

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

Pastor Chick: Dear Father in Heaven. We are thankful for Your faithful provision. You know our every need and want and we trust Your Providential Hand to supply. We need rain, both literal and spiritual and we are blessed to be here at this appointed time when You have promised to pour Your Spirit upon us in a special refreshing of spiritual vigor as we congregate before Your Eternal Throne. We thank You for the Sabbath blessing that has already been measured for us and we accept the abundant supply of Your Provision. In the holy and magnificent name of Your Son, YAHSHUA, our Savior and coming King, AMEN.

Zahakiel: Amen.

.gadriel: Amen, Amen

Barb: Amen

Lucan: Amen

Elyna: Amen

Adriel777: Amen!

Ruthline: Amen

Naraiel: Amen

daphna: Amen

Zahakiel: Happy Sabbath to everyone. We seem to have developed something of a "theme" for our past few studies, involving what it is that controls human behavior, and specifically Christian behavior. The principles being revealed by this examination are potentially very important to self-examination, as identifying our thoughts, words and actions to see if they are righteous necessarily involves understanding what it is that causes us to act. We have been working from the outside in; that is, we began by looking at government at a national scale, and then focusing on instructions that Yah has given us for making decisions of spiritual importance.

Last week, we looked at the casting of lots, a practice that, while it may have no significant purpose in this generation, was at one time a key method of learning the Creator's will. While not being explicitly forbidden, the Scriptures describe better means of learning that will. We have the written Scriptures themselves, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (which the Bible does emphasize more, and on a more personal level, in the New Testament), and we have the wisdom of the Bride.

At this point in history, at this point in the path of Sanctification, the people of Yahweh must be contemplating, and speaking about, the "deep" things of Yah and His character. As we come face to face with the Time of Trouble, in which Satan will be permitted to employ his long-developed and most sinister "tricks" to knock even the very elect off the Narrow Path... shall we be ready?

We must be faithful – that is, full of faith – and trust our Father in Heaven. Additionally, we know that He will not do for us what we can do for ourselves, and that justice requires that His judgment involve all that we have had the opportunity to learn of righteousness.

This is one of the reasons why I, myself, have had a strong desire to reach out especially to those who have stood on the sidelines, knowing something of the message of Righteousness by Faith, knowing the doctrine of Victory over Sin, knowing the CSDA call to covenant, and unity, and resistance to the Beast and its Image... and while I have been thanked for my appeals, I do not know that I have inspired an appropriate sense of urgency. I do not know if I have gotten across the sense of "reality," that these things are happening, as surely as the sun rises, and every day spent NOT being sanctified is a day that the blessing of life has been missed, possibly forever. I wish it would be the case that all my other brethren, who are already in the covenant, should feel such a burden for those who know us, and for those who do not, that they would join me in both prayer and appeal to the lost. The rain, for which we have prayed, cannot pour fourth until we are all united in this. But this brings us back, again, to motivation.

If Yah's people...let me read this well-known passage, and bring its focus to this particular issue: "If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (2Ch 7:14)

In modern Christianity's case, we must sometimes see the word "land" rather creatively; yet the principle certainly applies. Why would Yah's people do this? What would be their motivation? There are several that we might consider that are recorded in the Bible. When a nation or group of people prays, it may be because:

- 1) The king, or leader, orders it.

This is that "external" government that we touched on in our first couple of weeks. We read of Nineveh, "So the people of Nineveh believed Elohim, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them. For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. "And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, 'Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water, but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto Elohim; yea, let them turn everyone from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands. Who can tell if the Almighty will turn and repent, and turn away from His fierce anger, that we perish not?' And Elohim saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and Elohim repented of the evil, that He had said that He would do unto them; and He did it not." (Jonah 3:5-10)

It is possible to both be commanded, and to be sincere. We have spoken before about one of the Commandments being to "love." If we understand that love is a choice, not merely an emotion, this makes perfect sense. Similarly, if we understand that repentance is a decision we make, to turn away from evil because it is evil, and to turn to righteousness because it is righteous, then we can be commanded to repent, (Acts 17:30) and take the command to heart. Yah will honor that. This is the second motivation:

2) Recognition of the effects of sin.

We can acknowledge, intellectually, that a life of spiritual crime is neither healthy nor enjoyable. We can recognize that a life of neglecting holy duty is a tragic one. When this happens, we are again brought to that choice. This is not, necessarily a matter of a guilty conscience (that is the third possible motivation) but of reasonable consideration of one's circumstances. We may read of something like this here: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear Elohim, and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man, for the Almighty shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." (Ecc 12:13, 14)

Solomon, for all his riches, and his wives, and his earthly glory, could not find peace with Yahweh. His reign began well, but because his heart was turned away from the simplicity and beauty of Yah's influence, he was brought into sorrow of heart, and destruction of reputation. The great Kingdom of Israel did not survive intact even one generation after Solomon, and here, after all, he acknowledges the justice of his circumstances. He gives the advice, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, 'I have no pleasure in them.'" (Ecc 12:1)

Notice that Solomon does not say, "Get all excited about Church, and be baptized," or the Old Testament equivalent. He doesn't say, "Listen to this charismatic preacher who shouts into his microphone." There is a preacher here in my city that I hear sometimes from several streets away; apparently there is some kind of crusade going on this summer, and he's literally screaming Bible verses and exhortations over the speakers, caught up in the throes of "holy" passion, and I ask myself, while trying to block it out, "Is this how Yahshua would speak to people?"

Solomon's wisdom is this: The way of Yah is better for you. There is cause and effect, there is the understanding that Yah is a Rewarder of those who seek Him, (Heb. 11:6) and that there is punishment as a natural consequence for those who resist the very Source of life, joy, and peace. (Deu. 30:17-20)

3) Sorrow for sin.

This is the third motivation for prayerful repentance, and it is much more personal than the previous two. Here is the voice of conscience. Here is the Word of Yah and the Holy Spirit sent into our hearts to find a soul that may still be saved. This sorrow, this "godly sorrow [that] worketh repentance to salvation" (2Cor 7:10) may be awakened by hearing a messenger of the Gospel and becoming convicted, or by encountering the Word in some other way altogether. The important aspect is that, by encountering the Person of Yahweh, one compares His beauty, and glory, and sees in it something to be desired, something currently, and devastatingly, lacking. We read of this here, at what I consider to be the true beginning of conversion for the apostle Peter: "And after a while [during Yahshua's trial, there] came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, 'Surely thou also art one of [the disciples], for thy speech bewrayeth thee. Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, 'I know not the Man.' And immediately the cock crew. "And Peter remembered the word of Yahshua, which said unto him, 'Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.' And he went out, and wept bitterly." (Mat 26:73-75)

Here is a relevant pair of verses from Luke's account: "And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, 'Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.' And Peter went out, and wept bitterly." (Luke 22:61,62)

Yahshua looked at Peter. This was the moment of the encounter; this was the point at which it was made clear to Peter that, despite all his brave words earlier, and despite what he believed about himself, the truth was that he had been self-deceived. There are many who, at the Time of Trouble, will realize that what they said confidently in safety was nothing more than a comforting illusion. It is only when we truly encounter the consequences of our decisions that we can understand their value. By Yah's grace, and only by Yah's grace, shall we hold fast to our claims of convictions when faced with the trials to come.

Adriel777: Amen

Zahakiel: But do not take such a thing lightly. Do not hold His precious promises in low regard.

The fourth motivation for repentance, and the one I actually want to highlight tonight, is this:

4) Awe.

I don't think I mentioned this earlier, but tonight's study is called, "In Awe of the Throne." This is our fourth reason, and I want to read the fourth verse from the fourth Psalm. The

Scriptures tell us, "Stand in awe, and sin not; commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still."

Adriel777: Amen

Zahakiel: Although Yahweh will value the previous three motivations, and will bless those who hold them, they are not – by themselves – the key to lasting salvation. The command of a king may be disregarded once the immediate crisis passes. Reason is all-too-often subject to emotional factors, and may be manipulated by deception if not paired with genuine faith. Sorrow for sin, while commendable, is itself an emotion that fades over time if there is no covenant to seal it for eternity. But when Giselle read me that verse one evening last week, I literally ran out of our room to write it down.

Awe, the wordless, overwhelming sensation of standing in the presence of greatness, this is a pure experience that more easily lends itself to everlasting commitments. This is not to say that awe, like sorrow, cannot fade; however, sorrow for sin cannot be healthily revived continually. To put that in a simpler way...if sorrow for sin keeps one from sin, it is neither good nor healthy to constantly be reminded of one's guilt as a way to prevent backsliding. There are, indeed, some religions that believe this is the correct approach, and yet that constant sense of shame before Yah does nothing to prevent them from falling into the sin-repent cycle. All they do is make their lives less joyful, and their vision of Yah more distant from the truth. But our sense of awe, of reverence for Yah - that must be cultivated, increased, in prayer, in songs, in the revelations between He and His people as we come to know Him more and more clearly.

I have called tonight's study "In Awe of the Throne," because I want you to consider the imagery that Yah inspired even in His earthly, human representatives on earth. We spoke earlier of kingdoms, and we spoke earlier in this study of Solomon. Let us read, then: "Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with the best gold. The throne had six steps, and the top of the throne was round behind, and there were stays on either side on the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the stays. And twelve lions stood there on the one side and on the other upon the six steps; there was not the like made in any kingdom. "So King Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches and for wisdom. And all the earth sought to Solomon, to hear his wisdom, which Elohim had put in his heart." (1Kings 10:18-20, 23-24)



Why, one may ask, does the Bible go into such detail on the physical aspects of the royal architecture? It is because Yah wants the reader to understand, as clearly as possible without seeing it with our own eyes, what it is that a visitor to the court of a holy king would see. He wants us to have a glimpse of what these great scenes would place in the heart of Israelite and stranger alike, to know the kind of person that sat before them. None could stand before the king and not feel a deep sense of fear, admiration, and wonder. And on the basis of this, on the basis of Yah's clear divine favor, Solomon ruled in Israel.

The Bible says, "Stand in awe, and sin not." I hope you see, here, the connection that the Word of Yahweh is making. One cannot consciously stand in Yah's presence and engage in sin. Even the most hardened rebel will say, when Yahshua appears in His glory, "This is the Son of Yahweh, and the King of Kings." Why will they say this? It does not profit them to confess it, yet awe draws it from their lips.

If we are to speak of motivation to the world, some will say that there is no true righteousness, because "doing good makes you feel good." They reason, then, that even being righteous is ultimately selfish, because it improves our mood and our sense of self-worth. Those who adopt this mindset have never yet felt the awe of Yahweh, nor reverence for His character. To know Yah is to do good to others, even when (like those who confess that Yahshua is Lord upon His return) it does us no good, not materially, nor emotionally, nor spiritually. We do good only because it is good, because the majesty of our Creator compels us by its mysterious righteousness.

Perhaps there are no proper words for this kind of motivation, self-less, incorruptible. We may call it "agape," because English can only use "love," but in truth it is more than we know, more than we can know, until we are in our new, perfect, spirit-infused bodies. And yet, we can know it, because we can know Him who is Agape. Regardless of how one comes to Yahweh, whether through command, or reason, or sorrow, it is necessary to find awe. It is this that prevents sin, not fear, and not selfishness. It is necessary to "see" the Father and Son, to "know" the Father and Son. This is everlasting life, because to know Them is to become overcome by Them, to become overwhelmed by Them, until their very light shines in the darkest places of our "desperately wicked" hearts, (Jer. 17:9) and washes away all unrighteousness.

Adriel777: Amen!

Zahakiel: If we will stand through the darkest of times, we must have (in us) the brightest of lights. The un-borrowed and un-quenchable light of the Son of Yah is what we must have, and the key to that door, to being born again of that Light Spirit, is the awe of the glory of the Father who sent Him to be our Savior. When we have this, we are true citizens of Heaven's government, for we are governed, indeed, by the principles of Yah's everlasting Throne.

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

Adriel777: C

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Adriel777: Praise Yah for this study! End

Adriel777: C

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Adriel777: Ellen White says of Peter's fall...and I'm paraphrasing...that when Yahshua looked at him, with the curse words still on his lips that Peter only saw the deepest sorrow and sympathy in Yahshua's eyes and it broke his heart. 😞 End

While the degrading oaths were fresh upon Peter's lips, and the shrill crowing of the cock was still ringing in his ears, the Saviour turned from the frowning judges, and looked full upon His poor disciple. At the same time Peter's eyes were drawn to his Master. In that gentle countenance he read deep pity and sorrow, but there was no anger there. The sight of that pale, suffering face, those quivering lips, that look of compassion and forgiveness, pierced his heart like an arrow. Conscience was aroused. Memory was active. Peter called to mind his promise of a few short hours before that he would go with his Lord to prison and to death. He remembered his grief when the

Saviour told him in the upper chamber that he would deny his Lord thrice that same night. Peter had just declared that he knew not Jesus, but he now realized with bitter grief how well his Lord knew him, and how accurately He had read his heart, the falseness of which was unknown even to himself. A tide of memories rushed over him. The Saviour's tender mercy, His kindness and long-suffering, His gentleness and patience toward His erring disciples,--all was remembered. He recalled the caution, "Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: but I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not." Luke 22:31, 32. He reflected with horror upon his own ingratitude, his falsehood, his perjury. Once more he looked at his Master, and saw a sacrilegious hand raised to smite Him in the face. Unable longer to endure the scene, he rushed, heartbroken, from the hall.

Elyna: C

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Elyna: Amen, and thanks be to Yah! I believe that even to be able to stand in awe before Him is a gift and by his grace alone. So we must pray and ask for it to be revealed to us and be kept by his power to remain in that position before Him. End.

Adriel777: Amen

Zahakiel: Yes, thank you both for sharing those thoughts. Any others?

Pastor Chick: C

Zahakiel: Go ahead

Pastor Chick: As I ponder the words, "Stand in awe" we can be deceived into thinking there is inactivity. "Action speaks louder than words". I have noticed that humans in "sinful flesh" often focus on awe-inspiring scenes, like our famous "Mt. Muhabura" which is before us here on a daily basis. I have further noticed that after years of viewing that majestic volcanic mountain it has become common-place, though it has not changed in the least. I have also noticed that when the sun shines brightly, I am inspired in a way that cloudy days cannot inspire, and yet, IF I were to look directly into the sun for very long, I would be blinded. I encourage the church, and those on her borders to work while it is day, while the Sun is shining. Sacrificing time, means, and even life itself for the cause of love and righteousness will bring us to the point of standing "in awe". For we shall see and experience the Hand of YAH in our very lives. This is my prayer. END.

Zahakiel: Amen

Adriel777: Amen

Barb: Amen

Naraiel: Amen

Elyna: Amen.

Zahakiel: If there are no others, then I will ask Bro. Luke to offer a closing prayer.

Lucan: Dear heavenly Father. We are thankful for the opportunity to behold You, and to experience holy awe as the result. We are blessed as we behold Your Word and the things it speaks of in our minds and imaginations. We are blessed as we behold the physical handiwork of your Word, from the grass to the infinite stars. We are blessed as we behold your Word brought to fruition in our daily lives, as we do the work of your kingdom and see it fulfilled. In all things we are blessed, and we thank you for the awe that we have by beholding you in our minds, our bodies, and our spirits. In Yahshua's name we pray, amen.

.gadriel: Amen, Amen

Peter_Jr_18: Amen.

Barb: Amen

Adriel777: Amen

Elyna: Amen.

Zahakiel: Amen.

Pastor Chick: Amen.

Kim: amen

Naraiel: Amen

daphna: Amen

Ruthline: Amen