rule, they nevertheless had a sincere desire to be faithful to the Creator. At least at the time of them hearing the Law (even if not before) their consciences were stirred to the point that their sense of guilt brought forth tears.

This reminds me of that passage in Acts 2, in which Peter is describing the crucifixion of Yahshua at the hand of the Sanhedrin to his Jewish audience. Their response was similar, “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, ‘Men and brethren, what shall we do?’” (Acts 2:37)

In both these cases, we see that the hearers were sincere. These are the ones that were capable of receiving Yahweh’s grace, and there is really no difference made by the covenant under which they were living. Before Yahshua, one needed a humble, sensitive spirit to be saved. Now that Yahshua has died, and risen to become our High Priest, one needs a humble, sensitive spirit to be saved.

Nowadays, if we bring a convicting testimony, we are more likely to encounter resistance, self-justification, and misunderstood Bible verses about one person judging another. The spirit of self-denial is largely absent but it is those who would weep at the knowledge that they did not know the Law that we seek in our work for the world.

The other thing this passage reveals is how the minds of the Israelites changed after the Law was explained to them. Initially, they wept. They saw that they had not been faithful to Yahweh, and not worthy to be called His people, but those who knew the Almighty, those who had been His chosen servants, went among the people and then did two things.

First, they comforted the sorrowful, reminding them that Yah’s love was the reason they were no longer in captivity.

Second, they told them to be joyful in that holy day because “the joy of Yahweh is your strength.”

When the people understood the Law, and therefore the nature of the God who had saved them, and brought them back to Jerusalem, they rejoiced. They were filled with happiness, and with peace...and this is what gave them the strength to continue the work to which Yah had appointed them.

They made a “sure covenant,” (Neh. 9:38) they refined their understanding of the Sabbath, (Neh. 13:21) they put away their “unclean” wives, purifying themselves as a people, (Neh. 13:30) and they began to offer acceptable offerings to Yah. (Neh. 13:31)

There are clear parallels here to the needs of Yahweh’s professed people in the last days.

Upon initially hearing the Law, even the apostle Paul was struck by its requirements. He said that he “died” when the power of the Law came over him; (Rom 7:9) but once he came to understand the Law, and therefore the character of the Father and Son, he was cleansed of his condemnation and became joyful.

When first learning of the Sabbath, many Sunday-keepers consider it to be “restrictive,” a burden. Many Adventists, upon hearing of the feasts and New Moons, have similar reactions. If they are truly convicted to be faithful to the Creator, however, and accept the Bible as His Word, they seek to understand these things. When they do understand them, then the nature of the Lawgiver becomes clear, and only joy remains.

We read that perfect love casts out all fear, (1John 4:18) so it must also be that perfect love casts out all sorrow. It is fear that causes torment, as that very verse says. It is fear that causes spiritual pain, but perfect love removes the cause, and then “the joy of Yahweh is your strength.”

I learned, very early on after becoming a CSDA, if there is no joy in our religious beliefs, duties, or activities, something must be wrong. It is not “correct” that anything we believe or practice should cause any sorrow, because it is all based upon love. So then, if there is a lack of joy, something is wrong. If that is the case, what are the options? There is either something wrong with me, or there is something wrong with the belief.

It is quite easy to check which of the two options is correct. We read, “But I have trusted in Thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in Thy salvation.” (Psa. 13:5)

“For our heart shall rejoice in Him, because we have trusted in His holy name.” (Psa. 33:21)

“But let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before Elohim; yea, let them exceedingly rejoice.” (Psa. 68:3)

Being in harmony with Yah causes joy. Being free from sin, which is a requirement for this blessed state, results in great joy. If, then, some belief I hold, or some practice I observe, is not causing me joy, then this means it is not bringing me closer to Yahweh. What I must do, then, is to look objectively at the doctrine or practice and ask, based strictly on the Biblical principle involved, “Is this doctrine or practice purging sin from my life?”

If I am unhappy with a doctrine because it is not bringing me closer to Yah, not resulting in the repentance and abandonment of sin, and not increasing my knowledge of His character, then there is something wrong with the doctrine or practice. It must be re-evaluated carefully.

As a CSDA, I can know for certain that the doctrine of an eternally burning hell, for example, or the veneration of saints, or the removal of the annual feasts from the Christian worldview... these things bring me no closer to the character of Yahweh in Christ, and do not eliminate a single sin by my acceptance of them. For this reason alone, and certainly because of what the Bible directly teaches, we reject these doctrines. They bring no joy to the sanctified mind, and must therefore form no part of my beliefs or character.

On the other hand, if I – by reading the Scriptures – become convinced that the doctrine I am examining is indeed useful for sanctification, and contrary to sin, then I am the one that must repent and turn to Yah for the joy of His salvation.

If some doctrine that is known to be “good” is causing sorrow, then I must examine my spirit to see what sin is hidden there unawares. It may be that I am genuinely unaware of my fault, and this is where Yah’s great gift of that “sure covenant,” of that “holy nation,” comes into play. My brethren can help me to be perfected for translation, and everlasting service to the universe.

This is the work of the Three Angels’ Message in the individual heart, in the individual preparing for a place among the 144,000, for we see in our sorrow the judgment of Yah. We see a need to have pure doctrines, lest we be led astray into error and destruction. We see a system and society that aids us, that is vital, in finding joy in all that is righteous, and rejection of all that is not.

But why have I named this study “Why They Failed?” It is because those who fail at the Christian life, whether we are speaking of individuals or Churches, fail because this is the thing that they do not comprehend. When Yah said, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge,” (Hos 4:6) this is largely what He was talking about...a lack of knowledge of Him, of His salvation, and of the joy of His salvation that is our strength to succeed, that is our means to victory as in the days of Nehemiah.

Those who have failed may say, “Not all ‘good’ doctrines bring joy.” Consider, for example, those various Adventist offshoots that have surrendered their spiritual identity, the name “Seventh Day Adventist” for fear of suffering and loss.

Many admit, “It is ‘good’ to use the name that God has inspired. It is ‘good’ not to give into intimidation and bullying, on principle if for no other reason. If it were not for the threat of civil penalties, we would still be calling ourselves Adventists.”

Many are honest enough to say these things in private moments... but let them apply the teaching I am presenting here. Is something wrong with the doctrine, that we should reject it, or is there something wrong with those tempted to reject the doctrine?

The name ‘Seventh Day Adventist’ is a divinely inspired representation of our faith. It should bring us joy. In fact, for those who truly appreciate it, and all that it means, and its power to “convict the inquiring mind,” it does bring us joy. It does not matter that there is persecution and loss for those who will be faithful to Christ’s teachings, and the Father’s principles. If there is imprisonment and want ahead, we read,

“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations [i.e., trials], knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.” (James 1:2, 3)

“Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.” (1Pet 4:16)

Be joyful, glorify Yahweh, because He has called us His people, and He has called us by His name. If we rejoice in this, then we have the strength to “endure” to the end.

 **Guest_Adriel** : **Amen**

Zahakiel : We shall never fail. If we do not find joy in the truth, then we will find excuses to put away – bit by bit – the faith of Yahshua that distances us from this world and brings us near to Heaven.

True doctrines WILL bring joy to the Spirit-filled Christian. If there is no joy, then either the doctrine is false, or the Christian has fallen into an error that Yahshua is bringing into judgment that it may be purged away.

I have used the example of the keeping of the name, “Seventh Day Adventist.” That is an easy one to which we can relate – and we are here because we have come to the conclusion that the joy of being a Seventh Day Adventist, and now a Creation Seventh Day Adventist, is greater than the sorrow of any affliction that the world can heap upon us for being one... and certainly, the joy of being an Adventist is greater than the sorrow of NOT being one.

It is all about joy, when we look very carefully at love. It is the joy of Yahweh that is our strength.

To give a more general example, consider the Sabbath that I mentioned before. To many who learn of it for the first time, it seems to be a sorrowful thing. They may even “weep” if they feel conflicted between the life they knew before, and becoming a Sabbath-keeping, Biblically grounded Christian – I have seen that happen. But when it is explained to them by one who has been called by Yahweh, one who knows the joy of Yah’s salvation, and the blessings that trust and obedience bring, then their sorrow is put away, and they rejoice.

Let us, I pray, be those called people, those knowledgeable witnesses, for those who may sorrow at the Law. Let us be the ones who bring understanding, and joyfulness, to those sincere hearts that are sensitive enough to feel the weight of their lack of knowledge of the Father and Son. Let us be aware that this is why those who have failed have failed, because they did not learn that the joy of Yahweh is our strength. Because they were threatened, or because they were tempted, they put away the purity of their faith, whether it was the name they were called to bear, the Sabbath they were instructed to keep holy, or any other doctrine that would, indeed, put away sin and draw one’s heart Heavenward. They fell to those temptations, or they fled before those threats, because they did not understand that the joy of truth, and obedience to the truth, is greater than the “light affliction” of any wickedness this world has to offer. (2Cor 4:17)

And finally, let us rejoice, let us have joy, knowing that we are clear of conscience before the on-looking universe, and even greater joy than this, knowing that others will see Yahshua’s faith in our resolute obedience to the principles of Scripture and the guidance of inspiration. Persecution cannot steal our joy. The coldness and indifference of others cannot steal our joy. Our sure knowledge of the character of

our Good Father is our joy, and that joy, the joy of Yahweh, is our invincible, limitless strength.

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

 **Guest_Adriel** : Amen

 Guest_gadriel : Amen

 **Guest_Adriel** : c

 Zahakiel : **Go ahead.**

 Guest_Naraiel : Amen

 **Guest_Adriel** : **I praise Yahweh for another timely message. End**

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

 Lucan : *Dear heavenly Father. We thank you for the joy that you have given us, in the package of your Spirit. While we may not feel joy at all times, we are blessed as we understand the distinction, and rejoice in the true joy that you have implanted in our hearts. As we dismiss now into the Sabbath hours, we ask that your Spirit continue to bind us together to your Word and to one another. In Yahshua's name we pray, amen.*

 Zahakiel : **Amen.**

 Barbli : Amen

 **Guest_Adriel** : Amen

 Guest_Elyna_Family : Amen.

 Guest_gadriel : Amen,Amen

 Pastor_Chick_CSDA_7 : **Amen.**

 Guest_Peter : Amen.

 Guest_Naraiel : Amen