

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

Pastor Chick: Dear Heavenly Father. We are thankful for another week of life and liberty and we appreciate your Presence with us for this convocation, asking for an outpouring of Your Holy Spirit in the name of Yahshua, we pray, Amen.

Barb: Amen

daphna dee: Amen

Elyna: Amen

Adriel777: Amen

Zahakiel: Amen

Lucan: Amen

Naraiel: Amen.

Nattie: Amen

Zahakiel: Happy Sabbath to everyone, and may this new year (as the modern world counts years) bring with it many blessings to the people of Yahweh, including an expansion of His Kingdom upon the earth, and the refinement of His people unto perfection.

This week, I would like to continue our examination of the Prophet Isaiah, and how startlingly applicable his prophecies regarding ancient Israel are to our current state with regard to the world and the approaching judgment. We may call this, then, "Isaiah the End Time Prophet (Part 2)."

For the most part, I would like to focus on the relatively short Chapter 31; however, it is not my intention to give a running commentary on these chapters. Any CSDA who reads these passages from Isaiah ought to immediately recognize the voice of the Spirit describing our situation through the words of this Old Testament messenger, and therefore what I want to do is point out the sections that have particularly arrested my attention for their prophetic significance.

It is these passages that may perhaps be most effectively used in our evangelism, to say to those who may be expressing interest in the Covenant of Yahweh, "This is not a new story. From the beginning, our Father has known what would take place, and He has written of these things for our comfort and guidance."

In light of that, one of the passages that we did not get to last time when looking at Chapter 30 is worthy of our particular focus. We read,

"And though Adonai give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers; and thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, 'This is the way, walk ye in it,' when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left. "Ye shall defile also the covering of thy graven images of silver, and the ornament of thy molten images of gold. Thou shalt cast them away as a menstruous cloth; thou shalt say unto it, 'Get thee hence.' Then shall

He give the rain of thy seed, that thou shalt sow the ground withal; and bread of the increase of the earth, and it shall be fat and plenteous: in that day shall thy cattle feed in large pastures." (Isa 30:20-23)

Let me know when you have read this.

Pastor Chick: F

Adriel777: F

Lucan: F

daphna dee: F

Naraiel: F

Barb: F

Elyna: F

Nattie: F

Zahakiel: As Seventh-day Adventists, we speak often of the "latter rain," that outpouring of the Holy Spirit similar to the early New Testament fulfillment of Pentecost. Those who already have the Spirit dwelling within them receive a special manifestation of glory through which the work of binding the tares and gathering the sheaves is completed with great power.

Within the mainstream SDA Church, many believe that the promises of Yahweh regarding sin – that we will overcome all of our flesh and the temptations of Satan "someday" before Christ returns – are only fulfilled after this latter rain falls upon the Remnant. This is what I was taught. They say, "We will continue to sin, at least occasionally, until the Holy Spirit is poured out upon us as it is written in the Book of Joel."

While it is true that the Holy Spirit is "poured out" in a particular way, for a specific purpose, at that time, this is not the first contact, or even the most significant contact, that the believer has with the Spirit. In fact, without the personal outpouring of the Holy Spirit, an individual is not converted at all. We may read of Paul's attempts to teach this concept to some isolated believers in the Book of Acts.

"And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus and, finding certain disciples, he said unto them, 'Have ye received the Holy Spirit since ye believed?' And they said unto him, 'We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Spirit.' "And he said unto them, 'Unto what then were ye baptized?' And they said, 'Unto John's baptism.' Then said Paul, 'John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Yahshua.' "When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Yahshua. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied." (Acts 19:1-6)

Let me know when you've read all this.

Pastor Chick: F

Lucan: F

Adriel777: F

Barb: F

daphna dee: F

Naraiel: F

Elyna: F

Nattie: F

Zahakiel: Note that the Holy Spirit's descent upon the believers was not, and never has been, restricted to Pentecost. It comes upon believers, with all Its effects potentially on full display, when they believe in Christ, with the perfect Faith of Yahshua, and they are given spiritual gifts appropriate to Yah's will for their ministry.

The Latter Rain, like Pentecost, is a particular event, but that has nothing whatsoever to do with our individual experiences with the Father and Son through the initial reception of their Spirit. If any, then, are waiting for this time of refreshing to cease from sin, they are like these believers who did not even know that there was such a thing as a "Holy Spirit." They may know the Spirit exists, at least within the context of the Trinity Doctrine, but they do not know that Spirit, for to know the Spirit is to know Yahshua unto atonement, and the absolute triumph of His life in you over sin in you.

Adventists have had the benefit of inspired writings to lay some of these matters out clearly; however, it has always been my position that the Word Itself is sufficient to entirely convince any objective individual of the truth of every essential SDA doctrine. Here we see Isaiah, writing long before the Cross, teaching a doctrine that has only become completely and spiritually relevant to the very last generation.

In adversity, and in affliction, when (and not before) the people of Yahweh cast away all their idols, and say, 'Get away from me,' hating their transgressions with a perfect hatred, "then shall He give the rain of thy seed." Remember, it must be repentance, and then faith, and then one receives the water, whether it is the "rain" of the Holy Spirit, or the watery grave of baptism... the pattern is the same.

There are three Gospel Angels in the Book of Revelation (Chapter 14), and the first urges repentance before the judgment falls, the second requires a pure and undiluted faith, while the third outlines unity under the banner of Christ as opposed to the Beast, the Body of Christ being that into which one enters by receiving baptism and sharing the same Spirit with the Churches in both Heaven and on earth.

While Isaiah does not, of course, mention these angels that guide the soul from death to life, his prophecies show the very path that they lead us to take. The soul must recognize its need – and I have spoken in some detail about this in the study "From Fear to Faith" – <http://www.faithofjesus.to/forum/viewtopic.php?f=18&t=12114&sid=0251fb8545853fbc4b243afd02eabe8>

and then, in its understanding of its own impending destruction, must cry out for mercy and forgiveness. In this darkness of the soul, the sinner recognizes that none of the idolatrous pleasures he once enjoyed has any power to save him, and he casts them away with contempt. There, in the void that remains, the Father and Son set up residence, being enthroned in the seat of highest affection.

Adriel777: Amen

Zahakiel: We need not wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon us with power at some appointed time. It is then, at the point when we receive Christ Yahshua, that we receive His Spirit, for as those who worship the Godhead in spirit and in truth know, and as Bro. Luke has pointed out very recently on a Facebook post, "The Lord is that Spirit." (2Cor 3:17) The Spirit of Christ is Himself, separated by necessity from the flesh through which He tabernacled with us for a time so that He may be with every believer "always, even unto the end of the world." (Mat 28:20)

If I did not say this last time, I strongly suggest that every believer who is interested in the final unfolding of the events associated with salvation, probation, and judgment, read Isaiah prayerfully, and see what the Spirit shall say to you of these matters.

Moving through some of the more impressive passages from Isaiah 31, right off the bat we find an obviously applicable passage:

"Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek Yahweh! "Yet He also is wise, and will bring evil, and will not call back His words: but will arise against the house of the evildoers, and against the help of them that work iniquity. Now the Egyptians are men, and not God; and their horses flesh, and not spirit. When Yahweh shall stretch out his hand, both he that helpeth shall fall, and he that is holpen shall fall down, and they all shall fail together." (Isa 31:1-3)

Let me know when you've read this.

Pastor Chick: F

Adriel777: F

Barb: F

daphna dee: F

Elyna: F

Nattie: F

Naraiel: F

Zahakiel: Here we see the reason for apostasy in every generation – because the tendency of carnal man is to trust in his senses, rather than trust in that which is spiritual. Because the Egyptians had apparent power, because they were mighty as mankind understands might, and numerous to those who cannot see the angels, it seemed that

they would make useful allies to those who were backsliding in their faith. But that last part is most significant. Not only will those who trust in the arm of the flesh be disappointed, but we see a clear principle expressed here as well.

In the days of Christ, and at His trials, the religious authorities said, "He is violating the law; therefore, He should be punished. He claims to be a Rabbi, and yet He makes of Himself a King, and calls Himself the Son of God." In saying this, the Sanhedrin sought to remove the responsibility from themselves. The accusation that Yahshua had called Himself a "King" placed Him, they reasoned, in direct opposition to Caesar and therefore by Roman law would He be disposed; thus He was crucified, and not stoned according to the penalties outlined in the writings of Moses.

In the modern crucifixion of Christ, in the person of His saints, those who claim religious authority over the Remnant have said about this little Flock, "They are violating the Law; therefore, they should be punished. They have taken our legally registered, trademarked name, and they are using it to teach doctrines that we have not approved, that they are the true Church of Christ and we have fallen." In claiming that we have violated civil laws, the General Conference leaders seek to remove responsibility from themselves. They, and their supporters, reason that laws are meant to be enforced in order to prevent crime, and therefore their hands are clean.

Of course, even if the arguments could be justified on spiritual grounds, the actions that followed could not. Even the righteous are not to resort to the armies of Egypt to defend their lands... and again, that last part is most significant.

The religious figures cannot say, "We are clear in this matter, it is the civil law that punishes crime. It is not our hands that persecute these who claim to be the Remnant, it is the law that is putting them in jail."

Are their hands clean? What is written? Both the helper, and those who are helped "fall down" and "fail together."

They miss the mark of the high calling of Yah's righteousness. Both the false bride and the false husband inherit the wrath of the Judge in the day that He calls all to their reckoning. And note that, after Isaiah rebukes Israel for its faithlessness, he then says, "Then shall the Assyrian fall with the sword, not of a mighty man; and the sword, not of a mean man, shall devour him: but he shall flee from the sword, and his young men shall be discomfited." (Isa 31:8)

It is only "then" that Assyria, the pagan nation against which Israel sought Egypt's help, falls. The wicked will answer for their transgression, but as it is written, Judgment begins at house of Yahweh. Those who have had the light from Heaven, and the knowledge of the Word, and the latter-day spirit of prophecy, from them will be required the first accounting. As the servants who knew the Master's nature, they receive many stripes for their transgression.

As much as we point to the world, individuals and nations, and say, "Such a one is wicked," the Savior has told us to make sure we have removed the log from our own eyes... not to prevent us from rebuking sin, or pronouncing His judgment, but so that we can see clearly, so that our testimonies will be accurate, and the nations may be saved.

This then, says the Spirit to the Church of Yahweh:

The day is coming, and indeed is now here, when you shall be required to testify before the nations. The day is at hand, in which we will be called to speak against evil in high places. We are called, then, to make sure that our idols have all been cast away, that we have flung them behind us, saying, "Get ye hence." Then shall we see the outpouring of the Holy Spirit – not individually, for that happens when we receive Yahshua – but collectively, that the work may be completed, and the Son of Man shall return for His precious people.

Be ye healed. Be ye holy. Be ye pure in the sight of Yahweh, and then your testimony, both to encourage righteousness and to rebuke evil, and your testimony to aid the Three Angels in bringing people over from death to life, then will your words have power.

From the words of Moses, through the words of Isaiah, and down to the words you hear this very night, "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the Day Star arise in your hearts;... for we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Yahshua the Messiah, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty." (2 Pet 1:19, 16)

That which we know, with divine certainty, that is what we are called to share with the world, that they should not trust in Egypt, nor in their idols, nor in their flesh, but in the power and mercy of Yah, and in the blessings of the soon appearing of His Son, Yahshua.

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

Adriel777: Amen

Lucan: C

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Lucan: I am reminded of another passage in Isaiah 30. "Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the LORD bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound." (Isaiah 30:26)

Now, speaking of the Spirit being poured out...We know the testimony from Mrs. White "Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have one spot or stain upon them. It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement. Then the latter rain will fall on us . . ." [5T 214]

That would be, "binding up the breach of his people, and healing the stroke of their wound..."

The Church we understand, particularly as CSDAs, to be symbolized by the moon. And, the sun as Christ, the source of light. So, we see the Church shining forth as when Christ Himself was on the earth. And, for all that Christ's overcoming was glorious in sinful flesh, when He does so again, in a united people, in sinful flesh that once gave into sin...The light of the sun is "sevenfold..." And, of course, if it is as the light of seven days, we have some Sabbath reference here 😊.

Mrs. White has some interesting things to say on the latter rain; she indicated that it was falling in her own day to some extent. And, that the people must ask for it, and prepare themselves for it. Much in the same manner as this study lined out...

My understanding is that, since the resurgence of the victory message, the latter rain has "resumed" falling, if that is a proper term. Yet, she also warns that when it falls, it can be falling all around the unprepared, even on those in the very same meeting, and they will not discern it.

I saw an interesting sticker today, posted on a wall in Seattle. It was a television set with the word "Sleep" on the screen. Idols come in many shapes and sizes, from civil power to indulgence. I would encourage every one to search their hearts diligently for any idols, lest we be found "sleeping" while the latter rain is falling all around us. <End.>

Pastor Chick: Amen

Elyna: C

Adriel777: Amen

Zahakiel: Thank you for sharing that. That is an interesting application you make of the "light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun." That sounds like a symbolic statement of John's teaching, that when Christ appears the second time, we shall be like Him.

With regard to the Latter Rain, that's absolutely right...it is both an individual and a collective (Church) experience. The individual rain falling on one's soul is when the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within, as Paul's experience in Acts indicates, for the effect on those believers was the same as on the Apostles at Pentecost. There is also a collective, Church-wide outpouring that happens right before the end, and one of the quotes from Ellen White that's always stuck with me is her assurance that the work will not close with less glory than it began.

Go ahead, Sis. Guerline.

Elyna: Another interesting observation I see in this verse that Bro Luke just referenced to is while the new convert or born again Christian receives the Spirit of Christ, at the latter

rain, Isaiah is saying that the sun who is Yahshua will magnify sevenfold, however it also says that the moon and we know that the moon reflects the sun. So we can understand that at the time of the latter rain, the Church will also shine sevenfold as we reflect Yahshua. I saw that very interesting. And also that ties in the passage in Joel 2 where it says that knowledge shall increase.

So the message in the end will be as in the beginning very powerful, that none can deny it. While iniquity will abound upon the earth, the contrast with the truth will be even more striking, like shining a very bright light in a dark room. End.

Pastor Chick: C

Zahakiel: Go ahead, Pastor.

Adriel777: Amen

Pastor Chick: I see the time of the latter rain came in the 1890s. That was the "event," but the rain was not appreciated and a "resurgence" was necessary being brought about by the "ELI YAH messenger" and from there, each person accepting the latter rain message, joined the corporate outpouring of the latter rain. There is a potential, if we judge by our senses, to conclude that the latter rain was not appreciated for the second time... and that would put us in the SDA mould of expecting a future event. Yah forbid! END.

Zahakiel: I think that's a very important point, yes... There's a statement in the SOP about the end-time events, where Mrs. White warns against "time setting." Since the signs are subtle, and apparently grow harder to discern as the end approaches some will place the "event" they are awaiting too far in the future, and it will pass them by.

Pastor Chick: C

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Pastor Chick: This is where the Sunday Law brings confusion. It was thought the Sunday law would be a "sign" whereas, we see the trademark being the sign. END.

Lucan: C

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Lucan: I think if we parallel the timelines, we see the same development...

1888 - The victory message comes, along with the Blair Sunday rest bill...

1988 - The victory message comes, along with the trademark's enforcement..

1890s - The message is not received, and the law seems to dwindle for a time as the people are tested. But, the latter rain is there for the taking...

1990s - The message is not received, and the trademark seems to dwindle for a time as the people are tested. But, the latter rain is there for the taking...

The difference is that in the earlier case, the law did not come to pass in full effect. And, clearly in the latter case, it has...

I have another thought here, but it's a little tangentially related, and I'd like to see if others have thoughts on what I just said - I'm not fully confident in my timelines. :) <end.>

Zahakiel: Well, I guess you can go ahead with your second thought 😊.

Lucan: Okay. 😊 I've been reviewing the two witnesses prophecy recently. This may be something we've discussed in the past - my memory is vague - but I've often been challenged with the idea of it being the "old and new testaments," as Adventism has traditionally taught.

Naraiel: (me too :))

Lucan: For one thing, it references Zechariah, when there was no new testament; and, the idea of a "new testament" vs. "old testament" is mostly an invention of canon authors. But, with that said, there's no way to argue it has application to the Scriptures, given the time prophecy involved...

While I don't find "old and new testament" in the Scripture, I do find - going back to Isaiah - "law and testimony," or "law and prophets..." I think this would explain Zechariah, as there was Ezra - a priest primarily sharing knowledge of the law - and Haggai - a prophet sharing a living testimony - standing beside Zerubbabel, the governor of Judea.

When I consider this, I also am lead to consider Moses and Elijah; two witnesses who stand before Yahweh of all the earth. One gave the law, one gave a living testimony; one a witness by death, one by translation. And, both being witnesses of Christ on the mount...

Now, for a last day application, Ellen White's ministry was very much that of a "lawgiver..." The Testimonies are more extensive a set of "laws" than even what Moses gave; and, her role within Adventism seems to be much the same.

Now, paralleling that with what we know of the last day Elijah messenger... I see a similar dynamic as well.

In Elijah's day, it would be easy to say that the message was disregarded, as it was in Moses'. Even Elijah thought he was alone, until he was informed of 7,000. But, if Israel was waiting for another event, they would have been disappointed - fire was raining down from heaven before their very eyes. <End.>

Zahakiel: Are there any others with thoughts to share? All right, if there are no further thoughts, I will ask Bro. Luke to offer a closing prayer.

Lucan: Dear heavenly Father. We thank you for the sure word of prophecy you have given through your messengers in all ages. We thank you for the same Spirit, the very spirit of your Son, speaking through each one. As we partake of that Spirit, we are blessed to see the wish of one of your servants fulfilled; that all your people may be prophets, speaking with the spirit of prophecy through the testimony of Yahshua. As we continue to cleanse our hearts of every defilement, removing any logs of idolatry from our own eyes, may we be blessed in bearing your message to others as well. Dismiss us with your blessing into the remainder of the Sabbath hours. In Yahshua's name we pray, amen.

Pastor Chick: Amen.

Barb: Amen

Zahakiel: Amen.

Adriel777: Amen

Elyna: Amen

Naraiel: Amen

Elyna: Amen