

Worship Lesson 5 3Q 2011

Happy Are You, Oh Israel!

SABBATH

Read memory text – Isa 5:20,21

Thoughts? To what is this referring? What, in general, would be the most heinous example of this? Would it not be attributing to God the character traits of Satan?

SUNDAY

Read last paragraph, “The tabernacle...” and then read green section.

Thoughts?

Do you think the Lord was happy with this entire situation?

Do you think God enjoys it when we fall on our faces cowering in fear before Him? Do you think this is what God wants from His creatures? Would you like your children to act this way with you?

When we look at the inspired record what do we find?

- Moses talks to God face to face as a man to a friend
- God speaks with Abraham face to face
- God came and met with Adam and Eve in the cool of the day – do you think before sin when this happened Adam and Eve fell on their face in fear? What do you imagine was the response to Adam and Eve to God’s approach before sin? Would this be more reflective of God’s ideal for our relationship with Him?
- What about in Revelation when it says the 24 elders fell on their face before the Lamb?
 - Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain,

standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. ⁸ And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and **the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb**. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.” Rev 5:6-10

○ Is this literal or symbolic?

- But Daniel chapter 7 has millions not on their face before the Ancient of Days
- What about the prophets who, when an angel would approach fell on their faces?
 - ⁵ “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.” ⁶ Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.” Isa 6:5-7

What do we learn from this passage? What is Isaiah’s reaction to his experience? Fear, but why? Here is another example:

- ¹⁰ A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. ¹¹ He said, “Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you.” And when he said this to me, I

stood up trembling.¹² Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. Daniel 10:10-12

What do you hear in this passage? Did the messenger from heaven want Daniel in fear, on his face? Then why fear?

- Aaron as well as the people shrank away from Moses, and "they were afraid to come nigh him." Seeing their confusion and terror, but ignorant of the cause, he urged them to come near. He held out to them the pledge of God's reconciliation, and assured them of His restored favor. They perceived in his voice nothing but love and entreaty, and at last one ventured to approach him. Too awed to speak, he silently pointed to the countenance of Moses, and then toward heaven. The great leader understood his meaning. In their conscious guilt, feeling themselves still under the divine displeasure, they could not endure the heavenly light, which, had they been obedient to God, would have filled them with joy. **There is fear in guilt. The soul that is free from sin will not wish to hide from the light of heaven.** {PP 329.5}

As soon as Adam and Eve sin they ran because they were afraid, fear, especially fear of God, is part of the infection of sin. Perfect love casts out fear. What does God want for us? Does He want to restore His perfect love in us? Then what will happen to fear? Does God want us afraid, cowering, falling down in terror?

When we come back into unity with God, through Jesus Christ, there is no fear of God, only complete trust and love.

Should we use the fear response that humans have after sin have toward God, specifically fear and falling down, and make that our ideal and promote it as God's desire for us? Did Adam

and Eve act this way when God approached them in the Garden before they sinned?

God is calling us back to a relationship where we really know Him and trust Him and love Him and in this relationship there is no fear. There is great admiration, awe, respect, love, adoration, and trust – but there is no fear because there is no reason to be afraid.

What should we legitimately be afraid of? Sin! We should fear sin, fear deviating from God’s design for life, fear our own selves, our own weakness, distrust and unhealthy habit patterns. But not God!

MONDAY

The lesson recounts how fire came out from the Lord and consumed the dedication sacrifice for the sanctuary. Then, how Nadab and Abihu took unauthorized fire in the sanctuary and fire came out from the Lord and consumed them.

The lesson then states, “It is hard to believe that after some things so dramatic, a terrible fall would immediately follow. One would have thought that with such a demonstration of God’s power, all the people, particularly the priests (especially priests as highly honored as these), would have fallen strictly in line.”

Thoughts?

Is it hard to believe? Look at the evidence of history:

- The flood – followed by... tower of Babel
- Sodom and Gomorrah – followed by... more hedonism
- The 10 Plagues of Egypt – followed by... golden calf
- Mt Carmel – followed by... more rebellion and eventual crucifixion of Christ

What does God want? What is He trying to accomplish? He is trying to restore love into the hearts of His creatures and can that be accomplished by power?

Zech 4:6, “Not by might nor by power but by the Spirit says the Lord.” Why?

Then why all the use of might and power? It was the only thing to which they would respond.

Read last paragraph, “The Hebrew wording in both...” thoughts?

What do you hear? Do you see the leap they made from the fire of God, to God’s wrath?

What does the evidence of Scripture actually reveal?

- What does the historic record of the gospels tell us about what Jesus experienced at the cross?
- Any record of fire raining down upon Him?
- What words did Jesus Himself speak? “Why are you burning me?”

If the lesson is true, then who does the lesson have as killing Christ? Did God kill Christ? One of the founders of our church saw it in a different light:

Satan saw that his disguise was torn away. His administration was laid open before the unfallen angels and before the heavenly universe. **He had revealed himself as a murderer. By shedding the blood of the Son of God**, he had uprooted himself from the sympathies of the heavenly beings. Henceforth his work was restricted. Whatever attitude he might assume, he could no longer await the angels as they came from the heavenly courts, and before them accuse Christ's brethren of being clothed with the garments of blackness and the defilement of sin. The last

link of sympathy between Satan and the heavenly world was broken. {DA 761.2}

Who do you think murdered Christ, God our Father or Satan? How could Christians come to think that God killed Christ? They have accepted a false idea about God and His government and teach it to the people today.

Listen to this amazing quote from Prophets and Kings, Dennis Steele pointed this out to me last week:

“From the day the Lord declared to the serpent in Eden, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed" (Genesis 3:15), Satan has known that he can never hold absolute sway over the inhabitants of this world. When Adam and his sons began to offer the ceremonial sacrifices ordained by God as a type of the coming Redeemer, Satan discerned in these a symbol of communion between earth and heaven. **During the long centuries that have followed, it has been his constant effort to intercept this communion. Untiringly has he sought to misrepresent God and to misinterpret the rites pointing to the Saviour,** and with a great majority of the members of the human family he has been successful.

“While **God has desired to teach men that from His own love comes the Gift which reconciles them to Himself, the archenemy of mankind has endeavored to represent God as one who delights in their destruction.** Thus the sacrifices and the ordinances **designed of Heaven to reveal divine love have been perverted to serve as means whereby sinners have vainly hoped to propitiate, with gifts and good works, the wrath of an offended God.**” PK 685.

According to one of the founders of our church, this idea that God’s wrath needed to be propitiated is a perversion of Satan. What do you think? Did God kill His Son in order to assuage or propitiate His wrath?

What about the fire?

- The fire consumed the dead animal sacrifice such that the matter that made up the animal was combusted into energy. What about the fire that “consumed” the sons of Aaron? Their bodies were not burned up nor even burnt as they were carried out still in their tunics.
- The lesson suggests we will never have to face the fire – what about Daniel chapter 7? What about Hebrews 12:29?
- What is the source of the fire? God and “to sin wherever it is found our God is a consuming fire.” What would have happened if God would have revealed Himself to Jesus on the Cross? Would Jesus have been consumed by the fire? What was Jesus longing for? What was He desiring? Was it not the presence of His Father?
- In fact, it was the hiding of God’s presence which was so tormenting and painful to Jesus and led to His death.
- This is exactly opposite of what the wicked in the end experience. They are consumed by the fire of God’s presence when God fully reveals Himself, “They are destroyed by the brightness of his coming.”

Satan has lied to us and gotten people to teach the place you don’t want to go and the place you don’t want to be is the place of eternal burning and it is God’s very presence in which the righteous dwell. See Isaiah 33:14,15.

Satan has lied to us and gotten people to believe God must kill in order to be just.

Satan has lied to us and gotten people to believe God killed His Son on the cross.

We are in a war – 2Cor10:3-5 over the trustworthiness of God Himself. Satan uses weapons of lies and distortion, God uses truth, love and freedom.

God is waiting for His people on earth to reject the lies, have the spirit temple cleansed and proclaim a clear message about Him to the world – then He will come.

Who will go? Are we to wait for pastors to do the work? Are we to wait for the church politic to do the work? If we want the message to go forward, each of us must begin to share it.

Our board is working on making materials to share. We have distributed over 100 of the DVD sets around the world to people who want to use them in their churches, schools, or to hold community seminars or in home study groups. I have brought some today for any in our class who would like to share with your friends and neighbors.

If any of our online class wants a set to use to minister in your community email us with your address and we will send you one.

Some might allege we are attacking the church – if you hear this, reject it. We are not attacking the church, we are attacking a distorted theology that has infected the church.

When Christ was on earth He did not attack the church of His day. He did attack the distorted ideas which obstructed people from seeing God. But when speaking to the woman at the well He told her salvation is of the Jews.

Likewise, we understand the important role the church has in preparing the world for Christ's return. But we also understand that we cannot complete our mission if we don't rid ourselves of the infection of false God constructs.

If a doctor pointed out the infection in a patient, is the doctor attacking the patient? No! He is attacking the infection to save the patient.

So don't get insecure if someone makes a false allegation that we are attacking the church – redirect them that we are

warring against “everything that sets itself up against the knowledge of God!” 2Cor 10:3-5.

TUESDAY

The lesson reminds us of the importance of praise and thanksgiving to God.

Read bottom green section – thoughts?

What do you have to be thankful for? What would you like to praise God for?

- Who He is!
- What Jesus has done to bring us the truth!
- His methods, principles, government of love!
- His patience with us!
- The Bible and inspired writings!
- For our brothers and sisters who know and love God and the truth about God!
- Thankful for my wife
- Thankful that my mother’s health is improving
- Thankful for my family
- Thankful for the wisdom God has given me regarding the human mind and God’s methods that heal.

What are you thankful for?

WEDNESDAY

Read top paragraph, “Worship, in the Bible...” thoughts? What does it mean “personal taste”? Is worship of God supposed to be personal? What about personal taste? Is God offended when Handel writes the Messiah as worship? Or when Michael Angelo carves a sculpture in worship?

Does God want us to bring our personalities to bear in worship? Does He want us to bring our personal tastes into worship?

Where does personal taste cross the line and is no longer worship? Is it about personal taste, or is about heart attitude?

Does God want worship that is scripted and follows a rigid formula? Does God want to give a list of rituals and instructions on what to do and have us follow it precisely and call that worship?

What about the OT? Did God do this? But how did God respond when the people followed the script exactly? He chastised them in Isaiah and Amos and Micah. Why? Because their hearts were not in it. Yet, we find David writing songs, worshipping with his own personal style and David was a man after God's heart.

What is "true worship"?

Have you ever heard "Imitation is the greatest form of flattery"?

Would this be true worship – to imitate Christ?

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' ³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

⁴⁰ “The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’ MT 25:34-40

Would you consider this worship?

- Would going out to help victims of the tornado be worship?
- Would donating blood be worship?
- Would turning the other cheek be worship?
- Would giving of your time to help your neighbor be worship?
- Would laying down your life for a friend be worship?
- Would sharing the truth about God be worship?

Read third paragraph, “However much...” thoughts? Have you ever felt like God was a distant, far off, abstract being? Why does God seem distant and far off? Is He? Does God want to be distant and far off?

Does God keep His distance from us? Yes and no, He keeps His unveiled presence distant, but came close in Christ and the Holy Spirit. Why does God keep is unveiled presence from us?

THURSDAY

Read top dark section, “And Samuel...” the lesson draws three conclusions from this passage listed below, Read the three conclusions.

What do you think about these conclusions?

1. Is absolutely true – He wants our hearts – for what purpose?
2. Is absolutely true – depending on how you define obedience – what is obedience – humble willingness to listen
3. Were Abraham and Moses practicing idolatry when they

challenged the Lord?

FRIDAY

Read first paragraph, "God has pronounced..." what does this mean?