

Christ entered upon His final work of ministration in the heavenly sanctuary in 1844. His work of judgment in the Holy of Holies should arrest the attention of every believer on planet earth. While the world is unaware of Christ's ministry in the sanctuary above, every believer should be keenly aware of the important work that He is performing on their behalf in the second apartment of the heavenly sanctuary. A clear understanding of His cleansing work elevates our faith, focuses our attention, and tunes our hearts and minds into complete harmony with the minister of the sanctuary. As we connect and cooperate with our great High Priest, we will experience cleansing power that will enable us to fully reflect His character. As a result, we will become channels through which He will reveal present duty and prepare a people to stand through earth's final crisis. Let us begin our study and gain insights into What God Says About…"Christ in His Sanctuary."

A SPECIAL EVENT IN HEAVEN

Note: *In our previous study, The Prophecy of the Ages, we learned that at the conclusion of the 2300 prophetic days, a special event was prophesied to occur in heaven called the cleansing of the sanctuary. As we proceed in this study, we will better understand the meaning of the cleansing of the sanctuary and also appreciate what this solemn work entails that Christ has been performing on our behalf since 1844.*

1. According to Daniel 8:14, what was to occur in heaven at the conclusion of the 2300 prophetic days?

"And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____." *Daniel 8:14*

Note: *In order to better understand the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary—also known as the judgment, we must first study the ministration of the earthly sanctuary.*

"No man can look unto Jesus, and properly understand his position and work, without viewing it in the light of this tabernacle of God, built by Moses in the wilderness,—this shadow cast on earth to show forth 'heavenly things.'" Smith, Uriah. *Looking Unto Jesus,* p. 56.

BUILT – ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN

2. What did God instruct Moses to build and why?

"And let them make me _____ _____; that _____ _____ _____ _____ _____." *Exodus 25:8*

Note: *God instructed Moses to build an earthly tabernacle according to the pattern of the heavenly sanctuary. The earthly sanctuary is a pictorial representation of the plan of salvation. It is the gospel in symbols, and it reveals how God deals with and eradicates sin forever.*

3. After what heavenly diagram was Moses to build the earthly tabernacle and all the instruments thereof?

"According to all that I show thee, after _____ _____ of the tabernacle, and _____ _____ of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it." *Exodus 25:9*

Note: *According to scripture, the tabernacle, its compartments, furniture, instruments, and services were to replicate the heavenly tabernacle. The sanctuary had a courtyard and a tabernacle. The courtyard had two articles of furniture—the brazen altar of burnt offerings and the bronze laver. The tabernacle had two compartments—the holy place and the most holy place. The three articles of furniture in the holy place were the golden table of showbread, the seven-branched candlestick made of pure gold and the golden altar of incense. The most holy place had one article of furniture, the ark of the covenant, which was a receptacle for the Ten Commandments or tables of the law (Exodus chapters 25-30).*

4. Why did Moses bless the work of the children of Israel that they did on the tabernacle?

[42]"According to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so the children of Israel made all the work. [43]And Moses did look upon all the work, and, behold, _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____, even so had _____ _____ _____: and Moses blessed them." *Exodus 39:42, 43*

5. How does Exodus 40:33 indicate that the work of building the tabernacle was completed?

[31]"And Moses and Aaron and his sons washed their hands and their feet thereat: [32]When they went into the tent of the congregation, and when they came near unto the altar, they washed; as the LORD commanded Moses. [33]And he reared up the court round about the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the hanging of the court gate. So _____ _____ _____ _____." *Exodus 40:31-33*

6. What happened when the work of the tabernacle was completed?

"Then _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ of the congregation, and _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____." *Exodus 40:34*

Note: *The cloud covering the tabernacle and God's glory descending into it indicated that God had accepted the work of the building of the sanctuary. God blessed Israel with His presence by dwelling among them in the sanctuary through His Shekinah glory. Just as the work of building the tabernacle had to meet God's approval in order for God to bless the work, the ministry performed therein was to be carried out in harmony with God's instructions in order for God to bless the work.*

MINISTRY – ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN

Note: *The focus of the book of Hebrews is not about sanctuary geography—that is which particular apartment Jesus is presently ministering in or when He began His work of judgment in the second apartment. The book of Hebrews emphasizes that Jesus is our great High Priest, and that His sanctuary and high priestly ministry is superior to the earthly sanctuary and its ministration which ended at the cross.*

7. What is Christ's function in the heavenly sanctuary? What else does His role entail?

[1]"Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an _____ _____, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens. [2]A _____ _____ _____ _____, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man." *Hebrews 8:1, 2*

Note: *Christ, our great High Priest, is the minister of the heavenly sanctuary. He officiates in the true tabernacle of which the earthly sanctuary was merely a copy or shadow. Believers are to fix their eyes upon Jesus—the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2).*

8. **Seeing that earthly high priests offered gifts and sacrifices, how does Hebrews 8:3 indicate that Christ as High Priest must also have a sacrifice to offer?**

[3]"For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is _____ _____ that _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____."
Hebrews 8:3

Note: *The earthly sanctuary system and the high priest who ministered therein foreshadowed the ministration of Christ's high priestly ministry in the heavenly sanctuary. The earthly priests were required to offer gifts and sacrifices on behalf of the people; therefore, it was necessary for Jesus to offer Himself and His precious blood on behalf of sinners.*

9. **In what way did earthly priests serve in relationship to the heavenly sanctuary? Why did they serve in this manner?**

[4]"For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law: [5]Who serve _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ showed to thee in the mount." *Hebrews 8:4, 5*

Note: *Christ could not serve as a priest while on earth, otherwise his ministry on earth would have been a shadow of the work in the heavenly sanctuary. Earthly priests served as an example and shadow of heavenly things. Hence, their ministry pointed forward to Christ's work and ministry as high priest, which He began when He returned to heaven after His death on the cross.*

10. **In which apartment did the earthly priests minister throughout the year?**

"Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into _____ _____ _____, accomplishing the service of God." *Hebrews 9:6*

Note: *The work of the priest in the courtyard and in the first apartment of the sanctuary was the most important part of the daily sanctuary service. The repentant sinner brought an innocent lamb to the sanctuary, placed his hand upon its head, confessed his specific sin, and slit the throat of the lamb with a knife, thereby killing it. When the blood dripped from the lamb, the priest caught some of the blood and sprinkled it before the veil of which the ark of the covenant contained the law that was broken by the sinner. When the priest transferred the blood to the sanctuary, the*

sanctuary became defiled. Although these were forgiven sins covered by the blood, the record of these sins were recorded in the sanctuary through the shed blood of the lamb, thereby polluting the sanctuary. These forgiven sins transferred, in figure, to the sanctuary remained throughout the year, and it necessitated that their record be blotted out or removed from the sanctuary. This cleansing of the sanctuary took place one day a year on the Day of Atonement—the day of judgment. The cleansing of the sanctuary involved the high priest making an atonement for both apartments of the sanctuary, the altar, the priests, and for all the people of the congregation of Israel. This was all accomplished through the blood administered by the high priest in the sanctuary on the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16:1-34).

11. Into which apartment did the high priest enter alone with blood once every year? What necessitated him entering into the second apartment once each year?

"But _____ _____ _____ went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which _____ _____ _____ _____, and for _____ _____ _____ _____ _____." *Hebrews 9:7*

Note: *On the Day of Atonement, the high priest entered into the second apartment of the sanctuary to make an atonement for the transgressed law contained inside of the ark of the covenant. Throughout the year, the sins of repentant Israelites were symbolically transferred from the sinner to the lamb, through the blood, and by the priest transferred to the sanctuary. The priest sprinkled the blood before the veil and on the horns of the golden altar of incense (Leviticus 4:1-21). Depending on the case, the blood was not always taken into the holy place, but the flesh of the animal was to be eaten by the priest (Leviticus 6:26). In some cases the blood was sprinkled on the horns of the altar of burnt offering (Leviticus 4: 22-35). In each case, the sprinkled blood provided the means through which sins were transferred to the sanctuary. Therefore, the sins were not canceled, but rather covered by the blood. Throughout the year, the record of the sins of the Israelites remained in the sanctuary until they were blotted out on the Day of Atonement. By shedding the blood of the innocent lamb, the repentant sinner acknowledged that he had transgressed the law of God and also exercised faith in Jesus, the coming Redeemer who would die for his sins.*

PATTERNS OF "THINGS IN HEAVEN" NEED PURIFYING

12. What word is used to indicate that the patterns of things in heaven should be purified with the blood of animals? With what is the heavenly sanctuary purified or cleansed?

[23]"It was therefore _____ that the patterns of things in

the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves _____ _____ _____ _____ _____. [24]For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us." *Hebrews 9:23, 24*

13. Unlike the high priests who brought the blood of others into the sanctuary yearly, Christ has now entered once into the heavenly sanctuary for what purpose?

[25]"Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others. [26]For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared _____ _____ _____ _____ by _____ _____ _____ _____." *Hebrews 9:25, 26*

THE CLEANSING OF THE SANCTUARY

Note: *In ancient Israel, both apartments of the sanctuary, the altar of burnt offerings, the priest, and the people were cleansed on the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16:29-34). This symbolic cleansing through the sacrificial blood of animals foreshadowed the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary through Christ's blood.*

14. According to Daniel 8:14, what was to be cleansed at the conclusion of the 2300 days?

"And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall _____ _____ be cleansed." *Daniel 8:14*

Note: *Many wonder what the cleansing of the sanctuary actually entails. Anciently, when the accumulated sins of repentant Israelites were symbolically transferred to the sanctuary through the blood of the innocent lamb, the sanctuary became polluted and necessitated a cleansing. It is true that the shed blood of the lamb sprinkled by the priest in the sanctuary symbolized a record of forgiven sins. However, this record would ultimately need to be removed from the sanctuary. The removal or blotting out of this record of sin, which occurred on the Day of Atonement, was known as the cleansing of the sanctuary. Anciently, the blood of sacrificial animals administered by the high priest in the earthly sanctuary accomplished this symbolic work. Whereas, Christ's shed blood on Calvary is the means by which the actual record of sins recorded in the books of heaven are removed or blotted out from the heavenly sanctuary. The work*

of the cleansing of the sanctuary began in 1844 when Christ entered upon His final work of judgment in the Most Holy Place.

15. According to the apostle Peter, believers are to repent so that what can occur in the heavenly sanctuary?

[19]"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; [20]And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: [21]Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began." *Acts 3:19-21*

THE JUDGMENT SCENE

16. According to Daniel 7:9, who did Daniel see seated upon the throne of judgment?

"I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and _____ _____ _____ _____ did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire." *Daniel 7:9*

17. According to Daniel 7:10, what was set? What did the prophet Daniel see open before the Ancient of Days?

"A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: _____ _____ _____ _____, and _____ _____ _____ _____." *Daniel 7:10*

Note: *In sequential order, the prophet Daniel sees the judgment scene in heaven occur right after he sees the little horn rise and carry out its devastating work. As mentioned in our previous studies, the book of Daniel reveals world history from Daniel's day to the end of the world. This historical sweep of world history is symbolized in Daniel 2. It is also symbolized in Daniel chapters 7 and 8. Babylon ruled the world from 605 B.C. to 539 B.C. Medo-Persia reigned from 539 B.C. to 331 B.C. Greece reigned from 331 B.C. to 168 B.C. Pagan Rome reigned from 168 B.C. to 476 A.D. Papal Rome reigned from 538 A.D. to 1798 A.D. The 2300 days known as the cleansing of the sanctuary or the investigative judgment began in 1844. Christ's final work in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary on behalf of repentant sinners is rooted in scripture and aligns*

with world history. Scripture is clear, "the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God" (1 Peter 4:17, 18).

18. Who did Daniel see come before the Ancient of Days during the judgment scene?

13"I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like _____ _____ _____ _____ came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. 14And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed." *Daniel 7:13, 14*

***Note:** A casual reading of these passages may lead some to believe that the second coming of Christ is being described here. However, this is incorrect. In this vision, the prophet Daniel sees Christ entering the Most Holy Place to begin His final work of judgment in 1844. He comes before the Ancient of Days accompanied by the heavenly angels.*

19. According to John the Revelator, why does the first angel command the world to fear God or reverence Him?

6"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, 7Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." *Revelation 14:6, 7*

SUMMARY

Christ's final work of judgment—the cleansing of the sanctuary began in 1844 at the conclusion of the 2300 days. In order to better understand this important work being performed by Christ on our behalf, we must study the earthly sanctuary which was built according to the pattern shown to Moses. As we understand these truths and cooperate with Christ, He will cleanse our hearts from sin and blot out the record of our sins from the heavenly sanctuary.

20. Dear friend, will you cooperate with Christ and allow Him to blot out your record of sin from heaven's books? _____

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