



4th Quarter 2013 – The Sanctuary

Lesson 1: The Heavenly Sanctuary

SABBATH

This week: each day was about a different aspect of the heavenly sanctuary

- a. Where does God live
- b. God's Residence
- c. Throne Room
- d. Worship in Heaven
- e. Courtroom
- f. Place of Salvation
- g. Statements about heaven with commentary.

What is the sanctuary doctrine?

From: <http://www.adventist.org/beliefs/fundamental/#24>.

Christ's Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary: There is a sanctuary in heaven, the true tabernacle which the Lord set up and not man. In it Christ ministers on our behalf, making available to believers the benefits of His atoning sacrifice offered once for all on the cross. He was inaugurated as our great High Priest and began His intercessory ministry at the time of His ascension. In 1844, at the end of the prophetic period of 2300 days, He 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. In that typical service the sanctuary was cleansed with the blood of animal sacrifices, but the heavenly things are purified with the perfect sacrifice of the blood of Jesus. The investigative judgment reveals to heavenly intelligences who among the dead are asleep in Christ and therefore, in Him, are deemed worthy to have part in the first resurrection. It also makes manifest who among the living are abiding in Christ, keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, and in Him, therefore, are ready for translation into His everlasting kingdom. This judgment vindicates the justice of God in saving those who believe in Jesus. It declares that those who have remained loyal to God shall receive the kingdom. The completion of this ministry of Christ will mark the close of human probation before the Second Advent. (Heb. 8:1-5; 4:14-16; 9:11-28; 10:19-22; 1:3; 2:16, 17; Dan. 7:9-27; 8:13, 14; 9:24-27; Num. 14:34; Eze. 4:6; Lev. 16; Rev. 14:6, 7; 20:12; 14:12; 22:12.)

My version:

There is a heavenly place where God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are united in performing functions for this time in behalf of this earth and the entire universe. At the conclusion of this work, Christ will come for his faithful children and the Great Controversy between God and His Adversary Satan will be concluded.



Mechanical Puzzles: I love to work mechanical things, including mechanical puzzles. Usually there is a central trick or key to solving the puzzle. When you first look at the puzzle, it may seem incomprehensible. Once you have figured out the puzzle, it is great! All you can see, is the solution. There are several ways of relating to others who haven't figured it out yet...

- a. Superiority (Pharisee)
- b. Proselytize (that is all they can talk about)

What gives a person the most enjoyment

- a. Figuring it out themselves
- b. If you tell them, they may "know" but really haven't experienced it.
- c. (Psa 34:8 GW) "Taste and see that the LORD is good. Blessed is the person who takes refuge in him." Or (Psa 34:8 GNB) "Find out for yourself how good the LORD is. Happy are those who find safety with him."

4. Why was the sanctuary doctrine such a big deal to the early Seventh-day Adventist believers and the former Millerite followers who formed this church?

- a. They were devastated by Great Disappointment
- b. They knew God had led them in the past, but this was a blocked path they couldn't see around.
- c. The presence of the Heavenly Sanctuary was a true life changing "Ahaa" moment.
- d. They learned something about God that was not possible for them to learn in any other way.

God had revealed everything to them, but it wasn't in their paradigm. When Christ revealed it we said, "AHA, So that is what God is really like."

- a. It wasn't just explanation of a mental puzzle
- b. We don't realize how far we have come from those first Ahaa moments.

If it was so good for the early Seventh-day Adventist believers, why is the Sanctuary motif not good news to the current Seventh-day Adventist church member?

- a. (<http://www.adventist.org/beliefs/> doesn't even mention it.)
- b. They don't understand it.
- c. We do not understand what Christ is really doing.
- d. We do not understand who God is and what He is really like.
- e. If God is who He says He is, then truly whatever He is doing in the Sanctuary is Good News.

Read the second paragraph of the Introduction to the Lesson"

- a. "The sanctuary formed the template to help us understand Jesus as our Sacrifice and High Priest."
- b. Realizing it was not understood correctly by the Children of Israel, shouldn't it be the other way around? Shouldn't Christ be the explanation of what should have gotten from the sanctuary and it's services.
- c. We should look at Christ as the true picture and then understand the sanctuary from what Christ has shown us.



The last sentence of the first paragraph is then true: “This earthly sanctuary, however, only modeled the heavenly one, which is the true center of God’s presence and of His activity in the universe.”

The second page: “The subject of the sanctuary was the key which unlocked the mystery of the disappointment of 1844. . . It revealed the position and work of His people.”

The last paragraph of the second page of the introduction: “The sanctuary discloses the heart of God. Studying the sanctuary will bring us close to the presence of the Supreme and to the personality of our Savior and draw us into a deeper personal relationship with Him.

But not if all we see is the furniture and ritual.

Second paragraph, page two, Introduction: “the sanctuary message is the Adventists’ unique doctrine.

Survey of coworkers:

- a. Word association
- b. What does this word mean?
- c. Use it in a sentence as if you were giving a hint at a spelling bee.
- d. Most common response: Church
 - i. The place in the church where you hold services.
- e. Second response
 - i. Safety
 - ii. A place where you are safe
 - a) A bird sanctuary
 - b) The dictator sought sanctuary in the church.
- f. I think it is telling that someone who has lived all their life within 15 miles of 6000 doctrine Seventh-day Adventists cannot come up with a single reference to the “unique doctrine” of the church is the sanctuary a safe place? For us?
- g. There is going to be a model of the Children of Israel’s mobile desert sanctuary set up on Standifer Gap within the next several weeks.
 - i. How much of the energy will be getting the furniture right?
 - ii. How much of my time is getting the character of God right?
 - iii. The fact that Jesus and the Father and the Holy Spirit are all working in Heaven, for my benefit.
 - iv. Unfortunately, the tabernacle is often no better than a mechanical puzzle, parts of which we still haven’t figured out.



MEMORY TEXT

“Then hear in heaven Your dwelling place their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.” 1 Kings 8:49

SABBATH

Does God need a dwelling place?

If He doesn't need one, why does He have one?

If He does need one, why does He need it?

Last sentence of Sabbath Afternoon's lesson: “What He is doing in the sanctuary is, indeed, for us.”

- a. Is it for anyone else?
- b. How about the unfallen angels?
- c. How about the unfallen worlds that have not sinned?
- d. Is what Christ is doing now or what He did on the cross for them as well?
- e. Do you have any scripture to support your conclusions?
 - i. (1Co 4:9) For it seems to me that God has given the very last place to us apostles, like people condemned to die in public as a spectacle for the whole world of angels and of human beings.
 - ii. (Col 1:19, 20) For it was by God's own decision that the Son has in himself the full nature of God. Through the Son, then, God decided to bring the whole universe back to himself. God made peace through his Son's blood on the cross and so brought back to himself all things, both on earth and in heaven.
 - iii. Eph 3:9-10 “. . . God, who is the Creator of all things, kept his secret hidden through all the past ages, (10) in order that at the present time, by means of the church, the angelic rulers and powers in the heavenly world might learn of his wisdom in all its different forms.
 - iv. 1Pe 1:12 God revealed to these prophets that their work was not for their own benefit, but for yours, as they spoke about those things which you have now heard from the messengers who announced the Good News by the power of the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. These are things which even the angels would like to understand.

SUNDAY

Opens with several Bible quotes

- a. Jeremiah 23:23, 24 “Do I not fill heaven and earth?”
- b. Psalms 139 “nobody can flee from God”
 - i. Example: Jonah
 - a) Have you ever wished you could flee from God? Why?



- c. Acts 17: 27, 28 Paul argues that God is close to everyone, at least in a spiritual sense”
 - i. Why was this last phrase added?
 - ii. Is God close to us physically?
 - iii. Are there some who are closer to God than others? If so in what way?
 - a) What does this say about God?

Fourth Paragraph: “God is generally present everywhere; yet, He chooses to reveal Himself in a special way in heaven and, as we will see, in the heavenly sanctuary.

Bottom shaded text: There are many things that are difficult for us to imagine or understand, such as the dwelling place of God. Yet, the Bible says that this dwelling place is real. How can we learn to trust in all that the Bible teaches us, no matter how hard it is sometimes to understand? Why is it important for us to learn to trust even when we don’t understand?

- a. Why do we trust ‘even when we don’t understand?’
- b. Because we have a relationship that has experience.
- c. It is a relationship of trust.
- d. We know who we believe in.

MONDAY

Imagery of the Bible as God as King.

Heavenly throne

Several statements regarding God, God’s throne and His Kingship.

Last sentence, first paragraph: In most of the Biblical depictions of God’s throne “God is acting for or speaking in behalf of the righteous.”

- a. He is not speaking on His own behalf, except in the sense that it is done for others.
- b. That shows the character He has.**

God as sovereign

- a. Not only in the future but already in the here and now.
- b. what does it mean that God is sovereign?
- c. A local religious radio station makes a big emphasis of God as Sovereign as one of the radio station’s central points.

God is independent and superior to the rest of the universe.

5th Paragraph is Ellen G. White quote:

“As in obedience to His natural laws the earth should produce its treasures, so in obedience to His moral law the hearts of the people were to reflect the attributes of His character.” *The Adventist Home*, p. 144.



The 'moral law' is the natural law of the mind and heart.

Shaded area at bottom of page: "How can we better manifest goodness, righteousness, and justice in a world filled with evil, unrighteousness, and injustice? Why must we do these things?"

- a. Would it make sense to ask the question: Why must you use clean gas in your car and lawn equipment?
- b. Why shouldn't you put sand or sugar in your gas tank?

TUESDAY

Revelation 4 & 5

- a. The throne room in heaven is depicted with Christ as a slain lamb opening a scroll with seven seals. The throne and its surrounding beings are depicted symbolically (are we sure what it looks like?).

WEDNESDAY

Read the texts for the day: Psalms 11:4-7, Habakkuk 2:20

Would you have seen these two texts as pointing to a courtroom scene?

I would like to contrast the Courtroom motif with a Doctor's Office (something which I am much more familiar)

Do you have scriptural illustrations of how the Sanctuary was used as a courtroom or a doctor's office in the Old or New Testament?

- a. Christ healing of the ten lepers
- b. dispute management during the exodus

Was this an internal function or external function?

Was this a tabernacle function or a priestly one?

- a. We as New Testament Christians are described as a kingdom of priests.
- b. We are to have good judgment.
 - i. 1 Corinthians 6



What is the difference between a courtroom and a doctor's office?

Characteristic	Courtroom	Doctor's Office
Is there fear associated with both?		
What are people afraid of?		
Are there investigations involved in both?		
What is the purpose of the questions that are voiced in both?	Truth?	Truth
Is it important for the truth to be know in both? Why?		
What kind of law is typically used in each one?		
What is justice when applied to each room?	Process	The Right Thing. Right Function. Right Outcome.
Is pain sometimes felt in either room?		
What is the hoped for outcome in. . .?		
Define justice in each room?		

Third paragraph: "Divine judgment involves both the wicked and the righteous. While the wicked receive a punishment similar to that received by Sodom and Gomorrah, the upright "will behold His face" (Psalms 11:6, 7 NASB)"

- a. Won't both the righteous and the wicked see His face? Some will like it others will not.
 - i. See Revelation 1:7 "Look, he is coming on the clouds! Everyone will see him, including those who pierced him. All peoples on earth will mourn over him. So shall it be!"
 - ii. Isa 25:9 "On that day his people will say, "This is our God; we have waited for him, and now he will save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him. Let us rejoice and be glad because he will save us.""
 - iii. Who is going to be in the fire?



- a) Isa 33:14-15 (GNB) “The sinful people of Zion are trembling with fright. They say, “God's judgment is like a fire that burns forever. Can any of us survive a fire like that?” (15) You can survive if you say and do what is right. Don't use your power to cheat the poor and don't accept bribes. Don't join with those who plan to commit murder or to do other evil things.”

Shaded area at bottom of page: “However much we cry out for justice, we often don't see justice in the present. Why, then, must we trust in God's justice? Without that promise, what hope do we have?

- a. The song: “My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus blood and righteousness”
i. When I was trying to remember the words of this song I sang, “Jesus love and righteousness”
b. John 14:9 Jesus answered, "For a long time I have been with you all; yet you do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. Why, then, do you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

THURSDAY

Why is it a place of salvation?

Question at top of page:

- a. Read Hebrews 8:1, 2
b. What is Christ doing at the throne of God?
c. We have a High Priest at the right hand of God. What does that mean?
d. Before someone goes too far the road of what Christ is doing and His actions in relationship to the Father, we need to read again Romans 8:31-39 (GNB).

In the preceding verses Paul has just outlined how Christ is for us, the Holy Spirit is for us and God the Father is for us. We read:

“In view of all this, what can we say? If God is for us, who can be against us? (32) Certainly not God, who did not even keep back his own Son, but offered him for us all! He gave us his Son---will he not also freely give us all things? (33) Who will accuse God's chosen people? God himself declares them not guilty! (34) Who, then, will condemn them? Not Christ Jesus, who died, or rather, who was raised to life and is at the right side of God, pleading with him for us! (35) Who, then, can separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble do it, or hardship or persecution or hunger or poverty or danger or death? (36) As the scripture says, "For your sake we are in danger of death at all times; we are treated like sheep that are going to be slaughtered." (37) No, in all these things we have complete victory through him who loved us! (38) For I am certain that nothing can separate us from his love: neither death nor life, neither angels nor other heavenly rulers or powers, neither the present nor the future, (39) neither the world above nor the world below---there is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord.”



We then are told to read Revelation 1:12-20, 8:2-6, 11:19, and 15:5-8.

“A careful study of these scenes reveals that they are interconnected, showing an internal progression in the salvation accomplished by God: from Christ on earth to His heavenly ministry in the first and second apartments to His high priestly ministry’s end and finally to the new earth tabernacle.”