



## The Sanctuary Lesson 10 4Q 2013

### The Eschatological Day of Atonement

Review the Opening Questions from last week's lesson:

- Does the Bible teach any sanctuary in existence, other than the one in heaven, in 1844 and since?
  - Yes, the Spirit Temple, the sanctuary composed of living beings
- 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 God's 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 then choosing to surrender to God and cooperate with Him that we can be healed/cleansed
  - And our records in heaven are an accurate reflection of our character, so the only way to cleanse our records is through the avenue of our hearts/minds
- 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
- And what relevance does any of this have for me here on earth?
  - It is the process of conversion and transformation which is perfectly

#### **From Last week's Lesson # 9 MONDAY**

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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?

- Does God give credence to Satan's allegations?
- When Jesus went to raise Moses from the dead and Satan protested, was there a trial, a court scene? Did Jesus make pleas to the Father in Moses behalf, or did Jesus merely rebuke the liar?
- In Zech 3, when the High Priest is standing there and Satan begins accusing, do we see a court scene with Jesus pleading to His Father or presenting any arguments about His blood etc? No, Jesus merely rebukes the devil, in other words He say, "be quiet, no one here cares what you have to say."

So, are there any beings in heaven who listen to Satan's arguments?

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. God in order to be just must punish sin, and you know you have sinned so God must punish you."

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, as Jesus said:

I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. <sup>13</sup> 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? To whom is the Spirit listening? Could it be to the One who sent the Spirit? Jesus pleads, yes He does. He pleads to those He loved so much that He died to save. Via the Spirit, Jesus pleads to you and me!

“I love you! Don’t listen to the lies of Satan. You are worth the universe to me. I gave my life to save you. You haven’t gone to far. Let me heal you. Trust me and I will cleanse your mind, renew your heart and take away your fear. I will heal your wounds, and give you a new heart and right Spirit. It isn’t about mistakes you have made in the past, but about the condition of your heart, mind and character today. And if you let me I will heal you!”

What are the implications? That this entire courtroom drama, that has been presented to us, with Satan in heaven accusing us, and Jesus defending us and God sitting in judgment over us, is a distortion of reality. It is a result of accepting the Roman Imperial law concept, and all its subsequent legal constructs.

The war is in our minds over our beliefs and knowledge about God! God is waiting for a people who actually know Him! Who will trust Him. Who will open their hearts to Him and then He can heal and renew them!

## **SUNDAY**

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First paragraph the lesson points out that the little horn power of Daniel takes away the “daily” what do you understand this to be?

The daily is reference to the work of Jesus to heal us. When Paul says, “I die daily” it was in reference to this daily work of surrendering to Jesus and allowing Jesus into the heart to cleanse and restore.

The penal model comes to a different view because it is built on the foundation of the little horn distortions of God’s law – what are those distortions?

That God’s law is imposed not the design protocols upon which life is built.

Thus, the change in the law is the change from the Creator, Designer law, to law that mirrors manmade rules.

Thus, having accepted the lie that God’s law is imposed, they focus on the problem being wrong rituals, or wrong legal applications of Christ’s blood, rather than damage to the mind because we accept false ideas about God.

For instance, many Protestant groups suggest taking away the daily is when a Catholic priest offers the Eucharist, and thus replaces Christ. But then they turn around and present the same distorted legal system, with Jesus pleading to the same distorted god.



I was emailed a link in which a Catholic priest and a protestant theologian discussed the Eucharist and transubstantiation:

<http://amazingdiscoveries.org/12.10.24-debate-about-the-mass-and-transubstantiation>

They went back and forth over things like whether a priest could stand if for Christ, over sacrificing Christ again and again, over it being a violation of the law to eat blood etc.

But the real issue was uncovered when The Catholic priest said:

“There are two elements to any sacrifice the immolation and the offering. The immolation is a bloody death. The lamb is slain, what is precious about that is the life in the blood of the lamb is precious and that pays back God. That’s how the Old Testament rituals used to work. The immolation happened once but the offering is something Christ does for all eternity. He is right now in the presence of the Father, in the holy of holies, in the eternal presence, offering himself to the Father for the forgiveness of our sins.... Christ isn’t killed again and again and again, he is offered [in the Eucharist] in the same eternal presence as Christ offers himself.”

The priest said it was in this offering of his sacrifice over and over again that the sins were paid for. So each time we sin, we must take mass in order to have the sacrifice of Christ pay for that sin.

How do you think the protestant theologian responded? The protestant theologian responded, with the argument that Christ is not in heaven offering his sacrifice over and over, but offering his merits to the Father over and over.

In the Protestant view, all sins were placed on Christ at the Cross and paid for there, but when we pray for forgiveness, the Jesus goes to the Father and reminds the Father of what He already did, in paying for the sins and claims his “merits” i.e. I earned the right to get forgiveness from you for them.

So to the protestant theologian, each time we sin we don’t need to go to a priest and take mass to have Christ’s sacrifice presented to the Father to pay for our sins. Our sins were paid for, past, present and future, all at the Cross. No, when we sin we go to Christ, who presents his merits to the Father, reminding the Father that he has already paid for our sins so the Father can forgive us and not punish us.

Thoughts? Don’t you see Satan laughing? Here we have Catholics and Protestants arguing, for centuries, whether Jesus is offering his sacrifice to God over and over again to pay for our sins, or whether he is offering his merits over and over to remind the Father that our sins are paid for.

What is the problem?

Daniel 7, the little horn power would seek to change God’s law – how? By getting us to replace the truth that God’s law is the law of love, the design protocol upon which life was built, with the idea that God’s law is like a Roman emperor, put upon us to test our obedience.



Catholic and Protestant alike have accepted this change in God's law and both teach that Christ needed to die to pay for our sin, and both teach that Christ works to present something to the Father so the Father won't punish us. Which mean, both views distort God's character and misrepresent Him, thus obstructing His healing plan. The gospel has not gone to the world, instead a false gospel, based on a false view of God's law has gone to the world.

The truth is God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself. That God so loved the world he sent his son. That the fullness of the Godhead dwelt in Christ bodily, so that even though he knew no sin, he became sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God.

And this focus on imposed law, with arguments over differences in proper ritual, application or practice, and not focusing on the truth about God's character, has led to splitting and fracturing of Christianity into various groups and turning on one another, like in the third paragraph, "The little horn..." thoughts?

Is the greater emphasis on papal Rome or on Christian Rome?

- Does one have to be papal, or Catholic, to worship the Imperial god of Rome?
- Does one have to belong to a particular organization in order to value and cherish the lies of the little horn?

In rejecting the truth, men reject its Author. **In trampling upon the law of God**, they deny the authority of the Law-giver. **It is as easy to make an idol of false doctrines and theories as to fashion an idol of wood or stone. By misrepresenting the attributes of God, Satan leads men to conceive of Him in a false character. With many, a philosophical idol is enthroned in the place of Jehovah; while the living God**, as He is revealed in His word, in Christ, and in the works of creation, is worshiped by but few. Thousands deify nature while they deny the God of nature. **Though in a different form, idolatry exists in the Christian world today** as verily as it existed among ancient Israel in the days of Elijah. The god of many professedly wise men, of philosophers, poets, politicians, journalists--the god of polished fashionable circles, of many colleges and universities, **even of some theological institutions--is little better than Baal**, the sun-god of Phoenicia. {GC 583.1}

Many SDAs want to make the problem with God's law in Christianity about which day one worships upon. They fail to recognize that the Jews who crucified Christ wanted Him down by sunset in order to keep the Sabbath. One can have the right day and still be God's enemy.

Thus, many SDAs because they have accepted an imposed law construct, and teach God runs His universe like humans run human governments, needing legal payment and inflicting torture and death, are still trapped in the false system with distortions about God, regardless of what day they worship upon.

It is not about organizational affiliation it is about God. Who is God and what God are you worshipping? The Designer or Dictator?



But sadly, we seem to fall into denominationalism and cast criticisms at those who practice differently than us, music, worship style, baptism, day one attends church, clothing style etc. all the while worshipping the same dictator god.

## MONDAY

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How long? How long until the sanctuary is cleansed? Thoughts?

Why does it take so long? What is the hold up?

If it was a process of God going through records – how long would that take?  
If it was the process of angels going through records how long would that take?

What is the delay? What happens when the Lord finishes cleansing the sanctuary? The second coming – so what would delay that?

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2Pet 3:9

So, according to Peter, what is the cause of the delay? People not being ready for Jesus to return and thus, in mercy, He waits.

Jesus predicted such a delay in the parable of the 10 virgins, and remember this quotation:

“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).

- So Daniel 8:14 predicts the time, sometime after 1844.
- Daniel 7 tells us it is a time when Jesus is coronated and the saints of God receive wisdom, discernment or judgment, and during this time the church is composed of wise and foolish members, and there is a delay in Christ completing the cleansing, such that the virgins fall asleep waiting for Him.
- Malachi 3 tells us it is a time when the Levites are cleansed, thus the sanctuary being cleansed is the sanctuary composed of living beings
- And Matthew 25 tells us there is a delay, because some of the “virgins” didn’t have oil and the Bridegroom wanted to give them time to get some, but instead they fell asleep

From my paraphrase:





Matthew 25:1 “At that time in earth’s history, God’s people on earth will be like ten undefiled bridesmaids who took their lamps and went out into the dark world to meet the bridegroom. 2 While all ten were sincere students of the word, only five were wise, the other five foolish. 3 The five foolish went out into the dark world with their lamps of God’s word, but they didn’t fill themselves with the oil of the Holy Spirit. 4 The wise, however, not only carried their lamps of God’s word, but also filled the jars of their hearts with the Holy Spirit. 5 The bridegroom took much longer than they expected in coming, and all ten bridesmaids became drowsy and fell asleep.

6 “In the middle of the night a loud cry was heard: ‘The bridegroom is here! Come and meet him!’

7 “All ten bridesmaids awoke and prepared their lamps to shine brightly. 8 But the foolish ones realized they could not, not without the oil of the Holy Spirit. So they looked to the five wise and said, ‘Give us some of your oil; our light is going out.’

9 “But the five wise said, ‘We can’t! The oil of the Spirit, that enables us to shine brightly, is only provided in sufficient quantities for each lamp. You must go to the source yourselves and get your own supply.’

10 “While the foolish ones were out searching for oil, the bridegroom arrived. The bridesmaids who were prepared went in to the reception with him and the door was closed tightly.

11 “Later the foolish ones came banging on the door shouting, ‘Master, let us in!’

12 “But he replied, ‘The truth is, you’re not my friends. I don’t know you.’

13 “So stay alert, be vigilant, because you don’t know when the Lord will return.”

Thoughts?

So, what is putting the church to sleep? Jesus is delaying His return to give time for the church to get ready, but the church is sleeping, meaning it isn’t able to get ready while asleep, and by the time the cry goes out that the Lord is coming, it is too late to get ready.

So, what is putting the church to sleep? What does alcohol do to a person? It intoxicates, numbs the reason and puts to sleep.

Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. <sup>7</sup> He said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

A second angel followed and said, “Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made **all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries.**” Rev 14:6-8

What is the maddening wine of her adulteries?

Rev 17 gives a little more insight:

One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters. <sup>2</sup> With her the kings of the



earth committed adultery and **the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries.**”

Rev 18 says the same, that before the second coming, the message of Revelation 14 will be given again by another messenger, or group of people:

After this I saw **another angel** coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. <sup>2</sup> With a mighty voice he shouted:

“Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She has become a home for demons and a haunt for every evil spirit, a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird. <sup>3</sup> **For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries.** The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries.”

<sup>4</sup> Then I heard another voice from heaven say: “**Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins,** so that you will not receive any of her plagues; <sup>5</sup> for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes.

Thoughts? What does all of this mean?

Note, God’s people are in fallen Babylon – that is where the church is, and those in Babylon are drunk on the wine from the harlot. And what is the wine? It is the false doctrines, the lies, the distortions, and the primary lie is the prophesied change to God’s law foretold by Daniel. This system would seek to change God’s law, and that attempt warred against the saints, corrupted the minds of men and has put the church into a deep spiritual slumber.

Why? Because it leads to a false legal security which numbs the need for true regeneration, i.e. for true infilling of the Holy Spirit.

- If the law is like ours, imposed and breaking the law requires the ruling authority to impose proper punishment
- The solution is to get the proper payment made to the ruling authority and then have that payment applied to one’s account
- Then, when we claim the blood of Jesus and believe it is applied to our records in heaven, we go to spiritual sleep believing “I accepted Jesus as my Savior, all my sins, past present and future have been paid for and the Father has accepted Jesus in my place, thus forgiveness is stamped by my name in heaven and when the Father looks at me I am covered by the robe of righteousness and the Father can’t see my true corrupt character beneath.”

This wine of false legal system has infected the church and lulled millions into a spiritual apathy in which they have false security of legal salvation, but no actual regeneration of heart, renewal of character. In other words, they have their lamps, Bibles, but they don’t have oil the Holy Spirit within regenerating and renewing the heart. Why, because the heart isn’t the problem in the legal model, it is the legal record that is the problem. We need to wake the sleeping saints up, in time for them to open their hearts for actual transformation. Then what the Bible actually teaches will be true:





- Create in me a new heart...
- Renewal of the heart by the Holy Spirit
- Remove heart of stone put in heart of flesh
- Write the law on the heart and mind
- Have the mind of Christ
- Be renewed
- Be reborn
- Be recreated
- Be regenerated
- The old is gone the new has come

The entire Scripture teaches a real, actual, regeneration of the believer when filled with the Holy Spirit. But the little horn power has infected Christianity with a false law, and false god construct that lulls them into a false security, thus putting them into a spiritual sleep.

Here are these verses from my expanded paraphrase:

Rev 14:6 Then I saw another messenger flying in midair, and he had the eternal good news about God's character of love to proclaim to everyone living on earth, to every nation, tribe, language and people, which represents a movement of people who arise to proclaim the truth about God's character of love throughout the world. 7 He said in a clear resounding voice, "Be in awe of God, and glorify him by living his methods of love, because the hour has come for everyone to make a judgment about God and worship the Designer, Creator and Builder who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and springs of water, which all operate upon his law of love."

8 Then I saw a second messenger follow the first proclaiming throughout the world, "Don't trust Babylon the Great, a symbolic description of religions that misrepresent God; it is fallen into the lies about God and intoxicates the world with its pagan views of God, maddening them with its adulterous idea that God coerces and must inflict punishment if not properly appeased."

Revelation 17:1 One of the seven angels who had one of the seven bowls came to me and said, "Come with me and I will show you the damning end of the great prostitute who sits upon the many waters, symbolic of false religion that misrepresents God. 2 The leaders of the world took their governments into bed with her, sharing in her plans, plots and methods, and the people of earth had their minds so filled with her lies about God and his methods they were like drunks, stuporous and unable to be reasoned with or embrace the truth."

Revelation 18:1 After this I saw another messenger coming down from heaven, symbolizing the Godly origin of his message. He had the great authority and power of truth, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. 2 With a voice reverberating throughout the earth he shouted: "Babylon the Great, is a fallen system of tradition, fable and falsehood distorting the truth



about God. Every demonic distortion about God, every evil attitude toward God, and all filthy and destructive heart motives find their home with her. 3 For she intoxicates the world with her pagan views of God, maddening them with her adulterous idea that God coerces and must inflict punishment if not properly appeased. Earth's leaders corrupt themselves with her by practicing her methods, and people not anchored in God's kingdom of love, but who wander from philosophy to philosophy, stuff their minds with her smorgasbord of lies.

4 Then I heard another voice calling from heaven saying: "Come out of her, my people. Leave that confusing mess of evil thinking so that you will not share in her spiritual sickness and rebellion, and so that you will not receive the suffering she has chosen;

So, could the church be asleep because it has been infected with lies about God from that little horn power? And those lies are primarily about God's law, that it is imposed, and God is a punishing being?

## **TUESDAY**

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The lesson talks about the little horn power attacking God's people, what does this mean?

Is the primary attack upon God's people physical, or is it mental?

What did Jesus say, "Don't be afraid of the one who can destroy the body, but the one who can destroy body and soul" MT 10:28

2Cor 10:3-5 we war against everything that sets itself up against the knowledge of God.

Thus, the war is over ideas, concepts, beliefs, that end up influencing us, changing us and destroying us.

Consider the power a belief can have over you. If your employer does various health screenings, and one day they do some blood work, and a person in a lab coat calls you into the office and says, "We are sad to tell you that when we ran your blood it came back HIV positive." Now they are lying, but if you believe the lie, what happens inside of you?

Will you lose peace, have anxiety, fear, will this lie affect your relationships?

What has actually changed? Only what you believe, but that change in belief has biological changes in your brain and body, it changes your perceptions about yourself, it alters how you relate to others etc.

Satan gains his power over us by what he gets us to believe.

Think about all the superstitions people believe and how it affects their minds, bodies, relationships...

This is what Paul was addressing in Romans 14, when people were afraid to eat meat offered to idols. Paul said, if your faith is great, meaning if you understand reality and realize that an idol is nothing but inanimate material and cannot affect the nutritional quality of the food, then eat anything. But, if your



faith is weak, and you believe the idol alters the food such that if you eat it now the idol has cursed your or has some power over you, then don't eat.

The issue isn't the idol, but the belief one has, and if Satan can get you to believe you are cursed, or too sinful to be saved, or harassed by demons, or contaminated spiritually, or committed the unpardonable sin etc. etc. he then gains power in your mind!

**This is one of the problems people have with the sanctuary symbolism, they think that sin can contaminate objects.** Sin is transferred to the priest and then to the temple in heaven and the objects must be cleansed. This is like the food be contaminated by being offered to idols. **Objects cannot be contaminated sin. Sin doesn't happen in stone, wood, metal. Sin happens in living souls, in minds, hearts, characters.**

But to the degree Satan can get us to believe the objects are contaminated, and Christ is cleansing objects, including record books, then he exerts power over us, keeping us in the "dark" and putting us to sleep.

Thoughts?

## **WEDNESDAY**

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Read last paragraph, "The horn's war..." thoughts? Can anyone tell me the historical interpretation of this?

This is considered to be speaking of the time prophecy in Revelation 13, in which the beast persecutes for 1260 days, time, times, half a time, or 42 months, which all prophetically are interpreted to mean 1260 years.

The time frame for this is historically said to be from 538 CE, when Justinian's general, Belisarius defeated the last of the Arian nations, the Ostrogoths, drove them out of Rome and turned over the city to the Bishop of Rome.

1260 years later, would be 1798, and that year, the French general Berthier, enters Rome, declares it a Republic, takes the pope captive, exiles him to France where the pope dies a prisoner.

Because of this prophecy, and the history of the Dark Ages, and the physical persecution such as burning at the stake, crusades, inquisition, many have concluded that the war against the saints is/was a physical war.

Thoughts?

When Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart." MT 5:27,28



He was saying that the physical actions are a result of heart defects. Is this true only for adultery?

Remember the law of worship, or modeling, by beholding we become changed? We become like the God we worship. Therefore, the reason the church persecuted others and violated human rights, was because it had been infected with lies about God. It had accepted a change in God's law as imposed and imposed laws require imposed punishments. It falsely viewed God's government as a government like Imperial Rome, made up of imposed rules requiring the ruling authority to police the laws and punish law breakers. Therefore, as "God's church on earth", it naturally practiced those methods.

But the real war, was not a physical war, it was a war of ideas, of beliefs, of concepts about God. And while political powers have come along to restrain the physical persecution of religious institutions, the churches, all of them, remain infected with the lies about God and His law.

Do you notice how this paragraph has God in the role of punishing?

Where did this lie originate?

**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}

Do you hear this very lie being taught in our lesson? No wonder the Lord hasn't come, we, our very own church, perpetuating the lie that Satan proclaimed in the opening of the war in heaven.

God wants a people to tell the truth about Him. He wants a people to come back into a true love relationship with Him, a people who actually know Him, and realize He is exactly like Jesus revealed!

And how did Jesus treat sinners? Neither do I condemn you! I did not come to judge or condemn but to save!

Even though all judgment is given to me it is the truth that will judge you, by your very words you will be judged.

In other words, Jesus revealed the reality of our condition judges us, either reconciled to God and renewed in heart such that we live in God's presence, or solidified in selfishness such that God's presence is torture to us and when He appears we beg for the mountains to fall on us.

**THURSDAY**

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Goes through the process of calculating the 2300 year prophecy, starting and ending points and how they came to those dates.

Bottom line, from the time when the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem – which was 457 BC, until the end of the 2300 years, which ended 1844.

What is the significance of the prophecy?

- Does one have to understand the time prophecy in order to be saved?
- Does one have to agree on the time prophecy and what it means in order to be saved?
- Can someone have the wrong understanding of the prophecy and be saved?
- Can someone have the right understanding of the prophecy and be lost?

What is the importance of the prophecy?

Its primary purpose, in my estimation, is to give hope to people on earth that the Lord is returning, and confidence in God, His foreknowledge and His outworking of His overriding plan.

One of the potential problems with Bible prophecy is over valuing or mis-valuing it. What I mean is valuing the prophecy for something it was not intended for – like one must have the right interpretation in order to be right with God, or must have the right interpretation in order to be useful in God's cause.

Not so – the Bible says:

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> **If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.** <sup>3</sup> If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

<sup>8</sup> **Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease;** where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup> **For we know in part and we prophesy in part,** <sup>10</sup> but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. <sup>12</sup> Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

<sup>13</sup> And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. 1Cor 13

What is necessary for salvation – in fact, what IS salvation? It is restoring love into the heart, mind, character of the person. Salvation does not exist without love restored in the heart!



Thus, if one has love restored in the heart, which is a work of the Holy Spirit, who applies what Christ achieved, they are saved, but without that restoration then everything else, including right understanding of prophecy doesn't matter!

Here is my paraphrase of chapter 13:

1Cor 13:1 If I am gifted to speak the language of men and angels, but do not have God's love in my heart, I am only making meaningless noise, because I remain terminal and dying. 2 If I am gifted with prophetic insight and understand all mysteries and knowledge, and if I am trusted to move mountains, but do not have God's love in my heart, I am a fraud because I am still dying in sin and am nothing at all. 3 If I give away all my possessions to the poor, and die as a martyr tied to a burning stake, but don't have God's love in my heart, I am still unhealed and have gained nothing.

4 Love is the principle upon which life and health is built to operate, and when active in intelligent beings, love is patient and kind. Love gives in order to bless others and does not envy, boast, or promote self. 5 Love is not intrusive, rude, selfish, irritable or hot tempered. And love doesn't hold grudges or keep a record of wrongs. 6 Love takes no pleasure in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love always protects, heals, restores, builds up, trusts, hopes and perseveres.

8 Love originates in God and therefore will never stop and never fail. But one day, prophecies will cease, talking will be paused, and human knowledge will fade. 9 We are finite, knowing just a part of all truth and prophecy is just a piece of a greater whole. 10 But when God restores the universe to His perfect design of love, all imperfection will disappear. 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child bragging about myself, I thought like a child focusing on the do's and don'ts, and I reasoned like a child. But when I grew up I embraced God's kingdom of love and put the childish ways behind me. 12 Our minds are so darkened by selfishness that we see God's kingdom poorly, like a reflection in a cloudy mirror, but when he returns we shall see perfectly – face to face! Right now I know only part of God's reality; then I will have all questions answered and fully know the truth, just as God fully knows me.

13 So these three endure, trust, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Thoughts?

**FRIDAY**

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Read and discuss question 2 – do you have a clear understanding? Review my notes from lesson 9 and discuss