

These Perilous Times
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“According To the Heavenly Pattern”

Jesus came to earth the first time as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, {John 1:29}. He came to save His people from their sins, {Matthew 1:21}. He came to give His life a ransom for many, {Matthew 20:28}. He was also our example and pattern, showing us how to emulate true Christian characters.

But how did God’s followers deal with the sin problem and salvation before God sent His Son incarnate?

Prior to His first coming, God’s people, after their exodus from Egyptian captivity were admonished to make a sanctuary that illustrated the plan of salvation in figures.

The Sanctuary’s Purpose

“And let them make Me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them. According to all I show you, that is the pattern {blueprint} of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishing, just shall you make it. And see to that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.” Exodus 25:8&9, 40

“Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make a tabernacle: for, See saith He, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount. Hebrews 8:5

The instruction given to Moses by God was very explicit. Make the sanctuary after the pattern of the one in heaven that was shown to you on the mountain. It was a real object lesson of salvation in symbols. The lambs without blemish that were sacrificed for sin pointed to Jesus our ultimate sacrifice, {the blood of animals didn't save anyone, Heb. 9:11&12}.

Not only was the earthly sanctuary's construction a pattern of the heavenly, but so was the ministration of the earthly priest. The earthly ministrations were a shadow or type that pointed to Christ our heavenly priest, the antitype.

It is very crucial for Seventh-day Adventist to understand the ministry that occurred in first and second apartments of the earthly sanctuary. Because the earthly is a pattern of what happened/and is happening in the heavenly sanctuary **now**, by King Jesus.

What does this mean for us?

Jesus, upon His ascension into heaven began His priestly ministration on our behalf in the “holy place,” or first apartment of the heavenly

sanctuary. It was a ministry of intercession, forgiveness, reconciliation, and restoration, {justification and sanctification}.

In 1844 after the 2300 day/year prophecy expired, Jesus moved to the “most holy place,” the second apartment of the heavenly sanctuary. He began the ministry of the investigative judgment, or Antitypical Day of Atonement-cleansing the sanctuary of the record of accumulated sin, blotting them out, Daniel 8:14.

Obvious Signs Do Tell The Season

Why is it so important for God’s people to understand what we believe regarding the heavenly sanctuary?

When God’s church was in her infancy some highly respected and highly educated leaders began to attack the church’s fundamental beliefs. The doctrine of the heavenly sanctuary was one of their primary targets.

Dr. Kellogg, D. M. Canright, Elder Ballenger, and later Desmond Ford, were some of the well respected church leaders that were responsible for the sanctuary heresy.

Kellogg claimed that God was present in everything, {pantheism} and couldn’t be in the heavenly sanctuary only. Ballenger claimed that Jesus, upon His ascension to heaven by-passed the Holy place altogether and went right to the

ministration of the most holy place, destroying the 2300-day/year prophecy.

Ellen White emphatically warned that the attack on the heavenly sanctuary would arise again in the future.

“In the future deception of every kind is to arise ... The enemy will bring in false theories , such as the doctrine that there is no sanctuary. This is one of the points on which there will be a departing of the faith.” Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, May 25, 1905.

In March of 2010, Ellen White’s prophecy regarding deception and heretical attacks on the sanctuary again came to fruition in one of our major institutions.

The Lord allowed many of His servants to witness the sanctuary heresy, up close and personal. {Dr. J.} A Sabbath School instructor leading the Sabbath lesson discussion plainly stated that the heavenly sanctuary was just a metaphor and should not be taken literally.

After the class he was confronted, and asked to give an explanation of the rationale behind his comment.

Some of his responses were: “You probably believe that there is a literal heavenly sanctuary.” “You are probably a “Traditional Adventist” and believe that Jesus is literally blotting out accumulated sins in heaven.”

He then said, “That’s not what the Bible means, the heavenly sanctuary is just a metaphor. “We

don't believe in a literal sanctuary anymore," {truly this misguided brother was a student of Dr. Kellogg and Desmond Ford}.

The question was raised about his belief on the 2300-day/year prophecy. His response was, "I don't have enough time to explain."

Friends we need to pray for our brothers and sisters who are being deceived with the subtle winds of fanciful doctrine that are presented in our churches as "new light."

What really raised several red flags about this young man was he was a doctor of psychology - well respected, and had many followers {like Kellogg and Ford}.

Higher education is a blessing when properly used in educational institutions to accomplish God's intended purpose {prepare a people for Christ's return}. Higher learning becomes a curse when one's position of influence is used to manipulate believers to their way of thinking to philosophy away established Bible beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist church. Needless to say Dr. J. is no longer employed by the institution in question. However we must not neglect praying for him.

Dr. J. s' heresy wasn't exactly the same as Ballenger's, Ford's or Dr. Kellogg's, but heresy nevertheless.

My question to my fellow servants is; do you know what Seventh-day Adventist believe

concerning the ministry of Jesus in the heavenly sanctuary?

Do we believe in a literal heavenly sanctuary?
Do we believe that Jesus began His final priestly ministrations in the most holy place in 1844?

Please consider the following quotes.

“It is clear therefore, that the scriptures present the heavenly sanctuary as a real place {Heb. 8:2, NEB}, not a metaphor or abstraction. The sanctuary is the primary dwelling place of God.”

Seventh-day Adventists Believe ... p. 314

“...In 1844 at the end of the prophetic period of 2300 days, He {Jesus} entered the second and last phase of His atoning ministry. It is a work of investigative judgment which is part of the ultimate disposition of all sin, typified by the cleansing of the ancient Hebrew sanctuary on the Day of Atonement.” Ibid; p. 212.

“For eighteen centuries the work of ministrations continued in the first apartment of the sanctuary. The blood of Christ pleaded in behalf of penitent believers, secured their pardon and acceptance with the Father, yet their sins still remained upon the books of record. As in the typical service there was a work of atonement at the close of the year, so before Christ’s work for redemption of men is completed there is a work of atonement for the removal of sin from the sanctuary. This is the service which began when

the 2300 days ended. At that time, as foretold by Daniel the prophet, Our High priest entered the most holy, to perform the last division of His solemn work – to cleanse the sanctuary.”

Ellen G. White. Christ in His Sanctuary, United States, Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1969, p. 98.

“...thus those who followed in the light of the prophetic word saw that instead of coming to the earth at the termination of the 2300 days in 1844, Christ entered the *most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary* to perform the closing work of atonement preparatory to his coming.” Ibid, p. 99.

Do you know what Seventh-day Adventist believe? Would you recognize heresy if was tip-toeing into your church? If you don't know what we believe you need to take the time to find out.