

### **THE CLEANSING OF THE SANCTUARY**

This lesson brings to completion a grouping of four studies which help us understand two important revelations from the book of Daniel. First, we have seen how God through Daniel, in chapters 2, 7, and 8, opened the door to help men see future world kingdoms, and political and religious developments far beyond his day. Second, Daniel was shown great events of a spiritual nature that belong in end time--in and beyond our own day. He was shown the coming of God's eternal kingdom, and a previous judging of people (Daniel 7:9-13), an event necessary to determine who should live in God's everlasting kingdom of righteousness.

In these lessons we have studied the time prophecies of Daniel 8:14 and 9:24-27 which point to the coming of Christ, the Messiah ("anointed" at His baptism, 27 AD), to His death for sinners in 31 AD, to the rejection of the Jews in 34 AD, and finally to the time when the sanctuary would be cleansed with the key date of 1844. Our last lesson made it clear that this "sanctuary" of Daniel 8:14 was the sanctuary in heaven where Christ serves as our High Priest.

We need now to discover what God meant when He told Daniel that the sanctuary in heaven would be cleansed. Re-read Daniel 8:14. The word translated "cleansed" in some versions could also be translated "justified," "set right," or "vindicated," with the idea of being restored to its rightful state. There is no single English word to express exactly the original Hebrew word. The question we rightfully ask is, What is there in a perfect heaven, where God and our Lord are, that needs to be cleansed, or vindicated, or restored? The purpose of this lesson is to discover the answer.

1. We need to begin with another look at the sanctuary on earth, the pattern, figure, or shadow of the heavenly (Hebrews 8,9), and at what happened from day to day in the services of the tabernacle of Moses. There were two clear divisions over the course of the year. There were the DAILY services, and a SPECIAL DAY, once a year. First, what can we learn from the following passages that refer to DAILY offerings?

- (a) Exodus 29:38-42 \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) Leviticus 6:1-7 \_\_\_\_\_

There were many variations in the type of offering the sinner was to bring to the Lord. They differed with different situations. The "key" to it all was the shedding of blood, each offering being a portrayal of Christ Who someday would shed His blood for guilty sinners. (See Hebrews 9:22.) In some cases the priest would eat a tiny piece of the animal's flesh. In some instances he took some of the blood into the holy place and there sprinkled it before the veil which hid the most holy place and the ark wherein was kept God's ten commandments which the sinner had broken. Thus, the ceremony symbolized the transferring of sin from the repentant individual to the priest and the sanctuary. This happened every day, all year long.

2. What about the YEARLY event? What can we learn about it in Leviticus, chapter 16? (Read the entire chapter first.)
  - (a) When did this yearly event occur? Verses 29,34. \_\_\_\_\_
  - (b) What was the day called? Verse 30. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Note that verse 31 also called it "a sabbath of rest," meaning an annual holy day.)

- (c) Which apartment of the sanctuary was involved? Verse 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) What did the high priest do for himself? Verse 6. \_\_\_\_\_
- (e) What did the sacrificed goat represent? Verses 7-9. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Compare Hebrews 9:22.)
- (f) What happened to the unsacrificed goat? Verses 20-22. \_\_\_\_\_

The day of atonement was a solemn day for Israel. Every man and woman were to afflict their souls. All business was laid aside. The whole congregation was to spend the day in solemn humiliation before God. It was a day of judgment, at the close of which the sanctuary was cleansed of all the records of forgiven sins that had been transferred to it for the past year. The final event was the leading away of the scapegoat with the responsibility of all those sins on his head. All of this earthly ceremony came to an end when Christ died.

3. As on earth, so in heaven. The earthly sanctuary was patterned after, was a figure or shadow of the heavenly sanctuary. The services on earth teach us about the ministry of Christ in heaven. How does the DAILY work of the earthly priest typify of the daily work of Christ in heaven, since His ascension? Summarize Hebrews 4:14; 9:24; 1 John 2:1.

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This has always been Christ's first work in heaven--to represent and save sinners who have faith in His shed blood. He always forgives the repentant sinner. The sin is transferred to Christ who "bore our sins." Or, we could say, the sin is transferred to heaven, to His sanctuary. This is Christ's first apartment work that He entered into at His ascension.

4. The Bible also clearly teaches that there are records of sin in heaven. There are "books." What are the books called in Revelation 3:5, Malachi 3:16, and Revelation 20:12,13?

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5. The Bible also teaches that there is judgment that takes place in heaven. There must be an investigation of the records of each sinner to determine who will be saved, and lost. Carefully summarize these passages.

- (a) Daniel 7:9-13 \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) Ecclesiastes 12:13,14 \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) Acts 17:31 (John 5:22,23) \_\_\_\_\_

6. As the high priest on earth faced the ten commandments on the day of atonement or cleansing of the sanctuary, so the ten commandments must be faced by all in the judgment, for "all have sinned" (Romans 3:23) and sin is the "transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4). What are the commandments called in James 2:10-12? \_\_\_\_\_

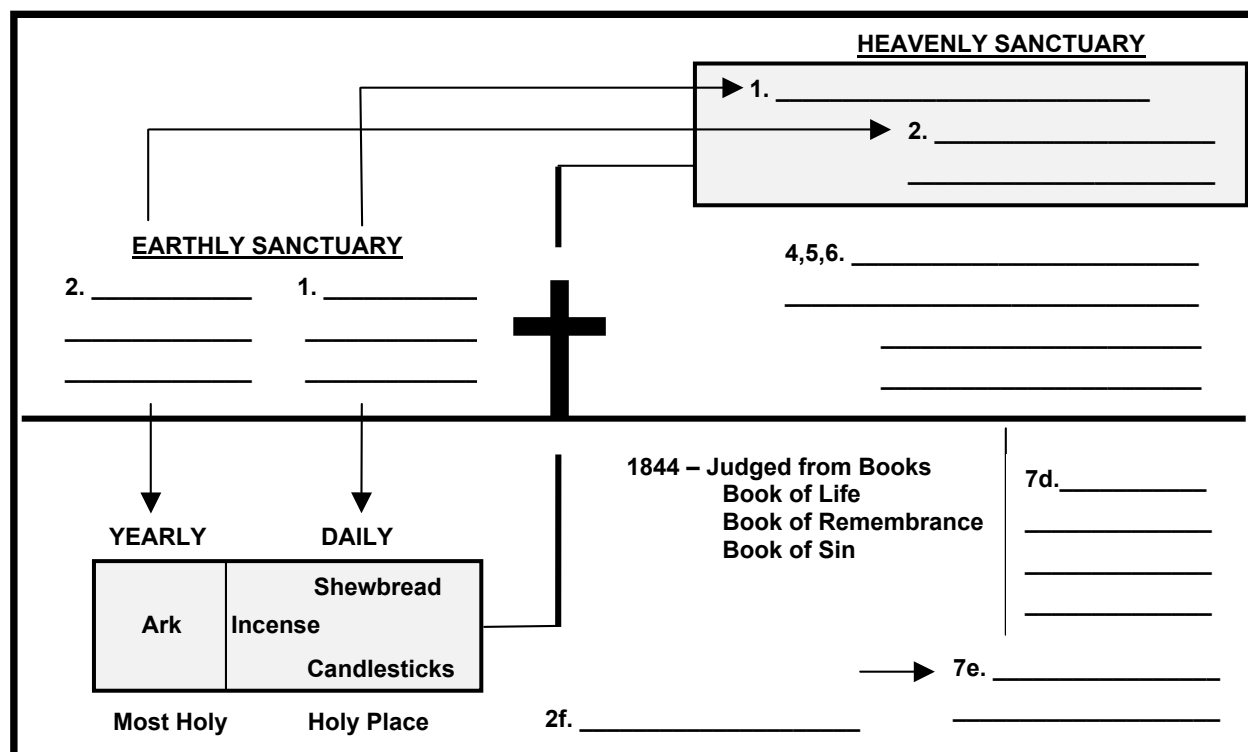
7. Now, let us tie it all together. Daniel 8:14 says that at the close of the 2,300 years, the sanctuary (heavenly) would be cleansed. As on earth, so in heaven. Since 31 AD Jesus has taken upon Himself the sins of repentant sinners. Sin is thus transferred to heaven. We could therefore say that heaven is "defiled," as was the earthly sanctuary. It must be cleansed, vindicated, restored to its rightful state. Since 1844, the records of those who have professed Christ have been, and are being examined as were the cases of the repentant on the Old Testament day of atonement. As our High Priest and Judge, this is Christ's second apartment work. It parallels the ONCE YEARLY work of the earthly high

priest, when he entered the tabernacle's second apartment. On earth there were many sacrifices; but Christ offered Himself as a complete one once (Heb. 9:24-28). On earth,

there was a yearly day and judgment and cleansing of the sanctuary; in heaven, there is one final and complete judgment and cleansing, at the end of time. Jesus began this phase of His work on **October 22, 1844**, as we have studied. He continues it today. But it will soon end! Note carefully, and summarize, these final, climactic events:

- (a) Revelation 11:15-19 \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) Revelation 22:11,12 \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) Revelation 15:5-8 \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) Revelation 19:11,16 \_\_\_\_\_
- (e) Revelation 20:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_

What a revelation! And we all live in the last short period of earth's history. There is a solemn day of judgment, a close of probation, Christ comes. Then Satan, the author of all sin, will be led into the desolate wilderness as was the scapegoat. Heaven will be cleansed. And after the 1,000 years, the Lord will cleanse the earth, with fire and recreation, and it will become the eternal home of the saved. The eternal God will rule in a universe that is clean, forever to be acclaimed as the God of perfect love and justice. How totally Daniel 8:14 will be fulfilled.



Summary of Lessons 15-18**THE SANCTUARY AND ITS SERVICES**

Moses' Tabernacle or Sanctuary, Its Priesthood, Its Services, All Are Patterns, or Shadows, or Figures, or "Foretastes" of God's Great Sanctuary in Heaven:

Earth's Sanctuary Itself -- Made after the pattern of the Heavenly.

The Sanctuary Priesthood -- A picture of Christ as our great High Priest in heaven.

The Sanctuary Services --- Pictures of Christ's ministry in heaven.

**The Daily Services of the Earthly Sanctuary:**

The morning and evening offerings, by the priest, for the sinner, and the sinner's offering, for his own sins--both involving the shedding of innocent blood--portray Christ's dying for the sinner, shedding His own innocent blood, and His continual ministration of forgiveness for every repenting person, from His position in heaven.

Both the daily offerings and services of the earthly sanctuary, and the daily ministration of Christ in heaven, are connected with the first apartment--the holy place--of the earthly and heavenly sanctuaries.

**KEY POINT TO REMEMBER:** The repenting sinner, be he or she of Old Testament times, or someone living this side of Christ's earthly life, is fully forgiven by God when sincere repentance is made. Any later "judgment" is not needed to guarantee the act of forgiveness.

**The Yearly Day of Atonement on Earth, the One-time Judgment in Heaven:**

In connection with the sanctuary on earth, all RECORDS of forgiven sin were removed each year, on Tishri 10, during the autumn. The "day of atonement" involved the sins of repentant sinners ONLY, and they were all removed from the sanctuary, put on the head of Satan, the great tempter,--the "responsible party" was led away into the wilderness. This important day of judgment was repeated every year.

In connection with the sanctuary in heaven, we find the parallel in a one-time judgment, when Christ adds the work of Judge to His Mediatorship, reviewing the RECORDS of every person who has ever "professed" His name, and then separating genuine Christians from those who are "Christians" in name only.

Then, having determined who has a right to eternal life, Christ comes to take all such to heaven, and the rest die with unrepentant sinners, and the RECORDS of the saved are placed on the head of Satan who is led into earth's desolated wilderness for 1,000 years.

Both the day of atonement in connection with the sanctuary on earth, and the judgment (heavenly day of atonement) by Christ, are connected with the second apartment--the most holy place--of the two sanctuaries.

### **The Matter of Timing in Connection with Christ's Two-apartment Work:**

Daniel 9:24-27 leads us to Christ's ministry and death for sinners, and thus to the beginning of His first apartment work in heaven, when He ascended to become High Priest at God's right hand, in 31 AD.

Daniel 8:14, completed 1810 years after Christ ascension, or in 1844, leads us to the beginning of the heavenly "day of atonement," the beginning of Christ's judging, the second apartment work, in the sanctuary in heaven, the tabernacle that God pitched and not man. Both Christ's mediatorial work, and His judging, will terminate together, at the time when Rev. 22:11 is proclaimed by Jesus Himself: "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still; and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still; and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still; and he that is holy, let him be holy still."

If the signs of Christ's coming are truly telling us that He will soon come, then the fulfillment of Rev. 22:11 is even nearer, and the close of the judgment is imminent.

### **The Great Lesson from the Most Holy Place (Lev. 16:11-16; Rev. 11:19):**

In both the earthly tabernacle and the heavenly sanctuary (or temple), there is the ark, with its mercy seat, and containing the ten commandments. Thus, there is pictured, in the place of God's presence and holiness, both God's mercy and justice, His grace and His law--perfect character, forgiveness, and enabling power.

God may demand much of those who choose Christ, and desire to become saints. But He is forgiving, and presents enabling strength to accomplish all that He requires. Thus, human beings are left without excuse.

And when Jesus comes, by God's grace, they will be "like Him" (1 John 3:2), and He will escort them to heaven.

**Why the Specific Date of October 22 in 1844, as the Starting Date for the Second Apartment Work of Christ in Heaven?**

First, the earthly and heavenly sanctuaries are inseparably linked together in Scripture.

Second, both are concerned with judgment, on a "day of atonement" on earth, when the most holy place was cleansed of repentant sinners' records of sins; and at the time of the "cleansing" of the sanctuary of Dan. 8:14, clearly the sanctuary in heaven, which, when cleansed, or justified, or restored to its rightful state, is also free from the records of sins of repentant people--whose sins have been borne by Christ.

Third, because of the intimate tie between the two sanctuaries, and because the first was "cleansed" on a specific date--Tishri 10 of the yearly Jewish calendar; so Bible scholars of the 1840s saw the date of October 22, 1844--Tishri 10 that year, as the correct date for the beginning of Christ's second apartment ministry, not to be completed in one literal day, but in one continuous period of time--closing with Rev. 22:11.

Fourth, because records are investigated in heaven as stated above, just in the same way as in the Old Testament sanctuary, the terms "investigative judgment," or "pre-advent judgment," have been given to this heavenly "day of atonement."