



The Sanctuary Lesson 9 4Q 2013

The Pre-Advent Judgment

For those who haven't heard, both the NAD and the IED have voted to approve ordination of women to the gospel ministry. From Spectrum:

The Inter-European Division's recommendation stems from several points:

- The Bible does not specifically define what ordination for pastoral ministry is.
- There are no direct statements in the Bible either commanding or prohibiting women's ordination.
- As the church felt free to develop its organizational structure to further its mission based on biblical principles, division BRC members consider ordination not as a doctrinal or biblical issue, but something that must be handled at an administrative level.
- There are no clear biblical principles that would require or guide the application of the principle of headship in the family or the church.
- The Old Testament priesthood has its fulfillment in the unique priesthood of Christ, which is the basis for the priesthood of all believers.
- BRC members were unclear over why ordination requires a differentiation between genders that doesn't exist in other levels of ministry or service, such as teachers, deacons, prophets and leaders.

How long have their conclusions been true? Were their conclusions true before they concluded it? What took so long?

This is a great example of unfolding truth – how an organization can doggedly hold to a certain idea, based on bias, presupposition, assumption, tradition, preconceived ideas, and yet that idea not have any basis in Scripture or be true.

Do you think women's ordination is the only idea in Christianity like this?

What about the Pre-Advent Judgment? Might it have ideas that need to be advanced?

What is your understanding of the pre advent judgment?

- What is it to accomplish?
- For whose benefit?
- What is being examined?
- Who is being judged?

A little history of this doctrine. William Miller was a Baptist preacher who studied Daniel and Revelation prophecies and in the 1830's became convicted to preach on the fulfillment of these time prophecies, particularly Daniel 8:14, culminating on October 22, 1844. Unto 2300 days then the



sanctuary will be cleansed, was calculated to finish 1844, and the event was thought to be the second coming.

Well, Christ didn't return and there was a great disappointment, with the vast majority of the Millerites returning to their denominational churches. A handful of those Millerites continued to study and came to believe that the date was rightly calculated, but the error was in understanding the sanctuary. The Millerites understood the sanctuary to be the earth, but in fact it is not, and they discovered there is a "heavenly sanctuary" and this prophecy refers to this sanctuary, not the earth.

This led to the development of the pre-advent judgment doctrine in which the church teaches that in 1844 Christ entered the MH place of the heavenly sanctuaries to initiate the final phase of the work before the advent.

But this doctrine has been debated in the church since its inception and has been under a progressive transformation since its inception. Initially, after the earth as the sanctuary was rejected, it was taught that 1844 was the close of probation and no one else could be saved after that date. Then it was updated to teach that Christ's mission changed at that date from Holy to Most Holy Place, and investigation of records began to determine who would be taken in the first resurrection. Later the idea that angels needed to be certain the saved were "safe to save" was proposed, and the idea that God's government was being vindicated in this process was included.

- 1887 Dudley Canright questioned the doctrine and chose to leave the church and became a strong critic of the church.
- 1905 Albion Ballenger was disfellowshipped for questioning the doctrine.
- 1930 William Fletcher resigned because of questions about this doctrine.
- 1931 Louis Conradi had his ministerial credential removed and chose to leave the church because of questions about the sanctuary doctrine.
- 1945 Harold Snide from what is now SAU withdrew from the church because of questions about this doctrine.
- 1956 Robert Greive, an Australian leader, had questions about the investigative judgment had his ministerial credentials withdrawn and then left the church.
- 1979 Desmond Ford went public with questions about the Sanctuary which resulted in Glacier View meetings in 1980, and the church revoked his ministerial credentials one month later, and it was reported that that resulted in 182 pastors in Australia and New Zealand resigning between 1980 and 1988, which was about 40% of the pastorate in that region.
- Since 1980 most people in the SDA church have been afraid to ask legitimate questions for fear the church administration will take action against them.

So, can we explore the question of the investigative judgment, honestly, with sincere hearts, searching for the unfolding truth, or must we shy away, parrot back the standard lines and refuse to "investigate" the investigative judgment doctrine?



I will share my view on this, as long as we can agree that my view is not the final word, it is understandably developing. I may not have every portion correct, and don't claim to, but only to honestly investigate the question seeking for answers that harmonize with the totality of Scripture.

Can we do this? Or must we conclude there is nothing more to understand or learn and close our minds to any advancing light?

Because this is a unique SDA teaching, we will necessarily review some of the documentation from the early years of the SDA church.

My approach is upon the landscape of the Great Controversy over God's character which began before humankind was created. This landscape informs us of this issue and what is actually transpiring.

As you review this doctrine do any questions come to your mind? As I was studying this topic several questions came to my mind:

- Why does the Heavenly Sanctuary need cleansing, and from what?
- By what means is it cleansed, and who cleanses it?
- Is this cleansing related to judgment?
- If so, who is being judged?
- Why does it take so long?
- Who needs the investigation?
- Who is being investigated?
- What relevance does any of this have for me here on earth?
- Does the Bible teach any sanctuary in existence, other than the one in heaven, in 1844 and since?

Why do we need to build on history? Why can't we just accept what the founders of the church have laid down and stick with that? Well, one of the founders, Ellen G. White, said in 1900, long after the foundational understanding was laid:

“The significance of the Jewish economy is **not yet fully comprehended**. Truths vast and profound are shadowed forth in its rites and symbols. The gospel is the key that unlocks its mysteries. Through a knowledge of the plan of redemption, its truths are opened to the understanding. **Far more than we do**, it is our privilege to understand these wonderful themes.” COL 133.

As a physician one of the first principles we are taught is to diagnose because if the diagnosis is wrong, most of the time, the treatment will be wrong. So we need to start with some diagnostic questions:

1. What sanctuary needed cleansing?
2. What is the problem with the sanctuary that it needs cleansing? And then after answering these two questions we can answer
3. How is the sanctuary cleansed?



What sanctuary needs cleansing? The founders of the SDA church established that the “heavenly sanctuary” needs cleansing, but, is that the *only* sanctuary the Bible teaches that needs cleansing? Paul tells us of another sanctuary that needs cleansing,

“Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.” (1 Corinthians 3:16,17).

Do you and I need cleansing from sin? Is this part of the sanctuary message? If so how? Again from one of the SDA founders:

“In the building of the sanctuary as a dwelling place for God, Moses was directed to make all things according to the pattern of things in the heavens. God called him into the mount, and revealed to him the heavenly things, and in their similitude the tabernacle, with all that pertained to it, was fashioned.

“So to **Israel**, whom He desired to **make His dwelling place**, He revealed His glorious ideal of *character*. The pattern was shown them in the mount when the law was given from Sinai and when God passed by before Moses and proclaimed, "The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth." Exodus 34:6. ..

“Through Christ was to be fulfilled the **purpose** of which the **tabernacle was a symbol**-- that glorious building, its walls of glistening gold reflecting in rainbow hues the curtains inwrought with cherubim, the fragrance of ever-burning incense pervading all, the priests robed in spotless white, and in the deep mystery of the inner place, above the mercy seat, between the figures of the bowed, worshiping angels, the glory of the Holiest. **In all, God desired His people to read His purpose for the human soul.** It was the same purpose long afterward set forth by the apostle Paul, speaking by the Holy Spirit:

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17. (Education 34-36).

“In the cleansing of the temple, Jesus was announcing His mission as the Messiah, and entering upon His work. That temple, erected for the abode of the divine Presence, was designed to be an object lesson for Israel and for the world. From eternal ages it was God's purpose that **every created being**, from the bright and holy seraph to **man, should be a temple for the indwelling of the Creator.** Because of sin, humanity ceased to be a temple for God. Darkened and defiled by evil, the heart of man no longer revealed the glory of the Divine One. But by the incarnation of the Son of God, the purpose of Heaven is fulfilled. God dwells in humanity, and **through saving grace the heart of man becomes again His temple.** God designed that the temple at Jerusalem should be a continual witness to the high destiny open to every soul. But the Jews had not understood the significance of the building they regarded with so much pride. They did not yield themselves as holy temples for the Divine Spirit. The courts of the temple at Jerusalem, filled with the tumult of unholy traffic, represented all too truly the temple of the heart, defiled by the presence of sensual passion and unholy thoughts. **In**



cleansing the temple from the world's buyers and sellers, Jesus announced His mission to cleanse the heart from the defilement of sin,--from the earthly desires, the selfish lusts, the evil habits, that corrupt the soul. "The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. But who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? for He is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: and He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver." Mal. 3:1-3. (DA 161).

So what sanctuary needs cleansing?

Well certainly the sanctuary of the human soul needs cleansing.

Was this sanctuary still on the earth in 1844?

One of the assumptions made by the Millerites was that the sanctuary was the earth, the cleansing was the second coming. When the Lord didn't come some people reevaluated and drew a conclusion: The Bible doesn't teach the earth is the sanctuary. The OT sanctuary wasn't on the earth at that time, so **they concluded the only sanctuary left** to be cleansed was the one in heaven. Is that the only sanctuary, according to Scripture? No, the sanctuary of the human soul needs to be cleansed as well.

Then what about the "heavenly sanctuary"? Does it need cleansing? First, what is the heavenly sanctuary? Does inspiration give us any insight as to what constitutes the sanctuary in heaven? From what is it built?

"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's **HOUSE** [sanctuary/temple], built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building [sanctuary/temple] is joined together and rises to become a **HOLY TEMPLE** in the Lord. And in him **YOU** too [you all] are being built together to become a **dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit**. Ephesians 2:19-22.

"As you come to him, the living Stone--rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him-- **YOU** also, like **LIVING STONES** [building blocks of the Temple], are being built into a **SPIRITUAL HOUSE** [Temple] to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." 1 Pet 2:4,5.

From the Bible, if we use it, then we must conclude the sanctuary in heaven is built by God, without human hands, and the building material IS intelligent beings. Did some of the founders of the SDA church think this?

There are many quotes, like the two I gave above that any reasonable person would understand teaches God's true tabernacle is built out of intelligent beings. But here is another, and there are more, that leave no doubt:



The first tabernacle, built according to God's directions, was indeed blessed of Him. The people thus were preparing themselves to worship in the temple not made with hands--a temple in the heavens. The stones of the Temple built by Solomon were all prepared at the quarry and then brought to the Temple site. They came together without the sound of ax or hammer. The timbers were also fitted in the forest. The furniture was likewise brought to this house all prepared for use. {3MR 231.3}

Even so, the mighty cleaver of truth has **taken out a people from the quarry of the world and is fitting this people, who profess to be the children of God, for a place in His heavenly temple.** We want the cleaver of truth to do its work for us. **We are taken from the quarry of the world. The material must not be a dead substance but living souls, and these souls must be brought out of the quarry of the world, where the hand of God can fit them for the temple in heaven.** We are here as probationers, and we must pass under the hand of God. All rough edges and rough surfaces must be removed and **we must be stones fitted for the building.** We are brought into church capacity with defects of character, but we must not retain them. **We must be fitted and squared for the building. We must be "laborers together with God," for we are "God's husbandry," we are "God's building."** In view of this we must see that our temple is not defiled with sin. We should be lively stones, not dead ones, but live ones that will reflect the image of Christ. We must be worshipers in spirit and in truth. {3MR 231.4}

So does the sanctuary of the human soul need cleansing? And, what about the sanctuary in heaven? If it is constructed out of beings then would it need cleansing

Satan defiles the heavenly sanctuary by defiling the membership of the church here on earth, who are the actual building blocks of that heavenly house.

So, the sanctuary in heaven *and* the sanctuary of the human soul, both need cleansing! Then from what do they need cleansing?

Let's start with the heavenly sanctuary, what defiles the heavenly sanctuary?

“From the **opening of the great controversy** it has been Satan's purpose to **misrepresent God's character** and to excite rebellion against His law, and this work appears to be crowned with success.” (PP 338).

Satan, the angel formerly known as Lucifer, occupied the position of covering cherub. Where did the covering cherub stand? Where was his place in heaven? In the Most Holy Place in the sanctuary in heaven. Before man ever sinned, before man even existed, Lucifer sinned in the sanctuary in heaven misrepresenting God's character. The first defilement of the sanctuary in heaven was not your sin and my sin it was Lucifer's sin, his lies about God, his misrepresentations about the character of God, which started right in the heavenly throne room, and which defiled the sanctuaries of heavenly beings. 1/3 of the angels were defiled, the unity, the peace, the sanctuary in heaven was disrupted:



- You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones.
- ¹⁵ You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you.
- ¹⁶ Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones.
- ¹⁷ Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth;
I made a spectacle of you before kings.
- ¹⁸ By your many sins and **dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries.** Ezek 28:14-18

From one of the SDA founders:

“Satan had accused God of requiring self-denial of the angels, when he knew nothing of what it meant himself, and when he would not himself make any self-sacrifice for others. This was the **accusation** that Satan made against God in heaven; and after the evil one was expelled from heaven, he continually charged the Lord with exacting service which he would not render himself. **Christ came to the world to meet these false accusations, and to reveal the Father.**” (RH, February 18, 1890).

“God was represented as **severe, exacting, revengeful, and arbitrary.** He was pictured as one who could take pleasure in the sufferings of his creatures. The **very attributes that belonged to the character of Satan,** the evil one represented as belonging to the character of God.” (Signs of the Times January 20, 1890).

So, from what does the sanctuary need cleansing? The heavenly sanctuary, first, needs to be cleansed from Satan’s lies about God, that God is selfish, unwilling to serve, that He is severe, exacting, revengeful and arbitrary. And secondly, as our founders have established, the heavenly sanctuary needs to be cleansed from the sins of the people.

But what about the sanctuary of the human soul, from what does it need cleansing?

“Eve **believed** the words of Satan, and the **belief of that falsehood in regard to God's character, changed the condition and character of both herself and husband.** They were changed from good and obedient children into transgressors...” (RH, January 5, 1886 par. 8).

What was the first thing that defiled the sanctuary of the human soul? Lies about God! It was not what we call sin, the passions, lusts, earthliness. The first thing to contaminate the Spirit Temple was lies about God. The exact same thing that contaminated the Heavenly Sanctuary! It was only after the Spirit Temple was contaminated with lies about God that it was further defiled with passions, the selfish lusts, earthly desires and evil habits, but only **after** the mind was already contaminated with lies about God.



So from what does the sanctuary need cleansing?

- The heavenly sanctuary needs cleansing from the lies that Satan told about God and the recorded sins of the people.
- And the Spirit Temple, the sanctuary of the human soul, needs cleansing from the lies that Satan told about God and defilement of sin, the earthly desires, the selfish lusts, the evil habits.
- Both sanctuaries need cleansing from the exact same things!
- If this is confusing, how we as individuals can be temples, but collectively also be a sanctuary – consider building a super computer, which can be done from multiple individual computers connected in parallel. If some of the individual computers are infected with a virus, then the entire supercomputer can be infected, and certainly won't work properly. In order to "cleanse" the super computer, one must cleanse each individual computer that makes up the whole.
- Likewise, the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary IS the cleansing of the individual members who make up the whole.

Now how is the prophecy of Daniel 8 related to the cleansing of these two sanctuaries?

In this chapter there is a little horn power described as defiling the sanctuary, but the little horn power is not the ultimate enemy of God. He is just one of the many faces God's true enemy uses. Let's look at the power behind the little horn?

The Little Horn Power	The Power Behind the Little Horn
Grew great but not by own power	Received power from Dragon Rev. 13:2
Threw starry host down & trampled them	Dragon's tail swept 1/3 of stars from heaven Rev. 12:3
Set itself up to be like the Prince	Dragon fought against Prince Michael Rev. 12:7
Took away the daily sacrifice	Dragon created false system Mark 4:15, 2Cor 11:14, 2Thes 2:9
Brought the sanctuary low	Dragon establishes synagogue of Satan Rev 2:9, 3:9
Throws truth to ground & deceives	Dragon is father of lies John 8:44
Persecutes the saints	Dragon persecutes the saints Rev. 12:13-17

Where does the little horn get his power? From the dragon - Satan! But now the question is: what is the dragon's power?

"Since the children have flesh and blood, he [Christ] too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy **him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil**" Hebrews 2:14.



Did you know that the devil holds the power of death? What is the power of death? And how can the devil hold it? Christ gives us the insight we need:

John 17:3 “Now this **is eternal life**: that they may **know you**, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”

What is eternal life? Knowing God! If eternal life is knowing God, then what would eternal death be? Not knowing God! Then what would Satan’s power be? The lies that he tells about God, that we believe, that keep us from knowing God!

- What was the first thing that contaminated the heavenly sanctuary? Lies about God!
- What was the first thing that contaminated the sanctuary of the human soul? Lies about God!
- And what was the first lie told in heaven by Satan, according to one of the founders of the church, who helped form the investigative judgment doctrine?
- **In the opening of the great controversy**, Satan had declared that the law of God could not be obeyed, that justice was inconsistent with mercy, and that, should the law be broken, it would be impossible for the sinner to be pardoned. **Every sin must meet its punishment, urged Satan**; and if God should remit the punishment of sin, He would not be a God of truth and justice. When men broke the law of God, and defied His will, Satan exulted. It was proved, he declared, that the law could not be obeyed; man could not be forgiven. Because he, after his rebellion, had been banished from heaven, Satan claimed that the human race must be forever shut out from God's favor. God could not be just, he urged, and yet show mercy to the sinner. {DA 761.4}

So what defiles the soul temple?

- The lies about God that Adam and Eve believed that broke their trust and confidence and relationship with God;
- The continued lies that we believe that prevent us from trusting God and being reconciled to Him.
- If those persistent lies about God are not removed by the truth about God that Jesus Christ has brought, then Satan’s principles of selfishness continue to grow – the earthly desires, the selfish lusts, the evil habits.
- These destructive elements strengthen within and instead of Christlike character developing we develop the character of the rebel, the Satanic character;
- and the soul, the individual created with dignity, nobility of character, in God’s image to represent Him to an onlooking universe, the being designed to be the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit, instead of revealing Godlike character, becomes a synagogue of Satan and the habitation of devils and reveals the Satanic character, ultimately ending in desolation and destruction.
- The abomination that causes desolation is the abomination of lies about God, told by Satan in heaven and religious systems on earth, that results in the desolation of the image of God in man, the destruction of character and ultimately the desolation of the sanctuary – the sanctuary of the human soul.
- This abomination is manifest from the Dragon – who first lied in heaven, that God is unforgiving, every sin must be punished urged Satan (DA 762), and God’s law is imposed, but



this abomination is manifest through the church that has accepted a change in God's law, that it is like Imperial Rome's, imposed rather than the truth that God's law is the design protocol upon which life is built. This distortion leads to multiple false doctrines that contaminate the mind, incite fear of God and defile the Spirit Temple.

- God needs to cleanse our minds from the false constructs that cause fear, legalism, penal atonement models, punishing God concepts and bring us back into trust relationship with Him, so He can then cleanse us from fear and selfishness and prepare us to walk into heaven!
- We are called back to worship the Designer, the Creator and reject the dictator view of God that is promulgated in penal atonement theories.

In fact the little horn power is said to make war and be winning until something happens, what?

Daniel 7:21,22 gives insight:

As I watched, this horn was waging war against the saints and defeating them, until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom.

The above rendering is from the NIV which many, who assume the legal model, prefer. But does the meaning of the passage change when we read from the King James Version?

Until the Ancient of days came, and **judgment was given to the saints** of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. Daniel 7:22

Which translation is more accurate? The Hebrew word translated "pronounced" actually means "to give" or "to impart" and thus the KJV would be more accurate in this context.

Why do the saints of God need judgment or discernment imparted to them? The Daniel text tells us the little horn warred against the saints and was defeating them. What kind of warfare was going on?

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. **We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought** to make it obedient to Christ. 2 Cor 10:3-5

What kind of war? Where is it being fought? This is a war between truth and lies, fought in our minds and centering on God's character! Amazingly, Paul makes the connection to the cleansing of the Temple even closer and shows how the Temple is connected to this war going on in our minds:

Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's **temple**, proclaiming himself to be God. 2Thes 2:2-4



Paul is describing the exact same events as Daniel 7 in which evil powers war against the saints and oppose God. In the aftermath of Christ's death, resurrection and ascension into heaven, did this man of lawlessness ride into heaven overthrow God, set himself up in God's temple in heaven and proclaim himself to be God? No, where did this happen? In the Spirit Temple! In our minds!

Therefore, the cleansing of the temple as described in the Bible is the cleansing of our minds from the lies about God, which wins us to trust and results in our cleansing from sin.

We have identified the two sanctuaries, the sanctuary in heaven and the sanctuary of the human soul.

- Both were defiled by lies about God.
- Both defiled by the sins of the people, either the actual sin in the Spirit Temple or the recorded sin in the Heavenly Temple.
- But what is the connection between sin in us and our record in heaven? In other words, why is it so vital to cleanse those records, and how are they cleansed?
 - “Remember, **your character is being daguerreotyped [photographed]** by the great Master Artist in the record books of heaven, as minutely as the face is reproduced upon the polished plate of the artist. **What do the books of heaven say in your case? Are you conforming your character to the Pattern, Jesus Christ?** Are you washing your robes of character and making them white in the blood of the Lamb? "Behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be" [Revelation 22:12]. . . . {Testimonies on Sexual Behavior, Adultery and Divorce 62.1}
 - Our **personal identity is preserved in the resurrection**, though not the same particles of matter or material substance as went into the grave. The wondrous works of God are a mystery to man. **The spirit, the character of man, is returned to God, there to be preserved. In the resurrection every man will have his own character.** God in His own time will call forth the dead, giving again the breath of life, and bidding the dry bones live. The same form will come forth, but it will be free from disease and every defect. It lives again **bearing the same individuality** of features, so that friend will recognize friend. There is no law of God in nature which shows that God gives back the same identical particles of matter which composed the body before death. God shall give the righteous dead a body that will please Him. {6BC 1093.2}

The heavenly sanctuary is composed of living beings. Currently, the individualities of those who have died are stored safe with Christ in heaven. What is recorded there is your character, your heart, your individuality. Thus, the heavenly sanctuary is contaminated by us, literally. If we are defiled our characters are defiled and they are recorded there. Thus, the cleansing of the sanctuary entails, just what the Bible teaches, Christ purifying and cleansing His bride, the cleansing of our characters, the removal of defects from us. The records in heaven merely record the reality of our hearts and minds.

We have identified that both sanctuaries have contaminated by lies about God and the sins of the people, now we must explore what it is that cleanses.



What cleanses the sanctuary? What cleanses the sanctuary in heaven and the sanctuary of the human soul?

And of course we all know this answer, we have been taught this since childhood- “The blood of Jesus” cleanses. But what does that mean? How does the blood of Jesus cleanse?

Jesus said,

“I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.” (John 6:53-55).

We know that Jesus was not promoting cannibalism, so His words must mean something else, what does it mean to drink His blood and eat His flesh?

“In the **study of the Bible** the converted soul eats the **flesh** and drinks the **blood** of the Son of God, which He himself interprets as the receiving and doing of His words, that are spirit and life.” (Fundamentals of Christian Education 378).

Could the flesh and blood of Christ have something to do with truth? Could truth have something to do with cleansing the sanctuary?

“The leaven of **truth** works a change in the whole man, making the coarse refined, the rough gentle, the selfish generous. By **it [the truth]** the impure are cleansed, washed in the **blood of the Lamb.**” (Christ’s Object Lessons 102).

The blood is symbolic of the truth that Jesus brought, the truth about God which wins to trust, but the blood is symbolic of more: Leviticus 17:11,14 tell us that the life is in the blood.

Thus the blood is also symbolic of the perfect life of Jesus, which those who trust Him receive. Thus the two phases of Christ’s mission, the two phases in our salvation: Christ came to reveal truth to win to trust, but Christ also came to develop a perfect character which He offers as a free gift to all who trust Him.

Therefore, the blood is symbolic of the truth revealed by Christ which cleanses the Spirit Temple of the lies about God and wins to trust and the blood is also symbolic of His perfect life, His perfect character which is reproduced in the Spirit Temple by the working of the Holy Spirit. Thus to partake of His blood is to partake of the truth about God and the character of Christ, which cleanses the Spirit Temple from sin.

In the book The Great Controversy Ellen White states,

“The coming of Christ as our high priest to the most holy place, for the cleansing of the sanctuary, brought to view in **Daniel 8:14**; the coming of the Son of man to the Ancient of



Days, as presented in **Daniel 7:13**; and the coming of the Lord to His temple, foretold by **Malachi[3:1-3]**, are descriptions of the same event; and this is also represented by the coming of the bridegroom to the marriage, described by Christ in the parable of the ten virgins, of Matthew 25.” (p. 426).

Notice we have four texts that describe the same event. Let’s look at the first three.

Daniel 8:14 “Unto 2300 days and then shall the sanctuary be **cleansed**.” If you look in the SDA Bible commentary you will discover that the Hebrew word translated **cleansed** is more accurately translated **justified**. Unto 2300 days and then shall the sanctuary be **justified**.

But what does justified mean? To set right, to put in order, to put what is out of line back in line. For those of you who have a word processor on your computer there is a command at the top which allows you to **justify** your margins. If you justify the margins what happens? Everything that is out of line is put in line, everything that is out of order is put in order, everything that is out of harmony is put in harmony, everything that is wrong is set right.

Now the question is: what needs justifying? What is wrong that needs to be set right? What is out of line that needs to be put in line? What is out of order that needs reordering? What is out of harmony that needs to be brought back into harmony? **The mind, heart and character of mankind!** Let’s see if the evidence supports this.

Remember in the quote above four texts are all referring to the same event. We have just examined Daniel 8:14, but look at the Malachi 3:1-3 which is describing the same event,

“...The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his **temple**...behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a **refiner's fire or a launderer's soap**. He will sit as a **refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them** like gold and silver.”

What does a refiner’s fire and launderer’s soap do? They cleanse! Remember Daniel 8:14 unto 2300 days and then the sanctuary will be cleansed or justified or set right. And what does Malachi say He cleanses when He comes to His temple? The Levites!

Well who are the Levites?

“**You** also, like living stones, are being built into a **spiritual house to be a holy priesthood**, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” (1Pet 2:4)

What is another name for a “spiritual house”? A sanctuary!

“You also, like living stones, are being built into a sanctuary...” And just a few verses down Peter repeats this reality for emphasis, “But you are a chosen people, a **royal priesthood...**” (1Pet 2:9).



2300 days then shall the sanctuary be justified or set right, 2300 days and He shall come to His temple and He shall purify or cleanse the Levites – the priesthood of believers, the sanctuary of the human soul. How does the cleansing of the Spirit Temple, the sanctuary of the human soul affect the sanctuary in heaven? How are the two sanctuaries related in this cleansing? Well there was another text referring to the same event, the Daniel 7 text. “The Ancient of Days took his seat...The court was seated, and the books were opened.” (Daniel 7:9,10).

What books and for what purpose? Two options:

Roman Imposed Law	Designer Law of love
Books have list of sins	Books have record of God’s action in lives of sinners
Heaven investigates sinners	Sinners investigate God
God determines innocence/guilt	Sinners determine whether to trust God

What is more likely?

- God is love 1Jn 4:8
- Love keeps no record of wrongs 1Cor 13:5
- But the Bible says there are heavenly records – what does it mean?

When I was in med school, doing ER rotation...

The records are there to exonerate and defend God, NOT condemn and judge us!

What did the war in heaven, initiated by Lucifer, start over? Lucifer alleged God could not be trusted. How did Satan spread his rebellion to earth? He deceived our first parents in regard to God’s trustworthiness.

We are fighting a thought war and are to demolish everything that sets itself up against “the knowledge of God!” (2Cor 10:5). Jesus said that life eternal is “knowing God” (John 17:3)

In Romans 3:4 Paul tells us that God is the One on trial, the One accused and the One who will be proved innocent:

God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when **thou art judged**. KJV

May it never be! Rather, let God be found true, though every man be found a liar, as it is written, “That You may be justified in Your words, And **prevail when You are judged**.” NASB



Certainly not! God must be true, even though every human being is a liar. As the scripture says, “You must be shown to be right when you speak; **you must win your case when you are being tried.**” GNT

No! God will continue to be true even when every person is false. As the Scriptures say: “So you will be shown to be right when you speak, **and you will win your case.**” NCV

In heaven, when God opens the books, who is being examined, God or us? Whose books are these? Have we kept these books or has God kept these books? These books are God’s books. Why would God need to open His books and why would God need to open His books about us?

In this time, this special period of history, this Day of Atonement time, when Satan is standing and accusing, God is saying, “I want to take away your defective and damaged character and restore in you my character!” Right now, today, God wants to heal you and me! In this post 1844 period it is a time for cleansing from sin, for the restoration of the image of God within, to have new garments of Christlike character.

“This is the **covenant** I will make with the house of Israel **after that time**, declares the Lord.”

After what time? Could it be the longest time prophecy in the Bible, the longest time prophecy in the Bible that has to do with the cleansing of the sanctuary?

“I will put my **laws** in their **minds** and write them on their **hearts.**”

The law is a transcript of God’s character. I will put my character in their hearts and minds. I will clothe them with rich clothing. It all means the same thing, the recreation of Christlike character within. The Spirit Temple being cleansed!

“I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‘**Know the Lord,**’ because they will **all know me**, from the least of them to the greatest.” (Hebrews 8:10,11).

“This is life eternal that they might **know you** the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent (John 17:3).

The lies of Satan have been blown away. They are no longer operating in the mind. We are back in unity with God. We are back in unity with Christ. We are back in oneness – at-one-ment! The day of at-one-ment, the day of recreation of Christlike character within!

Imagine you have a child who has metastatic cancer, cancer all over their body. The doctors have told you the case is terminal; there is nothing that can be done. But you have heard of a doctor out west that no matter what disease the person has that goes to him, they always leave with a clean bill of health. So you pack up your child. You gather all the medical records, the bone scans, biopsy reports, CT Scans, MRI’s, everything that documents the extent of the disease and you go to this doctor. Finally,



you get your day with the doctor. You hand him the medical records documenting in great detail the extent of the cancer which is ravaging your child's body. Then the doctor takes the records and begins to remove all the pages documenting any record of disease and inserts clean blank sheets of paper. And when he has replaced the entire record with blank paper he hands it back and says, "There, no more record of disease. You go on home." Are you satisfied? If you have a doctrine that teaches Christ is in heaven cleansing record books without doing something in you, you are in trouble!

But what if you go to this doctor and he looks at the records documenting the cancer in your child, and then he goes and examines and begins to intervene *in your child*, what do you want to happen? You want the cancer to go into *remission*! "Without the shedding of blood there is no remission" (Hebrews 9:22). When cancer goes into remission the cancerous cells remit to their original, normal, healthy non-cancerous state. The cancer is gone. Without the shedding of blood we could not be remitted to our original sin-free state, to our original Christlikeness of character! Without the shedding of blood, without the truth being internalized, without the victorious life and self-sacrificing death of Christ we cannot be restored, we cannot be healed!

And so, the doctor treats your child and the medical records shows the disease, shows the damage caused by the disease, but also shows the treatment applied and the record now shows your child is cancer free! God has records in heaven showing our sickness of heart and mind and the damage sin has caused in us. And hopefully, His records are also showing that we are partaking of His remedy, His treatment, and the records are showing that the sickness of sin is being removed, the rich garments are being put on, the cancer of sin is going into remission, the character of Christ is being reproduced within, the law of God is being written on the heart!

"The **cases** of all are pending in the **heavenly sanctuary**. Day by day angels of God are watching the **development of character**... All defects must be remedied. The **character** must be assimilated to the **character of Christ**... At an infinite cost a fountain has been prepared for **our cleansing**. In the **blood** of the Son of God **we may wash our garments of character**, and make them white." (ST, April 17, 1901).

"Fear God and give him **glory**, because the hour of **his** judgment has come." (Rev. 14:7). What is God's glory? His character, and how do we give Him glory? By allowing Him to heal us so we reveal His character at the time of **His** judgment! "Through trial and persecution the **glory--the character--**of God is revealed in His chosen ones." (AA 576).

Daniel is told in vision that an evil power would arise that would lie, distort, misrepresent God and defile the Spirit Temple by getting humans to accept, worship and teach a false picture of God. That it would be 2300 years before enough truth would be recovered for Christ to empower His people on earth with judgment to break free from the lies and be cleansed in their minds and characters, which is confirmed by Mal 3, the cleansing of the Levites.

In summary, what cleanses the two sanctuaries? The two sanctuaries need to be cleansed from Satan's lies about God. What cleanses us from the lies about God? The "blood of Christ" "the life of Christ"



the significance of truth about God revealed by Jesus. Every one of the specific lies that Satan made about God was answered in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ!

But after the sanctuaries are cleansed from the lies about God they also need to be cleansed from the sins of the people, the Spirit Temple from the damage that sin has caused and the Heavenly Temple from the record of sin. What cleanses us from this? God actually, literally, genuinely heals the damage, recreates us in character, rewrites His laws on the heart and mind, restores His image within! When the lies of God have been removed so that we again trust God and open the heart to Him, then the Holy Spirit is poured out and takes what Christ has achieved and reproduces it in us. The Holy Spirit actually dwells in us, dwells in the Spirit Temple healing, transforming, recreating us into Godlikeness! And thus we are cleansed and the records in heaven document this healing and transformation!

And what about the other lies of Satan, that God is unjust if He should forgive and heal and restore sinners? That it's not fair for God to save human sinners but not save him and his evil angels? That God is not allowed to forgive and pardon us? That sin requires God to exact punishment? How do these false allegations get resolved? How are the sanctuaries cleansed from these lies?

God opens His books and allows Himself to be investigated! God allows his conduct in handling the sin problem to be investigated! And He is glorified in His methods and principles as they are demonstrated to bring life, to bring health, to bring healing, to bring restoration, to bring unity – at-one-ment. And He is glorified in the lives of the saints who bear witness that even though we were branches burning in the fire, branches damaged and marred by the fire, that He can put out the fire of sin in us and actually cleanse and restore and recreated us to be just like Jesus!

Opening Questions:

- Why does the Heavenly Sanctuary need cleansing, and from what?
 - Because Satan told lies about God which caused deviation from God's design and fear and selfishness has damaged his children
- By what means is it cleansed, and who cleanses it?
 - By the victory of Jesus Christ, who revealed the truth and procured a perfect character, which we receive by trust
- Is this cleansing related to judgment?
 - Yes, it is only by coming to the right judgment about our situation, our condition, God, His character, methods, Christ and what He has done and choose to surrender to God and cooperate with Him that we can be healed/cleansed
- If so, who is being judged?
 - God has been lied about and thus God has provided the truth, that we must evaluate and judge in order to choose to trust Him
- Why does it take so long?
 - Because Satan has a counterfeit to God's law, an imposed system, that has infected the church and darkens the minds and misrepresents the truth about God, and results in a false system in which people claim legal pardon, but don't experience restored trust with God nor regeneration of character within.



- Who needs the investigation?
 - We do, we need to investigate the truth and be set free by it
- Who is being investigated?
 - God
- And what relevance does any of this have for me here on earth?
 - It is the process of conversion and transformation which is perfectly recorded in heaven, thus cleansing the record of my life from the defects of sin
- Does the Bible teach any sanctuary in existence, other than the one in heaven, in 1844 and since?
 - Yes, the Spirit Temple

SABBATH

The lesson states in the first paragraph, “The visions of Daniel 7 and 8 reveal that at some point in history this heavenly work of Christ in our behalf had entered a new phase, the judgment.... (From last paragraph) He judges in their behalf before the onlooking universe and grants them entrance into Christ’s eternal kingdom, the culmination of all their hopes as followers of the Lord.”

Thoughts?

Which law model is this through? Is our eternal destiny determined by God’s judgment of us, or our judgment of Him?

Does God’s judgments of us determine our destiny, or confirm our diagnosis, the actual condition of our hearts? Does God’s judgment determine the condition of our hearts? Then what does? Our judgments of Him!

When God judged “Ephraim is tied to his idols leave him alone.” Did God’s judgment cause Ephraim to be tied to his idols and beyond healing?

Likewise, in the judgment in heaven, to the degree God makes judgments, it is only the accurate diagnosis of what condition we are actually in. What determines our condition, and thus our eternal destiny, is NOT God’s judgment of us, but our judgment to trust or not to trust Him with our lives!

SUNDAY

The lesson focuses on Daniel 7 and claims it is a judicial judgment scene, but the text does not actually say so, that has to be read in. What the text actually describes is the coronation of Christ. Thus the court that is set is not a judicial court but a royal court:

“As I looked, “thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him.



Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened....“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like **a son of man**, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. **He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him.** His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. Daniel 7:9,10,13,14

Notice, nothing about judgment, judicial findings are expressed in the text, nothing about sinners standing before the judgment seat of God is expressed in the text.

This is the Royal Court of the universe which is holding the Coronation of Christ! Some are uncomfortable with this conclusion and rest their entire position on the Hebrew word "*diyn*" which is translated "court" claiming this Hebrew word refers to a judicial proceeding. I refer them to *The Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* published in 1980 by Moody Press which supports "*diyn*" as I have rendered it above.

Read bottom pink section, "Imagine being..." does such a picture cause you to have more or less fear? As soon as Adam and Eve sinned they ran and hid because they were afraid. Fear is part of the infection of sin. But perfect love casts out fear.

Who wants to promote ideas about God that incite fear? Satan, because such ideas undermine trust.

Consider the analogy, used last week in our seminar, of a IV heroin user, who having used dirty needles is now sick. Does he want to go to the magistrate and be examined, judged and sentenced? No! Does he want to go to the doctor and be examined, judged (diagnosed) and sentenced (treatment prescribed)? Yes.

The imposed law concept is the infection from the little horn power, which began in heaven with Satan's lies that sin must be punished, and has led to this false idea of a dictator god who sits in judgment and hands out punishments.

But the truth is that God is the Designer, the Creator, and sin deviates from His design and He accurately diagnosis what is wrong and will heal and restore all who trust Him.

MONDAY

The last paragraph states, "We cannot answer the charges of Satan against us. Christ alone can make an effectual plea in our behalf. He is able to silence the accuser with arguments not founded upon our merits, but on His own."

Thoughts?



To whom is Christ pleading? Would He not be presenting His pleas to those who are being negatively impacted by Satan's accusations? In other words, to those who actually listen to and consider what Satan has to say?

Are there any beings in heaven who listen to what Satan has to say?

From the same author who wrote the quote above consider this:

Satan saw that his disguise was torn away. His administration was laid open before the **unfallen angels and before the heavenly universe**. He had revealed himself as a murderer. By shedding the blood of the Son of God, **he had uprooted himself from the sympathies of the heavenly beings. Henceforth his work was restricted**. Whatever attitude he might assume, **he could no longer await the angels as they came from the heavenly courts, and before them accuse Christ's brethren of being clothed with the garments of blackness and the defilement of sin**. The last link of sympathy between Satan and the heavenly world was broken. {DA 761.2}

What could Satan NOT do after the cross? Accuse us before the heavenly universe!

Then to whom is Satan presenting his accusations? To US!

“You are sinful. You have gone too far. You are too corrupt. God doesn't love sinners. Don't waste your time going to Jesus. Just give up. Your salvation is lost. You've committed the unpardonable sin.”

But Jesus makes an effectual plea – to whom? Who needs to hear Christ's pleading? This sinner burdened with guilt and shame, being assailed by Satan's accusations!

Thus, the Holy Spirit comes to us:

I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. JN 16:12,13

Notice Jesus has much to say to us, but He sends the Spirit, who speaks not for Himself, but only what He hears, from who? Jesus pleads, via the Spirit to you and me!

TUESDAY

The little horn wars against the saints and is winning, until judgment is imparted to the saints. As was discussed above, the war is over the knowledge of God and the little horn power introduced a false law, imposed law, with a false legal, penal system, which infects the minds of people and obstructs God's healing plan.



The little horn was winning until judgment, or discernment, was imparted to the saints such that they could reject the lies and come back to the truth about God as revealed in Jesus. Primarily, about His law as the law of love, the design protocols upon which life is built and thus Jesus mission to heal and save rather than pay legal penalties.

WEDNESDAY

The lesson speaks about God's love and justice. How would you describe God's justice?

If you were at the seminar last week how would you describe God's justice?

The little horn power, which promotes the imposed law concept, teaches that God's justice is the infliction of punishment. This is false.

God's justice, according to Scripture, is the delivering of the oppressed and healing the broken.

Thus, read the last paragraph, "The great controversy..." note dualism, the condition of good and evil existing together is eliminated.

Eastern religions teach eternal dualism that good and evil exist together for all eternity. Christianity, has been infected with this idea in the guise of two ideas:

1. Penal theologies in which God is the source of life, but also the source of death as He inflicts pain and suffering and death originates in God as the just punishment for sin
2. Eternal burning hell

As we discovered in the seminar last week, these are both lies and God is the source of life, but Satan is the murderer from the beginning, sin kills, not God and death does not originate or come from God!

The universe will be restored to oneness with God and dualism will be eliminated.

THURSDAY

Read first paragraph "Why would anyone..." those with penal views have difficult time understanding this, and create all kinds of false ideas to deal with it.

Like, God judges Jesus in our place, or our records get erased before God gets a look at them etc.

But, when we come back to the truth about God's law of love, we realize that God judging us is God diagnosing us, which is then followed by His healing and restoring us. So we pray like David, "search me and see the wicked way in me, create in me a clean heart oh God..."

The last paragraph states, in regard to the righteous, "their sins are forever blotted out..."



From where are the sins blotted out? From the hearts, minds and characters of the saved, NOT from the recorded history of the universe.

Read bottom pink, thoughts?

By teaching the truth about God's design for life, the law of love, and God's judgment is the diagnosis of our condition in order to heal.

FRIDAY

Read main paragraph, "Satan has an..." this is the same as what we discussed in Monday's lesson, Christ pleading to us because we are being duped by Satan's allegations.

Read and discuss questions 1 and 2

Has the SDA church presented the true gospel about God's character of love, or has it, like all other churches, been infected with imposed law and false penal legal models which misrepresent God and prevent the gospel from going to the world?