



2021 Q2 The Promise: Lesson 11 The New Covenant Sanctuary

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SABBATH

What do you think about this week's lesson? I had a couple of thoughts while studying it... it sounded familiar, like the traditional view of the OT sanctuary system and atonement. It also made me a little frustrated and a little sad...it gave me some insight into how pagan God constructs and penal legal substitution theology has infected our church just like so much of Christianity. And it made me really grateful...grateful for the Holy Spirit who enlightens and continues to shine new light on old truths...grateful that I found Come and Reason...and grateful that I have some different answers and explanations when faced with these penal legal lies and distortions. Answers and explanations that are consistent with scripture, with science and God's natural design laws and methods, and consistent with my experience of God's character of love. So, what I'm going to do today is look at both the OT sanctuary symbols, the rituals, and the meanings from the healing reality perspective with a design law lens...and then look at the new covenant heavenly sanctuary with the same healing reality and design law view. Now remember, Dr. Jennings held an entire one-day seminar focused on the OT Sanctuary, decoding the symbols, the rituals, the feast days...so we are only going to hit just a few of the high points. But the seminar is called "The Sanctuary and Feast Days: A Hidden End Time Message", and we recorded it, made it into a DVD, and it is available to watch right on our web site...stay tuned for the members-only Q&A after 11, and I will show you how to find it. Everything I needed to prepare this lesson study today is available on our web site.

All Bible metaphor points to one reality – the truth about God's character of love, His methods and principles (design laws), and His plan to heal and restore each of us – along with the whole universe – back to his design.



Remember...if a metaphor, or symbol, or parable, or simile does not point to some larger reality, then it is no longer metaphor...it is merely *fantasy*. Of course, the challenge is to interpret the symbolism correctly...and there is something even worse than not understanding a symbol's meaning... attributing a false meaning to the symbols is worse, because then you believe you "have the truth", and you stop looking for correct answer or the true meaning.

Not one element of the OT sanctuary is to be taken literally...every element is symbolic in some way...it all points to a larger reality, so in order to correctly understand it we must decode the symbols and the metaphors...and correctly understand the larger reality to which it is pointing.

I believe some of the content in this week's lesson illustrates some of the ways in which the sanctuary (OT and heavenly) has been terribly misunderstood, which has resulted in gross distortions about God, His character and methods, and the plan of salvation...and keeps millions trapped in a distorted belief system that has no power to heal and transform. It should be no surprise that the imperial law construct is the basis for these distortions and misunderstandings...believing that God's laws function like human laws – just a system of rules, without inherent consequences, that requires judicial oversight and infliction of external penalties or punishments... leads folks to misinterpret the meaning and significance of the OT animal sacrifices, the requirement of bloodshed as a legal process in a judicial system. However, notice what the Bible actually says about OT sacrifices in Hebrews 9 and 10:

The gifts and sacrifices being offered were ***not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper***. They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings – external regulations applying until the time of the new order...But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, because ***it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins***.



Animal sacrifices were NEVER able to deal or address or take away the sin problem, and God told them this during OT times – while the ceremonial system was active – in Isaiah 1:

“The multitude of your sacrifices – what are they to me?” says the Lord. “I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats...wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight! Stop doing wrong, learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.”

God was not interested in animal sacrifices...He was interested in changing people to be more like Christ. As Hosea so eloquently puts it, “I want your constant love, *not your animal sacrifices*. I would rather have my people know me than burn offerings to me.”

So, if these elaborate ceremonies and animal sacrifices could not cleanse from sin, then what in the world was the purpose? It was theater...a drama or a play to engage the sinner, (in this case primitive, dark-minded, slave mentality) in activities designed to teach, to transform, and to enlighten. Can you imagine placing your hands on the head of your pet doggy or pet kitty, confessing some sin you committed, looking in their sweet sad eyes while you cut their throat and watch them die? Do you think that might have an impact on you...on even the most darkened, crusty, hard-hearted person? This was part of the purpose – to cause you to be sickened by sin...to have a gut revulsion to its destructiveness...to make you want to never participate in sin again. But there was an even bigger purpose...the entire Levitical system was a drama, a play, a little theater. Again, this system was given to a group of recent slaves...they were uneducated, likely illiterate...so God directed them through Moses to build a very impressive stage (the sanctuary/temple), with intricate costumes, expensive props, and provided them with a very detailed script. The Israelites were the cast, the acting

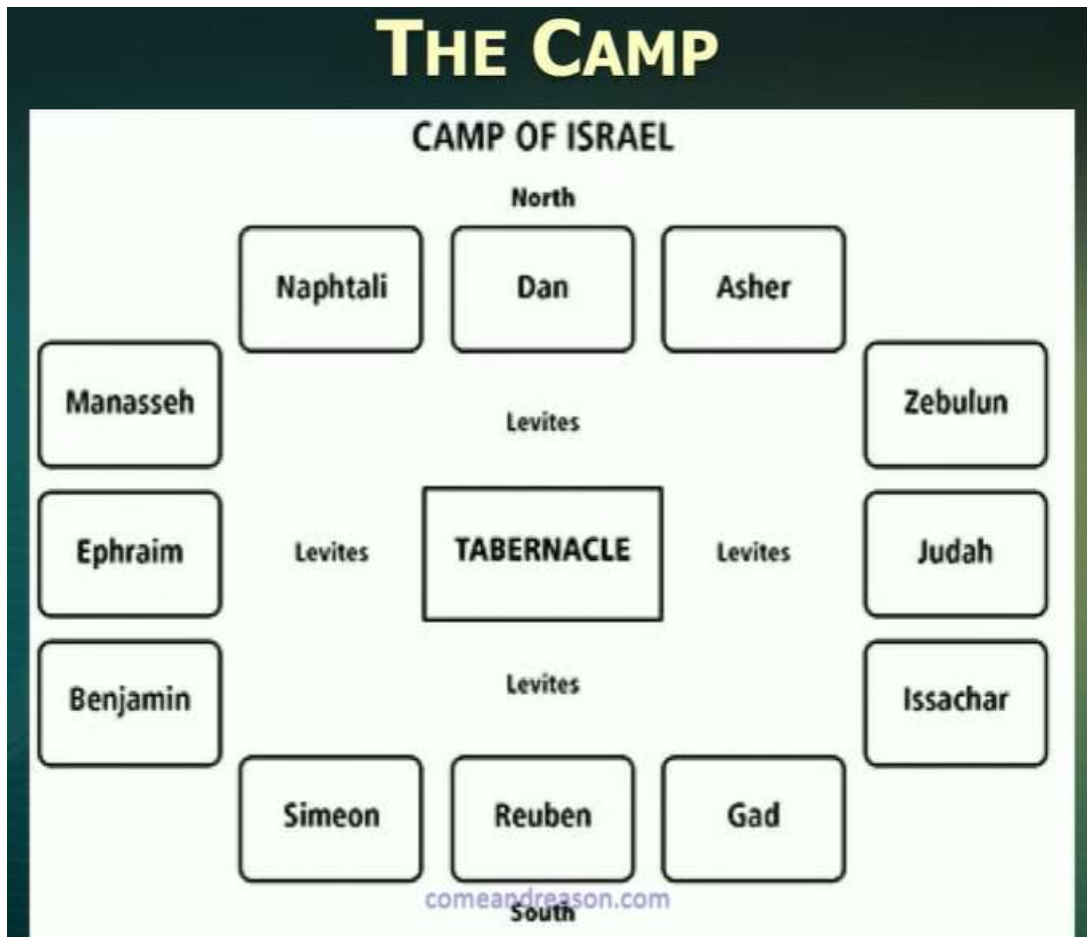


troupe, and they were to act out in yearly cycles a revelation of God's plan to heal and save humankind from sin – for themselves, for the surrounding nations, and for the entire universe.

Salvation was NOT dependent on participating/acting in this play nor was being an Israelite...to be saved, you only had to experience the reality to which the drama/play was pointing. Many of the actors became so consumed with following strictly to the letter of the script that they failed to comprehend and embrace the reality to which it points...so consumed and focused on the rituals and the rules that when Jesus – THE larger reality – came and dwelt among them, they hated him and they killed him.

OT Sanctuary – Decoding the Symbols

The overarching theme of the entire drama: Humanity is separated from God by sin, and God is working through Christ to bring humanity back into unity with himself, by restoring in our hearts his character of love (at-one-ment). The tabernacle was placed in the center of the camp, and the tribes/people are camped all around the outskirts, separated from God with the Levites in between. This is symbolic – the twelve tribes represent the unconverted peoples of the world...and the Levites, the priesthood of believers, the people of God stand between God and them, going out to minister the gospel, the good news, the attributes of God to the tribes of the world, bringing them back to a knowledge of the true God, bringing them to the temple/tabernacle. They camped in a rectangle to represent people in every walk of life, on all four corners of the earth we find that God's Levites are ministering to bring people to Him.



Three main elements in the OT sanctuary system all represent Christ, but at three different stages of time. Moses represents Christ in His pre-incarnate form, and notice the similarities:

MOSES	CHRIST
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He spoke to God face to face • Left God’s presence and confronted the ruler holding the Israelites in slavery • Set the people free and built the sanctuary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He spoke to God face to face • Left God’s presence to confront the ruler of this world holding humanity captive • Set us free and built the true sanctuary



The Lamb – represents Jesus as a human during his 33-year sojourn here on Earth.

High Priest – represents Jesus after His life/death/resurrection/victory on Earth and ascension to heaven.

Now let's see if we can interpret and understand the meaning of the sin offering ritual while at the same time decoding the remaining sanctuary symbols...first, for a non-priest Jew – a member of the twelve tribes – what lesson does it teach us? The sinner would come and place his hands on the head of the sacrificial animal and confess his sin...why on the head do you think? This is symbolic of where sin happens...it happens in the mind, and the sinner (not the ministering priest) would cut the circulation...**the life is in the blood**, and what does the blood do in the body...it circles...this is an object lesson of how love works, love is other-centered, it just keeps giving and giving, never-ending giving...yet sin severs the principle of giving and the blood stops circling and the animal dies...sin severs my design, the principle of love, the law of life, and results in death. The sacrificial animal (and its blood) represents sinless Jesus, who took our terminal sinful condition upon Himself, in order to fix humanity and become our remedy. The blood was carried by the ministering priest in vessels – both the priests and the vessels represent the priesthood of believers carrying the gospel message, the truth of God's kingdom throughout the world. The life is in the blood/the blood is life – the life of Christ and life is only carried in living beings...love is carried in you...and as you love other people, you become the hands and feet Christ, thus you carry the love or the blood of Christ to others...you're a vessel.

For the non-priest Jew, that blood was poured out at the base of the brazen altar, and represents a foundational change in the heart of the sinner, the conversion from distrust and selfishness to love and trust. The horns on the altar represent the defects in character that we develop living in sin (Jer. 17:1)...this is why the blood was applied to the horns on the brazen altar,



and represents the work of Christ in our hearts, new character development, old pathways/habits being pared back, character defects are being removed and replaced with new motives, new desires, and new Christ-like character traits (some might say “merits”).

The inner fat of the sacrificial offering being removed and burned is symbolic of Christ’s victory on earth overcoming the internal temptation of the carnal nature, as we see in Gethsemane when he agonizes and is tempted in every way just like we are yet without sin, He is destroying that internal survival drive of fear and selfishness...represented by the inner fat that you cannot see from the outside, those internal fears and insecurities we all have, Christ destroyed those in his mission and it’s symbolically represented by burning it away. This is why every time you read about the fat being burned, it’s a pleasing aroma to the Lord...not the actual smell, *symbolically* it’s pleasing to him... just like if you have a child with leukemia, and the child gets radiation treatments to burn away the cancer, that burning away the cancer is pleasing to you. So, burning away the fat...burning away the fear and selfishness in our hearts...that is pleasing to the Lord.

Washing the organs represents the cleansing of the inner man, removing guilt, shame, selfishness, and fear from the heart. Separating the fat from the organs and burning it represents Christ’s work of destroying the carnal nature and circumcision of the heart, cutting away the ties to all those destructive things we were attached to prior to conversion. Burning the organs represent the work of the Holy Spirit within to burn away the old desires and recreate new motives and values.

The fire represents the Holy Spirit. Before the blood was applied, it represents the unconverted person being convicted of sin, being drawn, being wooed...after the blood is applied, it represents the transforming power, the renewal, the healing, the regeneration.



The priests would eat the meat of the sacrificed lamb, which represents that as we minister the gospel, and share and teach others the truth of God's kingdom, we are strengthened by partaking of as we're sharing and ministering to others.

The ritual and meaning of the sin offering was a little different for the Daily Priests in their white robes – they represent the priesthood of believers, and the white robes represent the renewed character of Christ that is being developed within them. The sinning priest confessed sin on the head of the sacrificial animal, and then cuts the circulation and the animal dies. The blood is carried by the ministering priest in vessels, but this time the blood is not poured out initially at the base of the brazen altar...it is taken into the holy place.

Holy Place – Contrasting with the bronze altar, which was covered with an impure metal...the HP is covered in gold – a pure metal and it represents the church, which has the purity of the truth and love of Christ. The door to the HP was always kept open, it was never closed...and the door represents Jesus Christ, who is the way, the truth, the life, the entry point for a person's salvation...He is the way in in order to come into fellowship with God and with each other in the church. The door was always kept open and the light from the lampstand would shine out into the courtyard...thus, the light of Christ shines out and would draw people from the world into church. So, instead of being poured out on the brazen altar, the priest's sacrificial blood is taken into the HP and is sprinkled seven times before the veil...why would that be necessary? Imagine you're a priest working in the sacrificial system, daily priests in their white robes symbolic of a Christian who loves God...you're in the church, you're in the Holy Place, you love God, you long to see him more clearly...maybe you ask like Moses did, "Lord, let your glory pass before me," you know the Shekinah's back there and you want to see God face to face...but as you look to see God more clearly, there's something in the way, something blocks your view...what is blocking your ability to see God? What does this veil represent? What



happened to the veil? It was destroyed...rent from top to bottom by God when Christ died. What obstructs our view of God, but when Christ dies that obstruction is torn/ripped/destroyed and now I can see God more clearly? Satan's lies about God and our own carnal natures we are born with. Angels on the veil represent God's agencies sent to help us battle these two forces and overcome...but no angel could break the barrier, only the son of God could break the barrier, and thus Jesus destroyed the lies of Satan and the infection of fear and selfishness, and opened a new and living way back through the barrier into unity with God. So why does the blood get sprinkled 7 times before this veil? If the veil represents the obstruction that prevents us from seeing God clearly – the lies and misrepresentation and distortions about God – then when a person who carries the name Christian, a person who says “I'm like Jesus” goes out and commits sin, do they make it easier for people to see God, or do they add to the obstruction? Therefore, it takes the perfection of Christ or seven times to overcome the additional obstructions that we Christians put in the way when we misrepresent Christ with our lives (twice the son of hell?).

Then the blood was taken over to the golden altar and placed on the smaller horns there, showing that the blood of Jesus or the character of Jesus is cleansing them and removing the habit patterns and the vestigial remnants of sin from the heart of the repentant believer. Prayers were only offered by the converted, thus the incense is burned on the golden altar...no incense was burned on the bronze altar because the unconverted don't offer their praise and prayers. Incense represents Christ's character lived out and wafting out over the camp, so when they would burn incense it's not only our prayers but also our adoration – the way we live our lives to celebrate and testify what God has done for us, this is the sweetness of our lives as we have been renewed by Christ, and so the incense burning on the golden altar would waft out over the camp and draw the people groups of the world into interest in what's happening in the sanctuary. Fire on the golden altar represents the Holy Spirit working in our hearts to enlighten, to provide wisdom, to enable, to equip, to transform, to renew, to regenerate.



The remaining blood is poured out at the base of the brazen altar, representing God's power to reach the unsaved people of the world as we within the body of Christ are gracious to each other and forgiving of each other...as we handle the sinfulness that we all still struggle with, and help each other overcome, people are witnessing that and their hearts are touched and brought to conversion.

Other items in the Holy Place included:

The Lampstand – represents the Word of God...thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path...but both the living and the written word of God are represented here. The central stand, also made of solid gold, represents Christ (the word made flesh), and there were six branches attached to the central stand...six is numerically representative of humanity or mankind...six branches, humankind, connected to Jesus Christ makes seven, which is perfection or completion...and so only connected to Christ can we be completed or perfected and enabled to shine light and truth into the world.

The Oil – represents the Holy Spirit. The bowls at the top of the stand represent the hearts of those who have accepted Christ, as the word enlightens their minds and the Holy Spirit burns within with light and truth and witness for God's kingdom. What was interesting is only the High Priest (Jesus) trimmed the wicks of the lamp, evening and morning...no one else. Only Jesus works in our hearts to heal and transform and cut away the dross, cut away the encumbrances, cut away the old habits, cut away the distortions so that we burn brighter and brighter for Him.

The Table – it was made of wood but covered in gold...this represents Jesus, our incarnate God, who became human but was perfect, gold, sinless. On the border of the table...this is the only element of the sanctuary service that was not measure in cubits, it was measured in hands breadth,



symbolically suggesting that the hand of God is protective around His son and what His son provides for us. There were twelve loaves of unleavened bread (without yeast), representing the bread of heaven/life (without sin)...the word of God that we are to ingest and partake of. The twelve loaves represent the twelve tribes in the theatre, and the twelve tribes represent all the people groups of the world...and thus the word of God, His provisions, are sufficient for all the people groups of the world. Incense on top of the twelve loaves represents the sweetness of Christ and Christ's perfect character.

The Wine – represents the perfect character and sinless life and love of Jesus Christ that we are to “drink”/ingest. Interestingly, what would happen every sabbath, the daily priests in their white robes, representing the priesthood of believers who've been renewed and reborn to have Christ-like characters, enter the Holy Place...which is the church...and with the high priest, who represents Jesus, they would together eat the bread...which is the Word of God, and burn the incense...which is symbolic of offering prayers and praise to God every sabbath in church.

What about the **Most Holy Place** – what do we find there?

While the Holy Place is the church, the Most Holy Place is the universe cleansed of sin and restored to at-one-ment and perfection with God. We find the Shekinah glory or God's presence, we find angels which represent unfallen sinless beings, we find the lid of the ark made of solid gold which represents Jesus. Let's look at the box beneath the lid...so we've got God represented, we've got Jesus represented, we've got angels represented, who's not represented so far? Sinners saved – that's the box! The box was made of porous wood covered in pure gold (the perfection of Christ)...so human beings, who were sinners, who have through Jesus Christ been perfected and renewed to righteousness and restored into unity with God. What did the box contain? Three things were kept there and they were put in the box in a specific order on purpose...understanding the symbolism is



quite beautiful because the box represents the hearts of the converted restored into unity with God...and the first thing that went into the box was...manna...the bread from heaven...Jesus is the bread of heaven, so the first thing a sinner must partake of in order to have their hearts restored is they must partake of Jesus, the Word of God, the light that lightens all men, and as we partake of Jesus we are won to trust, the lies are destroyed, the fear is taken away, we open our hearts to him in trust...and when we open our hearts to Him, the second thing goes in the box, and that was the Ten Commandments, the law, and it says that He writes His law in our hearts and minds as we open our heart in trust, and thus we get new motives, a new operating system, a new method, God's principles and designs of other-centered love and truth and freedom are regenerated within us...and then the third thing goes in the box, Aaron's rod that was dead and had no life comes to life and begins budding as we who were dead in trespass and sin now bring forth the peaceable fruits of righteousness – we live again for God's kingdom. The lid is not Jesus covering the broken law...it was the *unbroken* instance of the law that went into the ark, because it's not the broken law being covered, it is the perfect righteousness of Christ being reproduced in the heart, written on the heart again...it's an unbroken law being restored in us. Again, Jesus is the lid of solid gold that connects the entire universe...notice the Shekinah is touching/connected to the lid, the angels are on the lid, the converted peoples of the world are touching the lid...all things in heaven and on earth are reconciled or brought together under one head, Jesus Christ...he is the unifying link that brings the universe back into oneness or at-one-ment.

Unity is the goal...the *entire* drama is designed to teach God's plan to eliminate sin and restore the universe to at-one-ment. The sin offering represents, in symbol, the plan to heal and restore individuals by removing sin – not from record books or account ledgers or smoke-filled rooms in heaven – but from the hearts and minds of people. Salvation is found in the *reality* – not in the symbols – and that reality is Jesus Christ!



New Covenant Heavenly Sanctuary

So, Christ is our faithful and merciful heavenly High Priest, he has entered into the Most Holy Place in the heavenly sanctuary, and is engaged in His High Priestly ministry...what does that look like? What have we been taught?

God, in order to refute the lies of Satan and reveal His true character has kept records, but not to judge us by, but to demonstrate that all those who are lost are lost because they have refused God's remedy. There is also another set of records in which our sins are recorded, but these records are not judicial records; they are the actual individualities of each person whose characters are perfectly recorded in heaven. In other words, every unrepented sin is recorded in the character of the unrepentant. This is why Jesus says, "Let him who is righteous be righteous still..."

Here is a quote from one of the founders of the SDA church, because this is what was supposed to be understood in teaching the sanctuary message:

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}

Every passing hour of the present is shaping our future life. These moments spent in carelessness, in self-pleasing, as if of no value, are deciding our everlasting destinies. The words we utter today will go on echoing when time shall be no more. The deeds done today are



transferred to the books of heaven, just as the features are transferred by the artist onto the polished plate. They will determine our destiny for eternity, for bliss or eternal loss and agonizing remorse. Character cannot be changed when Christ comes... {Testimony to Ministers 429.3}

You must remain pure and true and firm, remembering your character is being imprinted upon the books of heaven. {Our High Calling 317.4}

Those records (of a person's character) are recorded in the heavenly sanctuary—because the heavenly sanctuary is constructed out of living stones, the actual people who make up the temple where God lives by His Spirit – the priesthood of believers.

“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).

Jesus is right now in the Most Holy Place in heaven, leading all the agencies at His disposal in the work of cleansing the minds, hearts, and characters of His people from the lies about God, the removal of selfishness, and the restoration of righteousness. They are the building blocks of His heavenly sanctuary.

“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).

What is the reality these symbols point toward?

- Blood of Jesus = Character of Jesus
- Garments = Our character
- Washing in the blood of Jesus = Remove selfishness and assimilate the selfless character of Jesus