



Life More Abundant Bible Study

Bible Prophecy: Daniel Chapter 7E

Daniel Chapter 7:9-10 introduces what is often referred to as an Investigative Judgment, witnessed by God and the angels, that precedes the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. The Judgment of God is a highly misunderstood topic, often causing anxiety for even the most grounded Christians. Where in reality, the judgment of God for the one who has accepted Christ as Savior and daily surrenders his or her life to Him, is a subject of much anticipation and joy! Let us understand a few key thoughts that will prepare us for the fourth facet of our study of Daniel 7 dealing with the Little Horn Power.

Traditions, Good or Bad?

Based on your Christian experience and knowledge of the bible, are traditions of themselves good or bad?

Please name a few traditions that you, your family, or society celebrates or keep on a regular basis. [i.e. Christmas Holiday; 4th of July, Birthdays; family gatherings at certain “traditional” times, etc.]

What does the bible say about traditions? When are traditions good or bad? Let's see. Read the following:

- Matthew 15:1-9 (Mark 7:1-13)
- Colossians 2:6-8, 18, 19
- 2 Thessalonians 3:6-9

Therefore, traditions are acceptable and good when they edify the body of Christ and do not in any way contradict God's statutes, laws or commands. When traditions are in conflict with law of God or the teachings of the prophets of God, then they are harmful, potentially to our salvation, and should be avoided.

Righteousness by Faith

Righteous (adj): Morally upright; without guilt or sin (Webster's) [Read Isaiah 32:17, 18]

Righteousness (noun): ¹the quality or state of being righteous. ²the quality or state of being just or rightful; holiness; purity; uprightness; rectitude. (Webster's Dictionary)

Holiness; likeness to God [God is love – Isaiah 45:19; 1 John 4:16]; conformity to and keeping the law of God [Psalm 119:172; Deuteronomy 6:25]; love is fulfilling of the law [Romans 13:10]; therefore Righteousness is Love [Isaiah 55:1, 54:17; Jeremiah 23:6]. (KJV Bible definitions)

Faith (verb): The Greek word for faith is actually a **verb** rather than a noun. There is no accurate translation for the word form that conveys the fact that faith is not a “thing”, but rather an “action”.

1. Hebrews 11:1
2. Hebrews 11:7-40

The term *Righteousness by Faith* describes the essence of the plan of Redemption for human kind. We, by virtue of unmerited favor (*grace*), have become the beneficiaries of a work of atonement founded by and completed by God. The term *Righteousness by Faith* can be described in simple form as the following process:

1. God makes a promise, covenant and/or gives a command
2. We agree, accept, embrace, believe, and act in obedience to the promise, covenant or command, based on our trust in God
3. God sees us and pronounces us “*righteous*” because we have exercised faith in Him and His promise/covenant/command
4. God fulfills His promise/covenant/command
5. We benefit from His fulfilled promise/covenant/command
6. God is glorified by our demonstration of faith

The only *works* we are commanded to do in the plan of redemption is to **believe** - (John 6:28, 29) and then walk by faith (Habakkuk 2:4; Galatians 3:11). Throughout history, the bible chronicles the lives of ordinary people who *purposed* in their hearts to be faithful to God and through the empowering of God’s Holy Spirit experienced *Righteousness by Faith*. These ordinary people with God’s omnipotence behind them went forth to perform extraordinary and miraculous feats. Here are a few examples:

1. “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.” (Hebrews 11:7)
2. Abraham and Sarah believed and accepted God’s promise of an heir in their old age. Isaac, the son of promise, was born when Abraham and Sarah were 100 years and 90 years old respectively (Genesis 15:1-7; Romans 4:2-14; 17-25; Hebrews 11:11). Though Sarah’s child bearing organs physiologically were dead, through their faith, God was able to demonstrate His power to restore life by performing the first example of a resurrection recorded in the bible, namely, resurrecting Sarah’s dead reproductive organs
3. The three Hebrew boys, holding onto God’s promise to be with them even when they pass through the fire, chose to honor God by refusing to bow in worship to Nebuchadnezzar’s golden image/idol, even if it cost them their lives. As a result the God of the Jews was magnified before Nebuchadnezzar and his kingdom (Isaiah 43:1-3; Daniel 3:16-18; Hebrews 11:34)
4. Joshua and the army of Israel, assured of God’s covenant to dispose their enemies and grant them the Promised Land, circled the heavily fortified and walled city of Jericho for seven days according to the word of the Lord. At

God's command, the massive walls of the city fell by the mere shout of the their voices (Joshua 6:1-21; Hebrews 11:30)

There are countless other bible examples of the saint's demonstration of *Righteousness by Faith*, however, the first and most interesting example occurred at the close of creation. The Lord had completed His work of preparing a special place for mankind to dwell in peace and safety, as long as the pair and their descendents remained faithful to Him. God conveyed to both Adam and Eve that He was both their Creator and Father and therefore deserved their allegiance, honor, and worship. The bible reads:

Genesis 2:1-3

“Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.”

Interestingly, God commanded Adam and all of His creation to partake of that same rest [*Sabbath*] as He Himself did, though they had no part whatsoever in the works completed. Herein lies the first example of *Righteousness by Faith*. Adam, though made the head of the human race and caretaker of the earth, was himself created on the sixth day of Creation and had not performed any true work of significance on that day. Yet, God commanded Adam, Eve and all the hosts of heaven and earth to join Him in resting from His works, that which He had completed. The act of joining God in the first Sabbath-day rest commemorated God's work as Creator, while demonstrating honor to Him as Father and obedience to Him as Lord. In turn, Adam and all of creation enjoyed the face-to-face communion with God, while being viewed as righteous (pure, holy, upright) before their Maker.

Similarly, while on earth Jesus counseled all who would follow him to:

“Come unto me, all [ye] that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke [is] easy, and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus counsels us to cease from our attempts to save ourselves through our own works, good deeds and merits, but rather to rest in His works as both the Author and Finisher of our salvation (Hebrews 5:9, 12:2). By exercising simple faith and trust in Him, Jesus promises His rest [perfect peace, contentment, joy, assurance, hope, eternal life] to the weary soul that toils fruitlessly in his or her own strength to attain righteousness. The rest in Christ's Redemption that He promises to all who in faithful obedience would follow His commands is foreshadowed in the rest found in the weekly Sabbath.

God's works of Creation and Redemption He has memorialized in the Fourth Commandment (seventh-day Sabbath - Saturday) and welcomes all like Adam and

Eve, to agree, accept and embrace its blessings fully, by faith (Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15; John 14:15; Hebrews 4:1-10; Ezekiel 20:12).

Meditative Thoughts & Questions:

Are you willing to crucify with Christ your opinions, traditions, and your will?

Who is Lord of your life? Jesus cannot be your Savior if He cannot be your Lord.

Will you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior in a committed life?