

The Prophetic Gift Lesson 13 1Q 2009

I received the following email this week:

HELLO TIM. I'M WRITING THESE LETTER AND ASKING FOR PRAYERS OUR DAUGHTER ZEN AIDA GRANADA IS SHIPPING OVER SEA TO AFGHANISTAN PLEASE KEEP HER IN PRAYERS.

Barbara Granada

Confidence in the Prophetic Gift

Read memory text 2Chron 20:20 – thoughts?

What does it mean to believe God's prophets?

Consider these two scenarios:

1. A calculus teacher puts a problem on the board, you have no idea how to do calculus but the teacher is a long time friend who after putting the problem on the board, tells you the answer and you believe him OR
2. You have learned from your friend how to do calculus and as he tells you the answer you understand the calculations and realizing his answer is correct believe him

Is there a difference in the two types of belief?

What kind of belief does God want us to have in His prophets?
In Him?

What are all of God's prophets trying to accomplish? Move people into a saving relationship with God!

This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their

God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. Heb 8:10,11

If we experience the fullness of the New Covenant will there be a need for prophets?

SUNDAY

Biblical Authority - read last paragraph – thoughts? Are there any ideas, teachings, doctrines, beliefs in our church you have heard that do not have Biblical support?

Are there any ideas that have Biblical support, but need to be further developed, expanded, matured, grown, brought out into greater light. For instance, was the teaching about animal sacrifice Biblical? Did it need, at the time of Christ, to be developed and expanded to understand Jesus as the fulfillment of that system?

What about our understanding of the cleansing of the sanctuary? Is it Biblically based?

- Unto 2300 days and then shall the sanctuary be cleansed Daniel 8:14
- “See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Mal 3:1-3

Are there things we need to further develop, expand, mature in our understanding, just like the animal sacrifices need to transcend to the reality of Jesus?

As we reflect back on the study of prophecy and prophets have we discovered that prophets are all knowing? Or do they have limited knowledge? Do prophets grow in their understanding over time?

With that in mind, one of the founders of our church wrote the following after our current sanctuary position had been founded:

The significance of the Jewish economy **is not yet fully comprehended**. Truths vast and profound are shadowed forth in its rites and symbols. The **gospel is the key** that unlocks its mysteries. Through a knowledge of the plan of redemption, its truths are opened to the understanding. **Far more than we do**, it is our privilege to understand these wonderful themes. We are to comprehend the deep things of God. Angels desire to look into the truths that are revealed to the people who with contrite hearts are searching the word of God, and praying for greater lengths and breadths and depths and heights of the knowledge which He alone can give. {COL 133} (1900)

The system of Jewish economy was the gospel in figure, a presentation of Christianity which was to be developed as fast as the minds of the people could comprehend spiritual light. Satan ever seeks to make obscure the truths that are plain, and Christ ever seeks to open the mind to comprehend every essential truth concerning the salvation of fallen man. **To this day there are still aspects of truth which are dimly seen, connections that are not understood, and far-reaching depths in the law of God that are uncomprehended.** RH Nov 23, 1893

What do you hear in these statements? Does it sound like there is more unpacking of this to do? Have we as a church seen any significant growth in our position on this doctrine since it was formed in 1850-1860's? Why not?

What areas do you think we need to expand on the sanctuary doctrine? What questions have you had? The following was written in 1890 – the earliest statement we will read, after we read this statement will we see a progression in understanding?

The most important part of the daily ministration was the service performed in behalf of individuals. The repentant sinner brought his offering to the door of the tabernacle, and, placing his hand upon the victim's head, confessed his sins, thus in figure transferring them from himself to the innocent sacrifice. By his own hand the animal was then slain, and the blood was carried by the priest into the holy place and sprinkled before the veil, behind which was the ark containing the law that the sinner had transgressed. By this ceremony the sin was, through the blood, transferred in figure to the sanctuary. In some cases the blood was not taken into the holy place; but the flesh was then to be eaten by the priest, as Moses directed the sons of Aaron, saying, "God hath given it you to bear the iniquity of the congregation." Leviticus 10:17. Both ceremonies alike symbolized the transfer of the sin from the penitent to the sanctuary. {PP 354.2} (1890)

Such was the work that went on day by day throughout the year. The sins of Israel being thus transferred to the sanctuary, the holy places were defiled, and a special work became necessary for the removal of the sins. God commanded that an atonement be made for each of the sacred apartments, as for the altar, to "cleanse it, and hallow it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel." Leviticus 16:19. {PP 355.1} (1890)

Can someone find a Bible text to support that the sanctuary was contaminated by the blood of the sacrificial lamb? Every text I have been able to find says that the blood of the sacrificial lamb makes things holy, cleanses, purifies, sanctifies but never defiles.

What does the sacrificial animal represent? What does the sacrificial animal's blood represent? Are we comfortable saying that when Jesus came into contact with confessed sin (when He became our "sin bearer") that His blood is not what cleanses, but what contaminates? When Christ confronted sin, took our position, became "sin though He knew no sin" did Christ become defiled or did Christ win, overcome and vanquish sin?

When Jesus said: "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. John 6:53-56, was Jesus telling the disciples they must defile their spirit temple until 1844?

What is Jesus saying? What does His blood and flesh represent? His life! His perfect, righteous, holy, sinless life! And it is to be taken into our hearts and minds so that we become like Jesus in character, so that we are purified not defiled. So that the Spirit Temple is cleansed of sin!

Notice the progression in EGW's understanding from her previous statement written in 1890:

- He [Christ] was the way when Adam lived, when Abel presented to God the blood of the slain lamb, representing the blood of the Redeemer. DA 663 (1898)
- Christ did not soften down His symbolical representation. He reiterated the truth in yet stronger language: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth My flesh, and drinketh My blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is meat indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He

that eateth My flesh, and drinketh My blood, dwelleth in Me, and I in him." {DA 389.2} (1898)

To eat the flesh and drink the blood of Christ is to receive Him as a personal Saviour, believing that He forgives our sins, and that we are complete in Him. It is by beholding His love, by dwelling upon it, by drinking it in, that we are to become partakers of His nature. What food is to the body, Christ must be to the soul. Food cannot benefit us unless we eat it, unless it becomes a part of our being. So Christ is of no value to us if we do not know Him as a personal Saviour. A theoretical knowledge will do us no good. We must feed upon Him, receive Him into the heart, so that His life becomes our life. His love, His grace, must be assimilated. {DA 389.3} (1898)

Is there a relationship between the lamb in the OT and Jesus? Is the blood of the sacrificial lamb symbolic of the blood of Jesus? Where did Jesus say His blood is to be applied? Does that mean that up until 1844 sin was being applied to all those who accepted Jesus? I think not!

- Through Christ was to be fulfilled the purpose of which the tabernacle was a symbol--that glorious building, its walls of glistening gold reflecting in rainbow hues the curtains inwrought with cherubim, the fragrance of ever-burning incense pervading all, the priests robed in spotless white, and in the deep mystery of the inner place, above the mercy seat, between the figures of the bowed, worshiping angels, the glory of the Holiest. In all, God desired His people to read His purpose for the human soul. It was the same purpose long afterward set forth by the apostle Paul, speaking by the Holy Spirit: {Ed 36.2} "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17. {Ed 36.3} (1903)

- “The leaven of truth works a change in the whole man, making the coarse refined, the rough gentle, the selfish generous. By it [the truth] the impure are cleansed, washed in the blood of the Lamb.” COL 102 (1900)
- “In the study of the Bible the converted soul eats the flesh and drinks the blood of the Son of God, which He himself interprets as the receiving and doing of His words, that are spirit and life.” Special Testimonies on Education page 220 (1897)

What about the pattern shown Moses on the mount?

- When Moses was about to erect the sanctuary in the wilderness, he was cautioned, "See ... that thou make all things according to the **pattern** showed to thee in the mount." Hebrews 8:5. In His **law**, God has given us the **pattern**. Our **character building** is to be after "the pattern showed to thee in the mount." The **law** is the great standard of righteousness. **It represents the character of God**, and is the test of our loyalty to His government. And it is revealed to us, in all its beauty and excellence, in the life of Christ. . . Special Testimonies on Education (1897)

What law? The law of love! What is the temple? What is to be built? A character like Christ's built upon the law of love, this is cleansing of the sanctuary. This is the message we are to be taking to the world, but what have we been doing for the last 150 years?

- It is the darkness of misapprehension of God that is enshrouding the world. Men are losing their knowledge of His character. It has been misunderstood and misinterpreted. At this time a message from God is to be proclaimed, a message illuminating in its influence and saving in its power. His character is to be made known. Into the darkness of the world is to be shed the light of His glory, the light of His goodness, mercy, and truth...

The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love. The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them. COL 4:15

Do you see a progression in understanding from the initial quotation to later quotations? What does it sound like the blood is and does in the later quotes?

Then what is happening on the Day of Atonement? The day of at-one-ment?

The sacrifices happening on a daily basis, the sin offerings, represent what is happening in the lives of individuals. The annual feasts represent what is happening corporately/globally.

- Passover = God intercedes and holds the consequences of sin at bay while providing a solution to heal mankind, Jesus who became the Passover Lamb (Romans 3:25)
- Unleavened Bread = Jesus and eating it symbolizes internalizing the Bread of life, partaking of Jesus, His Words of truth and His character (John 6:58,59)
 - Wave sheaf = Jesus resurrection from the dead, His victory over sinfulness and His perfect restoration of the Law of Love into Humanity destroying the basis of death!
- Feast of Weeks or Harvest or Pentecost = when the harvest of the kingdom starts, bringing in the converts and the spreading of the gospel
- Trumpets = trumpeting the second coming of Christ, the Loud Cry
- Atonement = the last day generation, who have understood the truth about God, had the lies of Satan removed, made right judgment about God and by the working of the Holy Spirit are prepared to meet Christ
- Tabernacles = Second coming of Christ where we tabernacle with God eternally

The lesson points out in the middle of Sunday that even after three years with Christ and after the resurrection the disciples still had misunderstanding about things. Are we open as a church to acknowledge we might have some misunderstandings? Or are we so arrogant to believe that everything we believe and teach is correct?

How big a gap is there between finite beings and an infinite God? Why do some think we have no more to learn?

- There is no excuse for anyone in taking the position that there is no more truth to be revealed, and that all our expositions of Scripture are without an error. The fact that certain doctrines have been held as truth for many years by our people, is not a proof that our ideas are infallible. Age will not make error into truth, and truth can afford to be fair. No true doctrine will lose anything by close investigation. {CW 35.2} 1892

Have you ever tried to take symbolic language and make it more reality based, deciphered?

- The incense, ascending with the prayers of Israel, represents the merits and intercession of Christ, His perfect righteousness, which through faith is imputed to His people, and which can alone make the worship of sinful beings acceptable to God. Before the veil of the most holy place, was an altar of perpetual intercession, before the holy, an altar of continual atonement. By blood and by incense, God was to be approached-- symbols pointing to the great Mediator, through whom sinners may approach Jehovah, and through whom alone mercy and salvation can be granted to the repentant, believing soul. FLB 197 (1890)

My decoding of the symbols:

- The sweetness, in the prayers of God's children, represents the lovely traits of Christlike character established in the heart through Christ's work in the believer, His perfect righteousness, which through trust is established in His people, and which can alone make the worship of sinful beings acceptable to God. Because of the lies of Satan that separate us from God, Christ is perpetually interceding in our minds to establish His character, but in order for Christ to cleanse our hearts we must keep the heart continually open to Him. By truth and by loveliness of Christlike character, God was to be approached--symbols pointing to the great Ambassador revealing God to man, through whom sinners may come to know Jehovah, and through whom alone mercy and healing can be granted to the repentant, believing soul.
- In the offering of incense the priest was brought more directly into the presence of God than in any other act of the daily ministration. As the inner veil of the sanctuary did not extend to the top of the building, the glory of God, which was manifested above the mercy seat, was partially visible from the first apartment. When the priest offered incense before the Lord, he looked toward the ark; and as the cloud of incense arose, the divine glory descended upon the mercy seat and filled the most holy place, and often so filled both apartments that the priest was obliged to retire to the door of the tabernacle. FLB 197 (1890)

My decoding:

- In the offering of prayers filled with the sweetness of Christlike character the believer was brought more directly into the presence of God than in any other act of the daily healing therapy. As the lies Satan told about God which infected our minds did not completely eclipse the truth from reaching us, the character of God, which was manifested through Christ, was partially visible to the converted mind. When the believer prays sweetly

before the Lord, he keeps in mind God's methods, principles and Law of Love and Liberty; and as the prayers arise, the divine character is magnified by Christ and fills the mind of the believer, and often is so overwhelming that the believer is left without words.

MONDAY

Read second paragraph – “Ellen White...” thoughts? What does it mean that for Ellen White the Bible was the source of authority?

How do you understand the Bible to be infallible? Notice the emphasis, “Infallible revelation of God's will.” Does that mean infallible in counting the number of people in attendance at a particular meeting? Infallible at calculating the distance walked by the disciples on a certain day? No, we may find discrepancies in such trivial things, but such things are not the purpose of the Bible. The Bible is to reveal God's will, and what will do you see revealed in the Bible?

TUESDAY

Read John 5:39 at top – can you think of where the OT teaches of Jesus?

- Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. PS 16:9,10
- Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me. PS 41:9
- They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing. PS 22:18

- He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken. ⁹ He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. Isaiah 53:3-9

Read second paragraph – thoughts? What does it mean to be saved from our sins?

WEDNESDAY

Read Matthew 23:28-31 at top – thoughts?

How do we persecute the prophets today? What about attacking those who present a message from the Lord even if they aren't recognized as prophets – Jones and Waggoner?

Do we do this today?

Why did they attack the prophets? Why do people today reject the words of truth?

THURSDAY

The lesson states, “Miracles are fine, but they are hardly the final test and mean nothing if the teachings are unbiblical.” Well said, - how do you tell if something is unbiblical?

Do you think most people think they are teaching unbiblical things? So, if so many are teaching what they think is Biblical but they are often contradictory what does that mean for each one of us?

- “Every person is to be fully persuaded in their own mind”
Romans 14:5

We must each come to our own conclusion for ourselves and not trust someone else to do our thinking for us.

FRIDAY read questions 2 and 3 and discuss