

Naming our Enemies

Tonight we're celebrating the new age that is coming. The Sabbath reign of our Master can't come until we put all our enemies under our feet. This week we were besieged by many enemies that we had to overcome so we could keep the Sabbath. To keep the Sabbath means we have to be keepers of it. We can't keep the Sabbath unless every one of His enemies is under our feet, these enemies that keep Him from returning to the earth. The Sabbath represents the millennial reign of our Master. We don't just come to the Sabbath in a nonchalant way. This week if He delivered us and we put all our enemies under our feet, then we come and celebrate the eternal day. This is the seventh day, and the eighth day is coming. We don't have breaking of bread here yet, but we need to understand this so we can when the time comes.

In Matthew 24 our Master said what would happen at the end of this age before the next age could come. As He was sitting at the Mount of Olives with His disciples they said, *"Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age?"* Then He started telling them what had to happen. The great sign will be His witnesses, the Edah, which is fully represented by the woman with her enemies under her feet. He died to obtain the Edah.

When we put all His enemies under our feet He will come back and Satan will be thrown into the abyss. He will stay there until the end of the age and then he will be let out to deceive the nations. He's not supposed to deceive us! We have to come to the place where we can name our enemies, the spirits of jealousy, envy, hate, malice and all the rest. Then the Sabbath can come when we put all of those enemies under our feet. We should not enter the breaking of bread unless all of our enemies are under His feet. The Sabbath age cannot begin until this happens.

In Mt 24:4 it says, "Take heed, that no one deceives you." He was saying to them, "Take heed that this will not happen to you, for you will be tested in every way." The first Edah failed, but we have to put those enemies under His feet. "Take heed, that no one deceives you..." even people from among our own numbers. We have to be tested to see if we're real or unreal, if we're loyal to our Master. We will be tested in every way the first Edah failed. We overcome for them so their overcomers can participate in the next age.

Verse 6 says, "And you will hear of wars and rumors of war. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet." Verse 7 – "And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places." And we see that happening today. There are infectious diseases. Look at Africa – AIDS is spreading like wildfire (even in the United States). This is one of those pestilences. And there are earthquakes – recently 25,000 people in India died from an earthquake and there was another quake in El Salvador. These are signs and what will be tested will be our unity to our Master.

When it speaks about *famines* – there will be a *famine* for the Word of God. This is the beginning. The Word will be modified and there won't be true food and people will die. And we'll die if we're not fed by the Word of our Master. Verse 8 – *"But all these things are merely the beginnings of labor pains. Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. At that time many will fall away and will betray one another. Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. Because lawlessness is increased the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved"*(verses 8-13). To *endure* means to *hold your ground in conflict*. We are in a battle. We have to bear up against every one of our adversaries and persevere under the pressure.

Verse 3 asks, "When will this happen?" And verse 14 says, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come." This is the sign, and we are working towards that now when we put all our enemies (anything that perverts the gospel) under our feet. Christianity doesn't understand this. It's a modified gospel.

Heb 4:9 – *"There remains therefore a rest for the people of God."* That word *rest* shouldn't have been used here. In verse 8 the word *rest* is a different word than in verse 9 and in verse 10 the word *rest* is another word, too. In the Greek, the word *rest* in Heb 4:9 means *keeping the Sabbath*. The Seventh

Day, the Sabbath can only begin when we put *all* of His enemies under His feet – every enemy that comes to us and wants to destroy us. Being jealous, not thinking the best of one another, not loving your brother – we have to name them and cast them out. They have to all be destroyed in the Body of Messiah. We can't go to the wilderness being divided. That's the time when we'll be washed and purified. Then He'll come back and take those with Him who are *longing* for His return.

So the Sabbath, the Seventh Day, can only begin when all His enemies are destroyed. Then at the end of the Seventh Day, Satan will be released for a short time before the Eighth Day can begin, when Satan is cast into the lake of fire (Rev 20:10).

The Sabbath can only be kept when all His enemies are put under His feet. All week long, we have been contending with the enemy (if we're true disciples). If we can name them and cast them out then the Sabbath can be kept, but only then because we will have a good conscience. 1 Ths 2:19 – "*For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing?*" When our Master comes back He will crown us. If we have overcome then we can have joy.

The word for *Sabbath keeping* is *Sabbatismos*. The keeping of the Sabbath is for His people, and we are His people. It used to be Israel, but they didn't do it. Heb 4:9 – "*There remains a rest for God's people.*" It's for them! They were keeping it not just by the law, but keeping it in the spirit of understanding. If we don't keep this Sabbath all week long, we never will! Who are the people of God? (1 Pet 2:10). The Sabbath comes over into the New Covenant. In the new Israel His word remains. This is very important for us to understand. It is a day of rest, peace. In Heb 4:9 the word *rest* means a day of repose from our weekly secular work, keeping in peace, rest from making a living. In the Greek the word *rest* in Heb 4:9 is *Sabbatismos*, Sabbath keeping. If you were a Greek person you would say *Sabbatismos*. It doesn't mean *rest* like in verses 8 and 10, but *Sabbath keeping*. There is no other way but to observe the Sabbath. If you're a Christian you don't have to keep the Sabbath. There's no need to keep it.

If you're not overcoming every week then you won't in the next age.

Keli – That's why it's only meant to be kept by the people of God.

It's only meant for the holy priesthood. It only remains for them. It's not for Israel. The Jews only keep it in hypocrisy. In Israel they violate the Sabbath. Isa 58:12 is meant for the people who keep the Sabbath. *Remains* refers to *completion*. We will complete what old Israel didn't do. We have to do it in their behalf so the land can be restored for them in the next age.

Yachin – I could see this clearly in the war dance at the wedding. The overcomers weren't pulled in by their enemies, but they kept them from breaking out and destroying them.

Mk 7:21 – We have to put these things that defile us under His feet. This is a great warning for us so we won't enter into the breaking of bread or the Eighth Day with these things – spreading discord, destroying one another, allied in the purpose of the enemy. Discord among brothers is an abomination and this is what happened in the first-century Edah. For a little while they put His enemies under their feet. They were one as He was one, but only for a little while as it is recorded in Acts 4:36. But their love didn't remain. They violated the Sabbath.

And in the end their council took the Sabbath away and made it on Sunday and that's what they tried to keep.

I'm thankful we can understand why we keep (preserve, honor) the Sabbath. We're allied all week in the same struggles. If we keep it holy, set apart, it will be a witness to the whole world to keep the Sabbath some day.

ha-emeq – When Yoneq talked about naming the enemies I thought about how important that is – to figure out what's going on and not be tossed about. A good example of this would be if we had two babies sitting here and they are so sweet and nice. Then you give one an orange and the other one wants it and you can see the enemy taking over in the way the baby looks and a change takes place. One tries to grab it from the other and you can see greed, selfishness, and jealousy on their faces. You can say, "Look at the enemies."

I can also picture two eight year olds who have become best of friends and another child comes and sits between them and starts to talk to one of them. The other gets jealous and says, "I thought we were best of friends!" If that jealousy is not recognized, then the child will think it is just their feelings that is making them *feel* / uncomfortable. Sometimes we *feel* so uncomfortable around someone who does something that we

don't like. We think we *feel* something about that person and we don't know what it is. It's just like those black-hooded creatures at the wedding. We have to name it – it's *jealousy* – and not mask over it. If we don't we're never going to get to the Shabbat.

Our enemies are trying to deceive us all the time. It's like the example of the babies – one wants the orange that the other one has and getting that orange is all he can think about. If we don't name those enemies then how can we cast them out? If we can name what makes us feel uncomfortable then they will be gone and we can relax with each other and enjoy being with one another and the Shabbat will come.

No one ever names them, but we have to name them and cast them out. Then peace can come. We have to judge ourselves rightly. Loving one another will overcome all our enemies.

Keli — If we have something in us during the week to name our enemies and overcome then the Shabbat can come. Of course we keep it once we've got it. Then we go back into the battle again for another week. That's what will bring about the end.

ha-emeq — There's no battle for those who aren't naming their enemies. If we experience the battle then we'll strive for peace. We'll pray to overcome and then we'll have victory.

Our enemies are not flesh and blood, but sometimes we make it that way.

Baruch — There has to be a sign. If we're just sitting and resting there's no sign, but if we enter into this day with all our enemies under our feet (what disturbs us and gives us bad feelings) then when someone comes into our midst their mouths will drop. I want that light to emanate from our gatherings.

Eben — I'm thankful for what I've heard tonight. Sometimes I wonder what to tell people when they ask why our businesses aren't open today. Sometimes there's turmoil in me about this, but what I heard tonight excites me about naming all our enemies and then we can rest. If not there's a fog around us and we don't know what's going on. If we're faithful to name our enemies and overcome every week then the Jubilee can come. Once we can see our own enemies then we can help others. We have to take the board out of our own eyes before we can help others take the speck out of theirs.

Benjamin — I've been reading lately about King David. Our Father loved him because He saw his heart to overcome his enemies. He had a heart to stand against the enemies of God. If we aren't naming our enemies then we're not pleasing our Father. I'm thankful I can go into this next week and name them and overcome for Him.

Jesse — The Sabbath represents the time when the evil one will be bound and thrown into the abyss and there'll be total peace. I want to hold my ground in conflict so that can happen.

Our Master had a lot of conflict. If we have a lot during the week it means that we're a threat to the evil one.

We can't be bowled over when things happen to us. We can't be wimps. Our Father never had old Israel, a people who would put all His enemies under His feet. Our Father is raising up a people who will not be plowed over by the evil one. We must be people who are not overtaken so easily by him. I want to be that kind of person.

Ben David — Since I have been going around to different communities the past few weeks I have been encouraged to see those around me; my brothers and sisters who have been chosen to be in His government in the next age. We're being raised up to be our Master's cabinet because we're learning to name those spirits and not accuse one another. It has made me appreciate more the people I live with and place a higher value on them.

Yachin — Before we can name an enemy we first have to decide we're going to have to face it. In war there are two armies of two countries and the only way for them to win is to face the enemy or else they'll never win. We have to come to the point where we have to face the enemy so we can overcome him.

Our Master is sitting as an overcomer on the throne waiting to give us grace to overcome our enemies. As soon as we are willing to face them, He will give us the grace to do it.

If you confess and renounce the enemy you will prosper (if you are willing to face the enemy). We have to name them – being divided from your brothers and sisters, strife, envy, jealousy, malice – we have to detect these things.

ha-emeq — The word *rest* has lost its meaning in Christianity. There's no rest because there's no battle. They just think they can do good and then they'll go to heaven someday and rest. There's no battle

anymore.

But it's different for the sons of God. The end of the age won't come unless we're keeping the Shabbat.

Yoshiyah — In Revelation our Master was speaking to the churches telling them what things would keep them from being cut off. Each church had different things to overcome. But they let their love grow cold and then they lost their light.

And our Father is speaking clearly to us about things in our lives so if we overcome now the Sabbath will come.

And if we keep overcoming then someday there will be a Sabbath rest. It'll happen if we stay connected one week at a time. We need each other because our brothers can see what we can't see.

So we can enter into that Sabbath rest now every week as we name and overcome the enemies in our lives, putting them under His feet.

We pray that the day will come soon when we can lift hands here in Plymouth and this will be one of the places where the evil one is bound. We will, by our own initiative, ask for His grace to rout out the enemies in our lives and make it His dwelling place.