

Zahakiel: Ok, let's begin. Pastor, please offer an opening prayer.

Pastor Chick: Dear Father in Heaven. We present ourselves before Your Throne expecting a Sabbath blessing, praying for an outpouring of Your Spirit and seeking a deeper insight of truth. Thank You for Your Presence with us as we pray in the holy name of YAHSHUA, Amen.

Zahakiel: Amen.

Adriel: Amen

Naraiel: Amen

Gadriel: Amen, Amen

Lucan: Amen

Barb: Amen

Peter: Amen

Daphna: Amen

Elyna: Amen.

Zahakiel: Happy Sabbath to everyone.

Kim joined the chat

Adriel: 😊

Zahakiel: I pray your New Moon was a blessed one, and that we are now well-prepared for the peaceful hours ahead, refreshing ourselves for the labors of the week to come. Tonight, in fact, I would like to speak about two different kinds of "rest."

As we have established over the course of many studies, the spiritual world is a divided one, at least until our Heavenly Father forever concludes the presence of sin in the universe. For now, things tend to come in twos. There is righteousness and unrighteousness, sin and love, light and darkness. There is sound doctrine and false, and whereas it might be natural to see the good things on one "side" and the bad things on another, the arrangement is generally that the good and righteous principles are in the middle, with error present on the either extreme. In just the same way, there is a divine rest and an unholy rest.

The divine rest is associated with the character of Yahweh, and its visible representation is the Sabbath. The unholy rest is associated with Satan and his true nature, and its visible representation is the Mark of The Beast.

Tonight, I am calling the study "A Mark of The Beast," because I would like to examine the mark from the perspective of this false rest, and to see one of its manifestations that we, as Yah's Church, must specifically guard against.

Anyone who has accepted the Adventist message would never embrace Sunday Worship, and anyone who has accepted the Creation Seventh Day Adventist message (or really, knows the Spirit of Yahweh) would never accept the use of lawsuits to advance religious

objectives. In this sense, the CSDA Church is "saved" from the two main "Marks" of the Beast accepted in both mainstream and newly reformed Adventism. But does this mean that Satan has ceased his assault on the Redeemed?

As we know, we are subject to the worst of temptations, the most powerful and deceptive of spiritual traps. We survive only because we are defended, constantly, by the Spirit of Yahweh and the work of our ministering angels. Those who have overcome sin and self, and who have covenanted with the Father, the Son, and their People, enjoy the perfect protection of Heavenly forces. We both rejoice in, and are humbled by, this arrangement, because we know we can rest in supreme confidence in our Father's love and care, while at the same time we know that nothing about ourselves, nothing that we can be, or do, has anything to do with this safety – we are entirely reliant on Yah.

What, then, can trouble us? The answer is really "nothing," because we who are sealed are settled into the truth of Yah's nature so that we cannot be moved.

But what is it that Satan attempts to use to trouble us? We endure until the end because we "watch and pray." While salvation is a gift freely given, and is the work of Yahweh and not man, we are nevertheless given instructions to follow, and it is because we are obedient children, because we do the righteousness set before us, we "shall never fall." (2Pet 1:10)

A part of Yah's work is to place His perfect obedience within us; it is in this manner that salvation is assured. This is ultimately the difference between the true rest and the false one. The false rest says, "We do not need to do anything," and this has led to the once-saved-always-saved mindset that misrepresents the very real "work" of salvation that is accomplished in us by the Father and Son.

As it is written, "For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, [so] that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God." (John 3:20, 21)

We see that "deeds" are mentioned there several times. Those who accomplish good "deeds" are not saved by those deeds, but reveal the salvation that is theirs by faith. Significantly, John tells us that the good works done by the redeemed are "wrought" in God, or worked, made, accomplished, in Him.

The holy rest is an active rest. It works things. It accomplishes and creates; just as our Father is a Creator, so those who are His create – we make sanctified lives built on the foundation of the divine character.

The unholy rest, however, is of a different nature.

Men ask, "What is the Mark of The Beast?" Different religious traditions give different answers, from microchips to Sunday worship. The latter is closer to the truth, and once was, indeed, its earthly manifestation. Today, we understand the present truth about the Mark is that it is agreement with a law designed to restrict the religious liberty of Yahweh's saints, attempting to get them to surrender their trust in Yahweh, to give up their Sabbath as we have been describing, and to conform to the mind of the world.

As Adventist writers have said, the Mark described in the Bible as the last enemy of the Redeemed is a National Sunday Law or specifically, to quote Adventist author Uriah Smith, "the promulgation and enforcement of a civil Sunday-Sabbath law, would fulfill what the prophecy sets forth in reference to the image and the mark of the beast. These movements, or their exact equivalent, are called for by the prophecy." [Daniel and the Revelation, p. 617]

The common thread, the means by which we can identify it regardless of the age in which it appears, is twofold. First, we can identify it by its origin and second, we can identify it by its effect. These are always the "exact equivalent" of every other form.

By way of origin, the mark arises when human beings, misunderstanding the divine nature, attempt to accomplish spiritual goals by forbidden, secular means. In the New Testament era, this has taken place on an organizational scale by a union of church and state. We shall see that there is an individual level on which the "exact equivalent" can also play out, and it will require some spiritual eyesight.

By way of effect, the Mark always seeks to compel the conscience of mankind, to cause it to act contrary to its own eternal interests either by force or (as we shall see) by deception. So let me plainly lay the matter out, so that you can see the connection I am making between the "unholy rest" of a false Sabbath, and the Mark of the Beast as it may be manifest and taken at an individual level – even (and especially) among those who claim to be Yahweh's own people.

The origin of the Mark of the Beast is always, at least in the New Testament age, a union of an apostate Church and a powerful civil entity. It is important to note that this is always instigated BY the Church. The state never goes to the Church to ask, "Who do you want us to persecute today?" It is always the Church's initiative... and why? The Church seeks out the state, not the other way around, because the fallen Church has the will to destroy the work of Heaven, but not the power. The state, on the other hand, has the power to accomplish this (or so it thinks) but not the will. A powerless will, and a will-less power unite, and thus become an appropriate enemy of the Gospel message.

But now consider, once the Church has injected its will into the state, once it has aimed the weapon, or filed the lawsuit, what does the Church then need to do? Assuming it has made its case that the Gospel is a threat to the state's interest, the answer is... nothing. The Church does not need to do anything once the state has begun its work. Historically,

the Church has remained involved, if only to reveal its character to the universe, but even if it did not, the legal machine would do its work nonetheless.

Consider, when Creation Seventh Day Adventists protest the Trademark Law as being a restrictive application of legal language, one that unjustly seeks to silence the work of Yahweh's messengers, we lay the primary blame at the feet of the apostate Church.

This is exactly as Yahshua did during His trial. Recall that when questioned by Pilate, the representative of the state, "Yahshua answered, 'Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above; therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.'" (John 19:11)

Heaven had ordained that Yahshua was to die for humanity's sake. This was strictly a religious matter, and it had nothing directly to do with Rome. Roman authority was merely the tool of Satan's work, and the guilt was therefore primarily upon those who allowed themselves to be directly used for unholy purposes – the Sanhedrin that represented the Jewish Nation.

But what did the Jews say? "He is a criminal, crucify Him." What do those responsible for creating the Trademark Law and using it against the saints say? "They are criminals. We aren't doing anything to them. They are breaking the law by stealing our name." "It is the U.S. legal system that will put them in jail, fine them, and take away their evangelism materials."

The Christian rests in Yahweh. That is his Sabbath, and the Seal of Yahweh comes from this. The apostate rests in the substitute husband, the civil magistrate. That is his false Sabbath, and a Mark of the Beast.

So, the state, once it has begun the process, supplies the power, the work. The Church may continue to cheer them on, but ultimately at that point they can sit back and do "nothing." They, who have begun the process, take the mark in their forehead, because it was their decision to initiate the process. Now the laity, the regular Church members, they can deceive themselves into thinking that they are innocent. They can always say, "We disagree with the leaders. They should not be doing this... but we are doing nothing."

There is that word again – nothing.

Inspiration tells us that doing nothing, that remaining neutral in a religious crisis, is actually "hostility" toward Yahweh. Doing nothing is actually a powerful work, and one that is almost never on the side of righteousness.

Sabbath is ceasing to do one's own work, and doing the work of Yahweh. The false sabbath is ceasing to do one's own work, and letting the work of Satan proceed unchecked, un-rebuked, un-proteted.

Those who keep it can say, "I didn't put anyone in jail, nor did I try to put anyone in jail," and feel that Yah's frown is not upon them. That is the illusion, that doing no-thing means doing no-evil-thing. But in religious matters, in matters of righteousness, "nothing" is the greatest enemy.

We read, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour; whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world." (1Peter 5:8, 9)

The Devil, particularly when working through people, is likened to a roaring lion. Now, it is a rule of nature that animals that eat plants, animals that graze, are constantly active. They must move around, because they do not get a large amount of energy from the food that they eat at one time. As such, they spend most of their time awake, continuously eating, and moving from place to place.

Predators, on the other hand, eat other animals. They get the benefit from a lot of energy stored over time in their prey, and obtained all at once in protein and fat. As a result of this, predators often spend much of their time sleeping. Lions in particular sleep about 20 hours a day, and are active for only four. They may be fearsome when they are hunting, and when they are roaring, but a lot of the time they are doing... nothing.

The particular sin of Laodicea is sloth, laziness, luke warmness. It is in this age that "nothing" is strongest, and the Mark of the Beast is (not coincidentally) the most powerful. Each of the seven ages had its own signature "sin" for the people of that age to overcome for salvation, and the last enemy that the Church must overcome is sloth – spiritual laziness.

On an organizational level, a Church takes the Mark of the Beast by setting wickedness in motion and letting the state do the work. On an individual level, a Church member (including those in the true Church) is tempted with the mark by adopting the mind of the beast, that predatory mind that does "nothing" much of the time, that becomes neutral in matters of religious crises, that becomes insensitive to the call to "work" to do "deeds" according to the nature of righteousness.

The life that works by faith is the truly spiritual life, as James would surely agree. The life that settles into complacency and presumption, even about the true doctrines of the Bible, takes on the mind of the world.

To ensure that my point is well-made, that "nothingness" is a Mark of the Beast, let me illustrate this by means of my own experience, with which most of you are already familiar.

When the Adventist message first found me, I was a nominal Roman Catholic. I was doing nothing for the Kingdom of Heaven, and nothing for myself. I was presented with the truth about the Sabbath and the laws of Health. I had a choice. I could "rest" where I was, maintaining a false Sabbath, or I could enter into true rest and take up the work of coming into agreement with Yahweh's Law. By Yah's grace, I entered into what I thought at the time was the true Sabbath – and it was true, if incomplete. I did not remain in my spiritually slothful state; if I had, I would have taken the Mark of the Beast, and I would have perished.

Note that, here in Belize I was unlikely to have heard of the Trademark Law, but I would have taken the very same Mark that those who HAD heard of it take, nevertheless. As a mainstream Adventist, I then heard about this Trademark Law, a later manifestation of the Mark. Again I had a choice. I could do nothing, remaining in a false rest or... I could take up the Sabbath More Fully, and enter into a more perfect rest, receiving victory and rest from my sins, and overcoming the deceptions that have corrupted modern Adventism.

And now, as a CSDA, I – we all – have received the call of Yahweh. We are told, "Evangelize. Share the love that I have given you with my children, whom I love even as I have loved you." What will I – we – do? Again we are given the choice... we can do "nothing" and fall subject to a Mark of the Beast, or we can enter into the true Sabbath rest – and work for the salvation of many.

At every stage, "nothingness" is the enemy of salvation. Some hear about the Sabbath and do nothing. Some hear about the laws of Health, the nature of the Godhead, and they choose to do nothing. They take the Mark as surely as those who say, "It is ok to take Christians to court." There is the same mind, spiritual laziness, behind both. Some hear, "You must unite with the Father and the Son and Their People – repent, have faith, and be baptized." They hear the Word speaking about Church membership, and unity, and the blessings of Covenant. They can do "nothing" and take the Mark, or they can enter into rest... and do the work of Creation Seventh Day Adventism. And we, who are members... we are also called, daily, to that rest in which we do deeds "wrought in God."

Now, in conclusion, let me say this: I am not attempting to "spiritualize away" the Mark of the Beast. Do not think that I am teaching some merely symbolic Mark of the Beast to replace or stretch present truth beyond its measure. The Mark of the Beast for this age is the Seventh-day Adventist Trademark and the Law that is being used to compel the consciences of Christians to submit to civil authority. This is what Yahweh has revealed to His people. What I am saying is, there is a reason why THAT is the Mark of the Beast. It is because that present reality runs on, depends on, this principle of nothingness, this principle of Laodicea that is lukewarm to righteousness, therefore falls victim to Satan's enticements to fall asleep, to do nothing... and therefore to let his work be done through us, individually, and as organizations.

But we, who have been saved, and are being saved, and shall be saved, we have said, "Get thee behind me, Satan." We have said that we have put our hands to the plow, and will not draw back. We have said that we will work while it is yet day; will accomplish the work, the deeds of righteousness wrought in Yahweh. We have labored to enter into that rest, the true Sabbath more fully, and because of our rest we accomplish the works of omnipotence before our fellow men and the on-looking universe.

May our Father, and our Savior, use us to do Their perfect will on earth, that through us many shall be saved. Are there any comments or questions about tonight's study?

Adriel: Amen

Peter_JR_1718: Amen.

Pastor Chick: C

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Pastor Chick: Inspiring message. END.

Naraiel: Amen.

Elyna: Amen. C

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Elyna: I find that this message even reflect our health message more fully that we who have come to the end must adopt and proclaim. That stands very much against the Mark of the Beast. You mentioned a comparison of the grazing animals and the lions that beautifully illustrate that. Very nice. End. Continuing. So we who are doing our Father's work will be grazing eating closer to what was given in the beginning and by that are full of strength and energy and life. End

Zahakiel: Well, that is one way to apply the analogy. 😊 We do not want to be like lions in that way either, I suppose.

Zahakiel: Are there any others with thoughts to share?

Lucan: C

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Lucan: Thank you for the study; I appreciated it. End

Zahakiel: Are there any others with thoughts to share? All right, then I will ask Bro. Luke to close the meeting with a prayer.

Lucan: Dear heavenly Father. We are thankful that you have given us not only rest, but work to do within that rest. We know that work is often unpleasant to the flesh. We know that we may be called to wrestle with an angel, lest it depart without granting us a blessing. And we know that with your Spirit within us, we will prevail in all such endeavors, with the end being righteousness and purity before you and the watching universe...

Elyna: Amen

Lucan: May we all step forward, having embraced this work over the temptation to do nothing...

Gadriel: Amen

Lucan: In Yahshua's name we pray, amen.

Pastor Chick: Amen.

Barb: Amen

Daphna: Amen

Elyna: Amen.

Zahakiel: Amen.

Peter_JR_1718: Amen.

Adriel: Amen

Naraiel: Amen

Peter: Amen

Ruthline18: Amen.