

Zahakiel: Pastor, please offer an opening prayer.

Pastor Chick: Dear Heavenly Father we come before Your Presence with thanksgiving and with a spirit of worship, praying that our minds will absorb the message You have prepared in such a way that we shall be lifted to new heights in sanctification. In Yahshua's holy name, Amen.

Barb: Amen

daphna dee: Amen

Lucan: Amen

Naraiel: Amen.

Elyna: Amen.

Adriel7: Amen

Zahakiel: Amen.

Zahakiel: Happy Sabbath to everyone.

Natty: Amen

Elyna: This is Danielle

Zahakiel: I have noticed a theme in our last few studies, both those prepared by Bro. Luke and myself. It is not, by any means, a new theme, but it is one that has always been important, and will become increasingly so as the very end approaches.

It is about taking Yah at His word. It is about believing that He will do what He says He will do. Humans are inconstant; their minds may change, and their intentions can fluctuate. Even among the sanctified, as we learn new information our views and opinions will shift to match what we have discovered. This is not the case with our Father in Heaven. He knows the end from the beginning; in fact, the Scriptures do not say that He merely knows this, but rather He describes Himself thus: "Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.'" (Isa 46:10)

Not only does Yah know all things, but He declares all things. Now, this might seem a bit unusual, since we don't always hear everything He declares. We are perplexed at times, and when faced with a difficult decision we are often in prayer for light to reveal the way forward. Yah does not always speak among humans of His entire intention, but we do know that He reveals to us all that we need to know through His chosen messengers, (Amos 3:7) and so this study is called "Messengers."

We know of our Creator that His strength is in His Word. We read, "By the word of Yahweh were the Heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth." (Psa. 33:6)

This is a poetic verse, certainly; nevertheless it is doctrinally sound and should be taken literally, for Yahshua, who is called the "Word," (John 1:1) is the One through whom the Father created all things. (Col 1:16)

But what does this mean, that His strength is in His word?

As physical beings, we tend to think of strength as the power to move things. The more strength we have, the heavier the objects we can manipulate. There is also strength of will and strength of character. With Yah, however, strength is the ability to perform things that ought to be impossible. He created all things, and has power over all physical matter; therefore, the concept of strength as the ability to apply force has no real meaning. It would be trivial for Him to manipulate an object of any size. What is it, then, that ought to be impossible – because no amount of force can produce it?

Spiritual strength, the kind of strength for which we praise our Father, is His ability to inspire genuine love in creatures that truly have free will. We can compel obedience, but we cannot produce worship, faith, or affection by force.

This is a lesson some Churches have yet to learn; and if we look at the works of the flesh versus the fruit of the Spirit, we may see something new here. Let us list them as the Scriptures describe: "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like..." "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance..." (Gal 5:19-23)

That first list, of the works of the flesh, consists almost entirely of actions. There are a few states of mind, like lasciviousness and envyings, but these are habits of thought that can be cultivated, and often are by the carnal mind. The others, however, at least potentially, could be compelled by force, unless the victim was prepared to resist unto death.

But consider the second list. None of these things, under any conceivable circumstance, could be produced by force. Even "goodness," which seems like the most outwardly apparent of those elements, cannot truly be forced if we consider what it is in truth. And yet, Yah is "strong" to produce these things in His people, not through force as we understand it, but through love. Yah's strength is in His word. If we understand strength in this way, as the ability to inspire love, then we might draw new insight from some of what the Bible says about Yah's strength.

"I will go in the strength of the Lord Yahweh; I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only." (Psa. 71:16)

"Bless Yahweh, ye His angels, that excel in strength, that do His commandments, hearkening unto the voice of His word." (Psa. 103:20)

"Yahweh is my strength and song, and is become my salvation." (Psa. 118:14)

Lest you think this kind of statement is limited to the Psalms, we have: "And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation; the fear of Yahweh is his treasure." (Isa 33:6)

We see many connections between Yah's strength and something that either He says, or that we say in response to Him. The New Testament, of course, is filled with references to Yahshua as Yah's "Word," through whom He works miracles amongst mankind. I found that verse from Psalm 103 particularly interesting, that directs Yah's angels, those that "excel in strength" to hear His voice. This is especially interesting to me when we consider what it is that we actually call Yah's servants.

Of the angels it is written, "For He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." (Psa. 91:11)

And in another place, when assuring His disciples of His safety until the appointed time of His crucifixion, Yahshua said, "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and He shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?" (Mat 26:53)

The angels of Yah are the guardians of the saints. They must fight off evil spirits as well as more mundane dangers. They are the means by which we may tread on serpents and scorpions, if necessary, and yet suffer no harm. (Luke 10:19) They are the mighty warriors that may destroy entire armies in a single night, (2 Kings 19:35) and visit judgment upon all the firstborn of an entire nation. (Exo. 12:29)

It would be no surprise, then, if these powerful servants of Yahweh were given a name that translates to "warriors" or "mighty ones." And yet, as we know, the word "angel" translates to something else entirely – messenger. I find it to be inspiring that these, the most powerful created beings, are mighty because they carry with them the word of Yahweh. Because they hear, believe, obey, and transmit, the things that the Father says, they are unstoppable.

And what of us?

It is true that we were created "a little lower" than the angels, but consider what I just said. What is it about angels that makes them mighty, that we are not able to do? Even better, what is it about angels that makes them mighty, that we are not invited to do?

There is nothing at all.

To us is given the privilege of hearing the words of Yahweh, of believing them, and then becoming "angels" ourselves, messengers, and therefore "strong" in the only way that truly matters in eternity.

Any human being can be as strong as the strongest creatures in the universe... because we may carry with us the Word of Yahweh. This is what makes the holy angels mighty, and we, who were created a little lower initially, may become as mighty in this as they are. As Yah's servants, as His messengers, we have the power to do things that are impossible in the ordinary course of things. Did not Jacob wrestle an angel, (Hos 12:4) even Christ Himself in angelic form, and prevail because the Father and Son honored His faith?

We may confirm it: if the faith is invincible, the messenger that bears it likewise can never be overcome. Let us remember this in all that we do, both the great things and the small. The messengers of Yahweh can move mountains, walk on water, and completely master their sinful flesh.

How is it that the Christians of the world believe that these first two are possible, but the last, the most important, the one that actually matters in eternity, is somehow beyond the strength of Yah within His people? But they are deceived, and by the most wicked of deceptions.

Whosoever is born of Yah is mighty, because he is faithful, and therefore does not commit sin. Yah is strong. In Him, we are strong, and can do all things. We dare not limit His strength by saying, "Yah does not keep His people from every sin." To do so is the very opposite of worship, for we would not, by bearing this testimony, ascribe to Him the strength that changes hearts and minds through love.

Yah's spiritual servants are not called soldiers, or warriors, but messengers. Yah's human servants are likewise called to be equal to these mighty beings in the only way that is truly significant – to be messengers of the Gospel to others.

Last week, Bro. Luke's study spoke of Moses, being called by Yah to lead His people to freedom from Egypt. He pointed out that Moses was focused on his limitations, rather than Yah's glory, and I noticed also that his words confirmed it, saying, "I am slow of speech," "I am not the right one." In this, the thoughts of Moses had become more like those of Lucifer than Christ, and this was the real danger into which he had fallen.

Satan's speech is always of the "self," for as he said in his rebellion, "...I will ascend into Heaven. I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High." (Isa 14:13,14)

This is an opportunity for self-reflection. Of what do our own words testify? Do we focus on self, or do we carry a greater message? Consider what Yahshua said of the Holy Spirit, which is the motivating force by which each believer lives: "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you." (John 16:13,14)

In other studies, we have examined the pronouns of these verses, and shown that the translators have been a little free with the use of "He" there; nevertheless, the point for tonight is that "he shall not speak of himself." The Spirit reveals only what is received from Christ, and these things it makes known. This is true of the Spirit, and it is true of those motivated by the Spirit. Their testimony shall not be of self, not its limitations or its advantages, but rather "He shall glorify me," says Christ, and thus you may know them that are messengers indeed.

Love is not puffed up, and does not exalt itself, as another passage teaches us. The angels that appeared among men rarely even gave their names, preferring to be known only by the instructions, comfort, or warnings that they bore.

Today, and tonight, we are invited to be messengers of Yahweh. We are called to be "angels" in the most literal and true sense of the word. We put off self. We put away the works of the flesh. We speak of those things we have received from the Savior. We are purified by the light of Yahweh's glory, and assemble to gather the Harvest of the earth, the harvest of redeemed souls of which our Savior spoke. (Mat 13:39, Rev 14:15, Mat 28:19)

This is the work of the mighty ones, the messengers, the angels of Yah. It is written, "Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? Ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? Yea, there is no God; I know not any." (Isa 44:8)

I pray you see the connections here, and the promise. Yahweh knows all things, and whatsoever we need to know, these things He declares. He has declared to us, and in us, and by us, His glory, and because we are witnesses, because we have heard, and believe, and obey, and transmit, His message, we are mighty.

Therefore, let the message that we bear so shine before the world that our Father will be glorified, and that His strength may be shown as hearts are converted from stone to flesh,

and spirits are brought in from darkness and sorrow to light and agape-love. This is the work, and this is the great joy, of the Bride of Christ.

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

Adriel7: Amen!

Lucan: C

Zahakiel: Go ahead

Lucan: The association of "angels" with the people of Yah brings to mind a quote from Ellen White.

"Of Babylon, at the time brought to view in this prophecy, it is declared: "Her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities." Revelation 18:5. She has filled up the measure of her guilt, and destruction is about to fall upon her. But God still has a people in Babylon; and before the visitation of His judgments these faithful ones must be called out, that they partake not of her sins and "receive not of her plagues." Hence the movement symbolized by the angel coming down from heaven, lightening the earth with his glory and crying mightily with a strong voice, announcing the sins of Babylon. In connection with his message the call is heard: "Come out of her, My people." These announcements, uniting with the third angel's message, constitute the final warning to be given to the inhabitants of the earth." [GC 604]

So, we may see in plain language how the people of Yah are called to be "angels" in the prophecy...

Elyna: (AMEN.)

Lucan: It is a movement, and it has a definitive message and purpose. <End.>

Zahakiel: Yes, thank you for sharing that. Mrs. White's writings reinforce, and quite plainly, the connection made in the verses of Matthew, Revelation, and other places. What the angels are described as doing in prophecy, human beings actually perform. What angels appear and do in history; that is different :) That requires their particular skills for which they were created... but then again, even Philip was moved from one place to another quickly, when his evangelism work required it. All that we are called to do, no matter how impossible it may seem to our limited reasoning, we are given the power to do.

Adriel7: Amen. C.

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Adriel7: "all His biddings are enabling's" (C.O.L. 333) 😊 End

Zahakiel: Yes 😊 Are there any others with thoughts to share?

Elyna: Amen.

Zahakiel: If there aren't, then I'll ask Bro. Luke to offer a closing prayer.

Lucan: Dear Heavenly Father. We thank you for the opportunity to cooperate with divine agencies in the plan of salvation. Being filled with your Spirit, imparted your righteousness, and attended by your angels, we share your victorious life. As we are called also to decry prevailing sins, may your power attend the message to conviction. We ask that your Spirit continue with us into the Sabbath hours, as we prepare ourselves for your soon return. In Yahshua's name we pray, amen.

Pastor Chick: Amen.

Barb: Amen

Adriel7: Amen

Zahakiel: Amen.

Elyna: Amen.

Peter_Jr_18: Amen.

Natty: Amen.

Ruthline: Amen

daphna dee: Amen

Naraiel: Amen