

Everlasting Gospel Bible Studies

Lesson 13

THE CLEANSING OF THE SANCTUARY



The truth about Jesus' ministry for us in heaven has been little understood by many Christians. Nevertheless, through the study of the sanctuary of the Old Testament we can gain a clear understanding of Christ's work for us in heaven. The sanctuary reveals to us the mission of Jesus on earth, and His continual ministry in heaven for His people.

The majority of those living during the time of Christ did not discern the purpose of His first coming. In the same way, few people today are prepared for His Second Coming. At Christ's first coming, God sent John the Baptist to give a true understanding of Jesus' ministry on earth. A loving God has given us the sanctuary to impart a clear understanding of the purpose and nature of His Second Coming.

A. THE MESSAGE OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

1. What was the message of John the Baptist? John 1:29

NOTE: "Lamb" was a term familiar to the Jews, which brought their attention immediately to the sanctuary, and to the sacrificial purpose of Jesus' advent. A lamb was the required offering from any individual who sinned. Leviticus 4:32-33

2. To what place did sinners bring their sin offerings? Leviticus 4:14

NOTE: The tabernacle or tent (and later the Temple), was the place prepared for God to dwell among His people; it was the sanctuary.



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The people could come into the outer court with their offerings, where they could see the altar of burnt offering, and the veil which led to the larger of two inner chambers. Only priests could enter here, and only the high priest might enter through a second veil into the innermost chamber.

B. THE DESCRIPTION OF THE SANCTUARY

3. Who gave the pattern for the earthly sanctuary? Exodus 25:8-9

God showed Moses the design of the earthly sanctuary. Every detail must be carefully followed, to symbolize the functions of the true sanctuary in heaven, for God would dwell here among His people on earth.

4. What was the first apartment of the tabernacle called?
Hebrews 9:12

NOTE: The word sanctuary means holy, dedicated place. The first apartment of the tabernacle is called the holy place, and was twice as large as the second, inner apartment.

5. What was the name of the apartment after the second veil?
Hebrews 9:3

NOTE: "The Holiest of all" is also called the Most Holy Place. Exodus 26:33 and many other verses.

~ NOTES ~

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favour of the righteous.

**17. What is the standard by which humanity will be judged?
James 2:12; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14**

NOTE: The law of liberty is the new covenant, which promises to give us the strength in Jesus to live in liberty from sin. Sin is still the transgression of the law (1 John 3:4), and the law is still the ten commandments, for God does not change (Malachi 3:6)..

SUMMARY

God established an earthly sanctuary to help us to understand the significance of the heavenly sanctuary. Through the sanctuary we see that Jesus our high priest takes His blood, the blood of the Lamb, before God at the time of judgment to justify His blotting out of our sins from the eternal records. "Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come." Revelation 14: 7. The message of the judgment is a fearful and yet a hopeful truth to this present world. Today we may still come boldly before the throne of Grace to receive power and knowledge to overcome all sin in our lives.

PERSONAL COMMITMENT

Today, in the time of judgment, I ask Jesus to cleanse my life from sin, and to give me strength to obey His commandments.

Signed: _____

C. THE SANCTUARY SERVICE

6. How often did the priests enter the first apartment, or holy place? Hebrews 9:6

NOTE: The priestly services went on continually, night and day. A part of their function was to symbolically record the confessed sins of the people.

7. How often was the service of the Most Holy Place performed? Hebrews 9:7

NOTE: Only the high priest might enter the Most Holy Place, and only once a year on the Day of Atonement.

8. What was the purpose of the high priest's service in the Most Holy Place? Leviticus 16:29-30, 34

NOTE: When the high priest went before God to represent his people, it was to make atonement for their sins. With the blood of a blameless sacrifice he was to symbolically blot out the records of confessed sins which were truly repented, as manifested in the changed lives of the people; and thus to cleanse the sanctuary.

D. THE HEAVENLY SANCTUARY

9. After what was the earthly tabernacle patterned? Hebrews 8:5

NOTE: The very physical earthly sanctuary was to faithfully symbolize the true sanctuary in heaven.

10. Who established the original tabernacle in heaven? Hebrews 8:2; Hebrews 9:11

NOTE: Sin had originated in heaven, but had been banished to earth. Revelation 12:7-9. Messiah would "anoint the most Holy" in heaven as his last task during the seventy weeks of Daniel 9:24. The heavenly sanctuary would serve as a place of quarantine for the records of sin, after the earthly sanctuary had fulfilled its symbolization of the ministry of the Messiah to come.

11. Whom did the earthly high priest represent? Hebrews 4:14, Hebrews 7:22-24

12. What prophetic time period must pass before the heavenly sanctuary would be cleansed? Daniel 8:14

NOTE: Frequently a prophetic day symbolizes a literal year (Ezekiel 4:6; Numbers 14:34). At the end of the appointed 2300 years, Christ entered into the heavenly Most Holy Place to cleanse the sanctuary.

E. THE BEGINNING & THE END OF THE 2300 DAYS

13. How did Gabriel begin his explanation of the 2300-day prophecy? Daniel 9:24

NOTE: The rest of the vision of Daniel 8 had been explained to Daniel and he understood, but the prospect of 2300 days (years) more of sin and suffering on earth had so appalled Daniel that he could not understand it. He used a special word (marah) to label this part of the vision, and Gabriel used that same word to begin his explanation. Daniel was in no doubt that the seventy weeks of years (490 years)

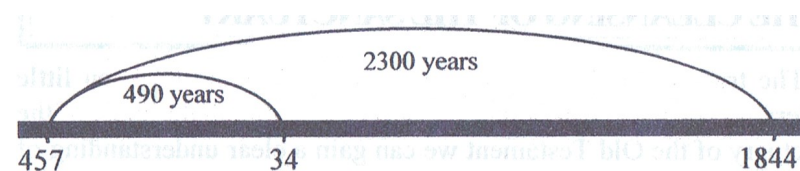
prophecy was given in explanation of the 2300 days (years).

14. When would the 2300 days begin? Daniel 9:25

NOTE: "From the going forth" indicates the beginning of both the 2300 years and the 490 years, when the commandment or decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem was given to God's people.

15. Who gave the commandment to restore Jerusalem? Ezra 6:14; Ezra 7:11-13

NOTE: Three kings of the Medo-Persian empire gave such decrees. The first two did not give the Hebrew people enough power and authority to accomplish the task, but the last, which embodies all three, was given by Artaxerxes in the fall of 457 B.C. The 490 years extend to the time of Jesus the Messiah. The 2300 years extend to the fall of 1844, when the risen Jesus, our high priest, entered the Most Holy Place in heaven to begin its cleansing.



16. How does the Day of Atonement apply to the end of the world? Hebrews 9:24-28

NOTE: Our loving God refers to the day of judgment also as the day of at-one-ment, when His people will be at one with Him, the record of their sins will be blotted out forever, and He will give judgment in