

Elpis Israel

for Young People

The Way

Class 15

Reminder

This is your class:

- The class we are holding every couple of weeks is “your class”
- It isn’t for my benefit – even though I get a lot of benefit out of it
- It is for you guys
 - Therefore – feel free to ask questions
 - Stop me if I am going to fast
 - Ask me where a verse is
 - Tell me to wait so you can write something down

My Job:

Nehemiah 8:8 *So they **read** in the book in the law of God **distinctly**, and **gave** the **sense**, and **caused them to understand** the reading.*

- My job is to “read distinctly”
- To “give the sense” of what we read
- To “cause you to understand”
- Therefore – if you don’t understand – stop the class – and let’s clarify
- And this goes for everyone far away as well.... Feel free to interrupt.

This week:

- Our class this week is also a “bible marking” exercise
 - We have pencils available
 - We’ll go a little slower

Missing out a few sections

- We have skipped over a few sections of Elpis Israel so far
 - The Sabbath
 - The role of the woman and her parable with the ecclesia
 - The great red dragon
 - The death of Abel
- We’re going to come back and look at some of these as we progress
- We are in Chapter 5 – p143 “

Guarding the Way

God did NOT want man living forever in a sinful state:

Genesis 3:23-24 *Therefore the LORD God **sent him forth** from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. **So he drove out the man**; and **he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims**, and a **flaming sword** which turned every way, to **keep the way of the tree of life**.*

We will look at the Cherubim in a later class

- They were the angels in a different form
 - They were placed at the EAST of the Garden of Eden
 - Their job was to “keep the way” to the tree of life

The Role of the Cherubim was to guard the “Way to the tree of life”

- The reason was “lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat and live forever”

*Elpis Israel p143 “but if he should eat of the Tree of the Lives, this hope would be cut off; and he would live for ever the subject of weeping, sorrow, and pain...
The earth would at length have become crowded with undying generations of sensual and devilish men...
It was because God loved man, and out of mercy to him, that He drove him out of the garden.*

The Meaning of Religion

Elpis Israel p155 Religion is not coeval [beginning at the same date] with the formation of man; neither had it any existence during his novitiate [when he was a beginner]. Though it was instituted in the paradise, it was not for his observance there; for while he continued the sinless tenant of the garden, he stood in no need of the healing consolations it affords. Until he ate of the forbidden fruit, there was no breach [break] of friendship, no misunderstanding, no alienation, between him and the Lord God; there needed not, therefore, any means, or system of means, for the reconciliation of estranged parties. But, as soon as the good understanding was interrupted by disobedience to the Eden law, sentence of condemnation to the dust was pronounced upon the offenders; and means were instituted to put them at one again with the Lord, that He might bring them back from the ground, no longer naked and ashamed of their condition; but clothed with glory and honour, incorruptibility and life, as a crown of righteousness that should never fade away. These instituted means made up the way of life, which Moses terms “God’s way”.^a David styles it “the path of life”;^b which the apostle, in quoting, renders “the ways of life”; ὁδοὶ ζωῆς;^c that is, the way leading to life in which a man must walk now; and the way into the kingdom from the house of death.

^a a. Gen. 6:12.

^b b. Psalm 16:11.

^c c. Acts 2:28.

Bible Marking Exercise:

- We are going to focus on the word WAY – we want to colour this word in
 - Suggest blue – or whatever you have used for the kingdom/covenants

The Way... what it represents

Following the idea of “the way”

- The phrase “the way” became synonymous with true worship of the creator.
- The way to the tree of life was protected until man was reconciled unto God so that he wouldn’t live forever in a sinful state.

When Cain and Abel came before God (we’ll look at later)

- They were to come in the “way” that God had prescribed
- Abel did, but Cain did not... seed of the woman vs. seed of the serpent.
- Things progressed from here:

Genesis 6:12 *And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; **for all flesh** had corrupted **his way** upon the earth.*

God has a specific WAY in which we can approach him:

- He reveals this to us:

Psalms 16:11 *Thou wilt shew me **the path of life**: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.*

- God’s way is “wisdom”

Proverbs 3:13-18 ***Happy is the man that findeth wisdom**, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her. Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and **all her paths are peace**. **She is a tree of life** to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her.*

Choosing the WAY

- There are many “ways” – only one leads to the tree of life

Matt 7:13-14 *Enter ye in at the **strait gate**: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and **narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life**, and **few** there be that find it.*

- Not the popular road!

The WAY is through Jesus Christ:

- The disciples wanted to know about the WAY – Jesus Told them what it was:

John 14:5-6 *Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and **how can we know the way?** Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way**, the **truth**, and the **life**: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

- They went on to teach about the WAY:

Heb 10:16-22 *This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. Having therefore, brethren, boldness to **enter into the holiest** by the blood of Jesus, **By a new and living way**, which he hath consecrated for us, **through the veil**, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; **Let us draw near** with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*

- Jesus is the “New and Living Way” by which we can enter the holiest
- By which we can enter the garden and eat of the tree
- What was the way he consecrated? – Through the veil
- What was on the veil?

Exodus 26:31 *And thou shalt make a **vail** of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen of cunning work: **with cherubims** shall it be made:*

- Protecting the WAY into the tabernacle
- Protecting the WAY to the HOLYIEST

If we follow Christ’s way – we can eat of the tree of life:

Revelation 2:7 *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the ecclesias; To him that **overcometh** will I **give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.***

- We have to “OVERCOME”

Revelation 22:14 *Blessed are they that **do his commandments**, that they may have **right to the tree of life**, and may **enter in through the gates** into the city.*

- Those who DO HIS COMMANDMENTS get to eat of the tree
- Exact opposite of Genesis – those who didn’t do his commandments were barred from eating of the tree.

The disciples and the WAY

The phrase “the way” became synonymous with the beliefs of the disciples

- Acts 9:2** *And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found **any of this way**, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.*
- Acts 16:17** *The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto **us the way of salvation**.*
- Acts 18:25-26** *This man was **instructed in the way of the Lord**; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him **the way of God** more perfectly.*
- Acts 19:9** *But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but **spake evil of that way** before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus.*
- Acts 22:4** *And **I persecuted this way** unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women.*
- Acts 24:14** *But this I confess unto thee, that **after the way which they call heresy**, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets:*