

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS

HELP from
the Sanctuary



SECOND HALF 2022

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS

Second Half 2022

HELP FROM THE SANCTUARY

General Conference
International Missionary Society
Seventh-day Adventist Church,
Reform Movement

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INTRODUCTION

Have you ever had to be far away from your family and loved ones? How did you feel? Were you able to endure separation from them for a long time? What great joy did you feel when you heard from them, when you heard their voices, and when you knew for sure that they were well? After a conversation with them, what was your longing? For sure it was that the long separation would be over and that you could return home to hug your loved ones and enjoy their affection and tenderness. In the same way, but infinitely more so, the Lord enjoys communion with us and being in us and with us. It is because He wanted to be close to His people that He gave the instructions: “And let them make Me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.” Exodus 25:8. His desire was thrilling: “And I will set My tabernacle among you: and My soul shall not abhor you. And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be My people.” Leviticus 26:11, 12.

Some people think that for someone to get close to God he must take the first step—perhaps more than one. There are people who make sacrifices, perform mortifications, and undergo suffering and pain to reach God with their prayers, offerings, and human strength. However, even though such efforts show that a person is interested in finding the Lord, the quoted texts show that the initiative comes from God; He seeks man’s company and communication. God always takes the first step to come near to His people and abide with them, considering them His highly esteemed sons and daughters.

Therefore it is written: “... Israel,... the seed of Abraham My friend. Thou whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof,...

“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness.” Isaiah 41:8-10.

One way for the Israelites to be close to God and have fellowship with His people was through the sanctuary. On Mount Sinai, God showed Moses the perfect model of the tabernacle and presented its complete operation—services, offerings, and sacrifices for communicating with Him. He even provided the way for His people to consult Him and receive answers to difficult problems. He was personally present inside the sanctuary in the Shekinah and outside in the pillars of cloud and fire that shaded them, illuminated the camp, and guided them on their journeys. It was a truly wonderful privilege for them to know that their hope and salvation were secure in Him and that He was always right there with them.

About the importance of the sanctuary the Spirit of prophecy writes: “The solemn service of the sanctuary typified the grand truths that were to be revealed through successive generations. The cloud of incense ascending with the prayers of Israel represents His righteousness that alone can make the sinner’s prayer acceptable to God; the bleeding victim on the altar of sacrifice testified of a Redeemer to come; and from the holy of holies the visible token of the divine Presence shone forth. Thus through age after age of darkness and apostasy faith was kept alive in the hearts of men until the time came for the advent of the promised Messiah.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 367.

The psalmist longed to be in the court of the Lord’s house more than in any other place, “For a day in Thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.” There he found continual power and glory: “To see Thy power and Thy glory, so as I have seen Thee

in the sanctuary.” He received help and support: “Send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion.” “O God, Thou art terrible out of Thy holy places: the God of Israel is He that giveth strength and power unto His people. Blessed be God.” Psalm 84:10; 63:2; 20:2; 68:35. For centuries, this is how it was for all of the believers who traveled long distances to go to the house of God.

Initially the sanctuary consisted of a removable, transportable tent. Beginning at Mount Sinai, the Levites could disassemble and then reassemble the house of worship in the different locations to which God guided His people. After they were settled in Canaan, the tabernacle had a more stable location; however, even then it was moved. Not until the time of Solomon was the portable “tent” of the tabernacle transferred into the permanent “temple” built in Jerusalem.

However, Israel did not always appreciate the great privilege of having the temple, the place of the Creator’s presence, in their midst. There were times when it ceased to be the place of attraction and blessing for the people. In times of apostasy, it was even desecrated. Because of this and also because of the people’s degenerated spiritual condition, the Lord permitted the sacred building to be destroyed by the Babylonian armies. After decades of inactivity, in the time of Ezra, the temple was rebuilt and the services were reestablished, supported by great personal sacrifice amid severe opposition. Still, deep spirituality was lacking, and Jesus found the temple desecrated and its true meaning lost from the people’s sight. When He gave His life as the one true Sacrifice for the sin of the world, thus fulfilling the prophetic symbolism of the temple and its services, the veil separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place was torn from the top to the bottom without hands, ending the temple services.

After ascending to heaven, Jesus began His ministry as the High Priest according to the order of Melchisedek, first, in the Holy Place and, second, in the Most Holy Place. He lives to make intercession for His people, forgiving their sins and cleansing them from all iniquity. May the Sabbath School Lessons on this fascinating, important subject be a great inspiration to all who study them. The desires of the writer, editor, and reviewers are that God’s people will thus be blessed and drawn closer to Him.

—The brothers and sisters of the General Conference

Special Sabbath School Offering for the General Conference World Assembly

God bless your generous gift for His kingdom!

1

Sabbath, July 2, 2022

Announcement of the Lamb of God

“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel.” Genesis 3:15.

“Plain and specific prophecies had been given regarding the appearance of the Promised One. To Adam was given an assurance of the coming of the Redeemer. The sentence pronounced on Satan, ‘I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel’ (Genesis 3:15), was to our first parents a promise of the redemption to be wrought out through Christ.” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 222.

SUNDAY

COMMUNICATION IN THE BEGINNING

1. How did the Lord communicate with man at the beginning? How complete was it?

Genesis 1:28-30, first part *And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. ²⁹And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing....*

“Before the entrance of sin, Adam enjoyed open communion with his Maker; but since man separated himself from God by transgression, the human race has been cut off from this high privilege. By the plan of redemption, however, a way has been opened whereby the inhabitants of the earth may still have connection with heaven.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. v, Introduction.

“The genealogy of our race, as given by inspiration, traces back its origin, not to a line of developing germs, mollusks, and quadrupeds, but to the great Creator. Though formed from the dust, Adam was ‘the son of God’....

“His nature was in harmony with the will of God. His mind was capable of comprehending divine things. His affections were pure; his appetites and passions were under the control of reason. He was holy and happy in bearing the image of God and in perfect obedience to His will.” —*Conflict and Courage*, p. 11.

MONDAY

2. What did God provide for man’s physical wellbeing, and what was the man forbidden to eat? What mean of communication did the Lord use after sin’s entrance?

Genesis 2:15-17 *And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. ¹⁶And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: ¹⁷But of the tree of the knowledge of*

good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Numbers 12:6-8, first part *And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the Lord will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream. ⁷My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house. ⁸With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the Lord shall he behold:...*

“Adam, in his innocence, had enjoyed open communion with his Maker; but sin brought separation between God and man, and the atonement of Christ alone could span the abyss and make possible the communication of blessing or salvation from heaven to earth. Man was still cut off from direct approach to his Creator, but God would communicate with him through Christ and angels.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 67.

TUESDAY

RESULTS OF SIN

3. Who took the initiative after man fell into sin? What strange thoughts altered the direct communication between him and God?

Genesis 3:8-11 *And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. ⁹And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? ¹⁰And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. ¹¹And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?*

“But the great Lawgiver was about to make known to Adam and Eve the consequences of their transgression. The divine presence was manifested in the garden. In their innocence and holiness they had joyfully welcomed the approach of their Creator; but now they fled in terror, and sought to hide in the deepest recesses of the garden.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 57.

“While he [Adam] was engaged in his appointed work, he never thought of hiding from God, but responded as soon he heard His footsteps in the garden, and hastened to shorten the distance between him and his Maker. What precious communings he had with God! But after he sinned, he feared that every sound was the footstep of God. He did not want to see God, and when he heard Him coming, he did not hasten to meet Him, but hid himself.”—*Review and Herald*, January 26, 1897.

WEDNESDAY

4. What were other inescapable results of man's fall into sin? Why could Adam and Eve no longer remain in the special place that was their home before they sinned?

Genesis 3:17-19, 23, 24; 4:7 *And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; ¹⁸Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; ¹⁹In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.... ²³Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. ²⁴So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.... ^{4:7}If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door: And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.*

“There was to be cooperation between man and God. But this plan was greatly interfered with by Adam's transgression. Satan led him to sin, and the Lord would

not communicate with him after he had sinned as he did when he was without sin....

“Without the atonement of the Son of God there could have been no communication of blessing or salvation from God to man. God was jealous for the honor of His law. The transgression of that law had caused a fearful separation between God and man. To Adam in his innocence was granted communion, direct, free, and happy, with his Maker. After his transgression, God would communicate to man only through Christ and angels.” –*Conflict and Courage*, p. 20.

“Through disobedience to God, Adam and Eve had lost Eden, and because of sin the whole earth was cursed.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 289.

5. **Over time, to what spiritual level did human beings fall? What effect does sin have on the relationship between God and man?** THURSDAY

Genesis 6:3 *And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.*

Isaiah 59:1, 2 *Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: ‘But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*

Jeremiah 5:25 *Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you.*

“It is not because He is unwilling to forgive that He turns from the transgressor; it is because the sinner refuses to make use of the abundant provisions of grace, that God is unable to deliver from sin. ‘The Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear: but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear.’ Isaiah 59:1, 2.” –*Prophets and Kings*, p. 323.

PROMISE OF DELIVERANCE AND VICTORY

FRIDAY

6. **In His great grace, what did the Lord promise man, despite his disobedience and moral weakness? What divine plan provided deliverance from the power of evil?**

Genesis 3:15 *And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

Hebrews 2:14, 15 *Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; ¹⁵And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

Ephesians 2:16 *And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:*

“When Adam and Eve were placed in the Garden of Eden, they were innocent and sinless, in perfect harmony with God. Enmity had no natural existence in their hearts. But when they transgressed, their nature was no longer sinless. They became evil, for they had placed themselves on the side of the fallen foe, doing the very things that God specified they should not do. Had there been no interference on the part of God, fallen humans would have formed a firm alliance with Satan against heaven. But when the words were spoken, ‘I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel,’ Satan knew that although he had succeeded in making human beings sin, although he had led them to believe his lie and to question God, although he had succeeded in depraving human nature, some arrangement had been made whereby the beings who had fallen would be placed on vantage ground, their nature renewed in godliness. He saw that his actions in tempting them would react upon himself, and that he would be placed where he could not become conqueror.” –*Christ Triumphant*, p. 28.

SHED BLOOD OF THE LAMB OF GOD

7. **What is the meaning of “thou shalt bruise His heel”? Who would one day face the forces of evil and be wounded? Why was this enormous sacrifice central to God’s plan to save man?**

1 Peter 1:19, 20 *But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: ²⁰Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.*

Revelation 13:8, last part *And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

Hebrews 9:22 *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*

“Jesus is our atoning sacrifice. We can make no atonement for ourselves; but by faith we can accept the atonement that has been made. ‘For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God.’ 1 Peter 3:18. ‘Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things,... but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.’ 1 Peter 1:18, 19. It was through infinite sacrifice and inexpressible suffering that our Redeemer placed redemption within our reach. He was in this world unhonored and unknown, that, through His wonderful condescension and humiliation, He might exalt man to receive eternal honors and immortal joys in the heavenly courts. During His thirty years of life on earth His heart was wrung with inconceivable anguish. The path from the manger to Calvary was shadowed by grief and sorrow. He was a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief, enduring such heartache as no human language can portray.” —*Selected Messages*, book 1, pp. 321, 322.

THE GUILTLESS BORE THE PUNISHMENT

“He could have said in truth, ‘Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto My sorrow.’ Lamentations 1:12. Hating sin with a perfect hatred, He yet gathered to His soul the sins of the whole world. Guiltless, He bore the punishment of the guilty. Innocent, yet offering Himself as a substitute for the transgressor. The guilt of every sin pressed its weight upon the divine soul of the world’s Redeemer. The evil thoughts, the evil words, the evil deeds of every son and daughter of Adam, called for retribution upon Himself; for He had become man’s substitute. Though the guilt of sin was not His, His spirit was torn and bruised by the transgressions of men, and He who knew no sin became sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.” —*Selected Messages*, book 1, pp. 321, 322.

* * *

Blood of the Lamb

“And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.” Exodus 12:7.

“The Israelites were required to sprinkle the doorposts with the blood of a slain lamb, in order that when the angel of death passed through the land, they might escape destruction. But if instead of doing this simple act of faith and obedience, they had barricaded the door, and taken every precaution to keep the destroying angel out, their pains would have been in vain.... When the blood was seen upon the door-post, it was enough.”—*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 227.

SUNDAY

CHOOSING A LAMB

1. **When the end of the Israelites' slavery and the day of deliverance came, what instructions did the Lord give to Moses and by him to the people?**

Exodus 12:3, 4 *Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house: ‘And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb.*

“... The Lord through Moses gave direction to the children of Israel concerning their departure from Egypt, and especially for their preservation from the coming judgment. Each family, alone or in connection with others, was to slay a lamb or a kid ‘without blemish,’ and with a bunch of hyssop sprinkle its blood on ‘the two side posts and on the upper doorpost’ of the house, that the destroying angel, coming at midnight, might not enter that dwelling. They were to eat the flesh roasted, with unleavened bread and bitter herbs, at night, as Moses said, ‘with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the Lord’s Passover.’”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 274.

MONDAY

2. **What type of animal were they to select? What did they have to do with the innocent creature? Why did they have to kill the innocent lamb right at the moment of their deliverance?**

Exodus 12:5, 6, 21 *Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: ‘And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening....’²¹ Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said unto them, Draw out and take you a lamb according to your families, and kill the passover.*

1 Peter 1:18, 19 *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;¹⁹ But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*

“The observance of the Passover began with the birth of the Hebrew nation. On the last night of their bondage in Egypt, when there appeared no token of deliverance, God commanded them to prepare for an immediate release. He had warned Pharaoh of the final judgment on the Egyptians, and He directed the Hebrews to gather their families within their own dwellings. Having sprinkled the doorposts with the blood of the slain lamb, they were to eat the lamb, roasted, with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.”—*The Desire of Ages*. pp. 76, 77.

THE BLOOD WAS A SIGN**3. Where were they to put blood from the slain lamb? For what purpose?**

Exodus 12:7, 13, 22, first part *And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it....¹³And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt....²²And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the bason, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the bason....*

“The Passover was to be both commemorative and typical, not only pointing back to the deliverance from Egypt, but forward to the greater deliverance which Christ was to accomplish in freeing His people from the bondage of sin. The sacrificial lamb represents ‘the Lamb of God,’ in whom is our only hope of salvation. Says the apostle, ‘Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.’ 1 Corinthians 5:7. It was not enough that the paschal lamb be slain; its blood must be sprinkled upon the doorposts; so the merits of Christ’s blood must be applied to the soul. We must believe, not only that He died for the world, but that He died for us individually. We must appropriate to ourselves the virtue of the atoning sacrifice.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 277.

WEDNESDAY

THE LAMB WAS A SYMBOL**4. Who was represented by the Passover lamb whose blood the Israelites sprinkled on the lintel of their doors?**

John 1:29 *The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*

“The Jews were about to celebrate the Passover at Jerusalem, in commemoration of the night of Israel’s deliverance, when the destroying angel smote the homes of Egypt. In the paschal lamb God desired them to behold the Lamb of God, and through the symbol receive Him who gave Himself for the life of the world. But the Jews had come to make the symbol all-important, while its significance was unnoticed. They discerned not the Lord’s body. The same truth that was symbolized in the paschal service was taught in the words of Christ. But it was still undiscerned.” —*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 388, 389.

THURSDAY

5. What preparations did they need to make before eating the Passover lamb? What do all of these things represent?

Exodus 12:8-11 *And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. ⁹Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof. ¹⁰And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire. ¹¹And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the Lord’s passover.*

John 6:51, 54-56 *I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.... ⁵⁴Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁵⁵For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. ⁵⁶He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.*

“No human agent can supply that which will satisfy the hunger and thirst of the soul. But Jesus says, ‘Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.’ ‘I am the bread of life: he that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst.’ Revelation 3:20; John 6:35.

“As we need food to sustain our physical strength, so do we need Christ, the Bread from heaven, to sustain spiritual life and impart strength to work the works of God. As the body is continually receiving the nourishment that sustains life and vigor, so the soul must be constantly communing with Christ, submitting to Him and depending wholly upon Him.” —*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings*, pp. 18, 19.

FRIDAY

A DECISIVE MOMENT

6. That night, what would happen to the Egyptians who did not believe God and were not under the Lord’s redeeming grace?

Exodus 12:12 *For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord.*

“While the judgments of God were falling upon the land of Egypt, the Lord directed the Israelites not only to keep their children within their houses, but to bring in even their cattle from the fields....

“As the Israelites kept their children within their houses during the time when the judgments of God were in the land of Egypt, so in this time of peril we are to keep our children separate and distinct from the world. We are to teach them that the commandments of God mean much more than we realize. Those who keep them will not imitate the practices of the transgressors of God’s law.” —*Child Guidance*, p. 304.

SABBATH

7. What was the sign that was placed on all of the doorposts of the believing Israelites? What great meaning did this have for every one of them? What provides shelter and life to God’s faithful people?

Exodus 12:13, 22, last part, 23 *And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt....²²None of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning.²³For the Lord will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the Lord will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.*

Hebrews 11:28 *Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.*

Revelation 9:4 *And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.*

“We should take this lesson to ourselves. Again the destroying angel is to pass through the land. There is to be a mark placed upon God’s people, and that mark is the keeping of His holy Sabbath. We are not to follow our own will and judgment and flatter ourselves that God will come to our terms.... That which looks unimportant to you may be of the highest consequence in God’s special plans for the preservation of your life or the salvation of your soul. God tests our faith by giving us some part to act in connection with His interposition in our behalf. To those who comply with the conditions His promise will be fulfilled.” —*In Heavenly Places*, p. 150.

MERITS OF HIS BLOOD

“Christ has made reconciliation for sin, and has borne all its ignominy, reproach, and punishment; and yet while bearing sin, He has brought in everlasting righteousness, so that the believer is spotless before God.... Through the merits of His blood, you may overcome every spiritual foe, and remedy every defect of character.”—*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 227.

* * *

3

Sabbath, July 16, 2022

Blood of the Covenant

“And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the Lord hath made with you concerning all these words.” Exodus 24:8.

“Their obedience to the law of God would make them marvels of prosperity before the nations of the world. He who could give them wisdom and skill in all cunning work would continue to be their teacher, and would ennoble and elevate them through obedience to His laws. If obedient, they would be preserved from the diseases that afflicted other nations, and would be blessed with vigor of intellect. The glory of God, His majesty and power, were to be revealed in all their prosperity. They were to be a kingdom of priests and princes. God furnished them with every facility for becoming the greatest nation on the earth.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 288.

SUNDAY

- 1. In sacred Scripture, where do we find the word “sanctuary” for the first time?**

Exodus 15:13, 17 *Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou hast redeemed: thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation.... ¹⁷Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, in the place, O Lord, which thou hast made for thee to dwell in, in the Sanctuary, O Lord, which thy hands have established.*

MONDAY

APPRECIATED AS TREASURE

- 2. What deep, close connection did the Lord want to have with His people at that time? What was His great desire for them?**

Genesis 17:7 *And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.*

Exodus 19:5, 6 *Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.*

“God desired to make of His people Israel a praise and a glory. Every spiritual advantage was given them. God withheld from them nothing favorable to the formation of character that would make them representatives of Himself.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 288.

“Preparation was now made for the ratification of the covenant, according to God’s directions.... Here the people received the conditions of the covenant. They made a solemn covenant with God, typifying the covenant made between God and

every believer in Jesus Christ. The conditions were plainly laid before the people. They were not left to misunderstand them. When they were requested to decide whether they would agree to all the conditions given, they unanimously consented to obey every obligation. They had already consented to obey God's commandments. The principles of the law were now particularized, that they might know how much was involved in covenanting to obey the law; and they accepted the specifically defined particulars of the law.

"If the Israelites had obeyed God's requirements, they would have been practical Christians. They would have been happy; for they would have been keeping God's ways, and not following the inclinations of their own natural hearts. Moses ... wrote all the words of the Lord in a book, that they might be referred to afterward. In the mount he had written them as Christ Himself dictated them."—(Manuscript 126, 1901) *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, p. 1107.

TUESDAY

3. After ending their slavery and setting them free, what did the Lord give to His people through Moses? What instructions did Moses give them?

Exodus 24:3-5 *And Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the Lord hath said will we do. And Moses wrote all the words of the Lord, and rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. And he sent young men of the children of Israel, which offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen unto the Lord.*

"The minds of the people, blinded and debased by slavery, were not prepared to appreciate fully the far-reaching principles of God's ten precepts. That the obligations of the decalogue might be more fully understood and enforced, additional precepts were given, illustrating and applying the precepts of the ten commandments. Unlike the decalogue, these were delivered privately to Moses, who was to communicate them to the people."—*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 506.

"Bravely did the Israelites speak the words promising obedience to the Lord, after hearing His covenant read in the audience of the people. They said, 'All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient.' Then the people were set apart and sealed to God. A sacrifice was offered to the Lord. A portion of the blood of the sacrifice was sprinkled upon the altar. This signified that the people had consecrated themselves—body, mind, and soul—to God. A portion was sprinkled upon the people. This signified that through the sprinkled blood of Christ, God graciously accepted them as His special treasure. Thus the Israelites entered into a solemn covenant with God."—(Manuscript 126, 1901) *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, p. 1107.

WEDNESDAY

BLOOD OF THE COVENANT

4. When the sacrifices of burnt offerings and thank offerings were completed, what did Moses do with the remaining half of the blood?

Exodus 24:6, 7 *And Moses took half of the blood, and put it in basons; and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient.*

"The covenant that God made with His people at Sinai is to be our refuge and defense.... This covenant is of just as much force today as it was when the Lord made it with ancient Israel....

"This is the pledge that God's people are to make in these last days. Their acceptance with God depends on a faithful fulfillment of the terms of their agreement with Him. God includes in His covenant all who will obey Him. To all who will do

justice and judgment, keeping their hand from doing any evil, the promise is, 'Even unto them will I give in Mine house and within My walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off.' Isaiah 56:5." —*God's Amazing Grace*, p. 142.

THURSDAY

5. In addition to the people's consent, what did the ratification of the covenant include? What did the shedding of blood signify?

Exodus 24:8 *And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the Lord hath made with you concerning all these words.*

Hebrews 9:18-21 *Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood. ¹⁹For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water; and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, ²⁰Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you. ²¹Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry.*

"The Father sets His love upon His elect people who live in the midst of men. These are the people whom Christ has redeemed by the price of His own blood; and because they respond to the drawing of Christ, through the sovereign mercy of God, they are elected to be saved as His obedient children. Upon them is manifested the free grace of God, the love wherewith He hath loved them. Everyone who will humble himself as a little child, who will receive and obey the Word of God with a child's simplicity will be among the elect of God.

"To make God's grace our own, we must act our part. The Lord does not propose to perform for us either the willing or the doing. His grace is given to work in us to will and to do, but never as a substitute for our effort." —*God's Amazing Grace*, p. 142.

"Thus by a most solemn service the children of Israel were once more set apart as a peculiar people. The sprinkling of the blood represented the shedding of the blood of Jesus, by which human beings are cleansed from sin." —*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 507.

FRIDAY

AFTER SACRIFICE COMMUNION

6. What glory were Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu and the seventy elders of Israel enabled to see? With what did this wonderful experience conclude?

Exodus 24:9-11, last part *Then went up Moses, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel: ¹⁰And they saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness. ¹¹And ... they saw God, and did eat and drink.*

"Because men have received great light, because they have, like the princes of Israel, ascended to the mount, and been privileged to have communion with God, and to dwell in the light of His glory, let them not flatter themselves that they can afterward sin with impunity, that because they have been thus honored, God will not be strict to punish their iniquity. This is a fatal deception. The great light and privileges bestowed require returns of virtue and holiness corresponding to the light given. Anything short of this, God cannot accept. Great blessings or privileges should never lull to security or carelessness. They should never give license to sin or cause the recipients to feel that God will not be exact with them. All the advantages which God has given are His means to throw ardor into the spirit, zeal into effort, and vigor into the carrying out of His holy will." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 359, 360.

7. Similarly, what is necessary to seal the new covenant? In this case, whose shed blood made the covenant possible?

Matthew 26:26-29 *And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. ²⁷And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; ²⁸For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. ²⁹But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.*

1 Corinthians 10:16 *The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?*

1 Peter 1:2 *Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.*

“This covenant deed was to be ratified by Christ’s own blood, which it had been the office of the old sacrificial offerings to keep before the minds of His chosen people. Christ designed that this supper should be often commemorated, in order to bring to our remembrance His sacrifice in giving His life for the remission of the sins of all who will believe on Him and receive Him.” —*Review and Herald*, June 22, 1897; *Evangelism*, p. 276.

AN AGREEMENT WITH GOD

“A covenant is an agreement by which parties bind themselves and each other to the fulfillment of certain conditions. Thus the human agent enters into agreement with God to comply with the conditions specified in His Word. His conduct shows whether or not he respects these conditions.

“Man gains everything by obeying the covenant-keeping God. God’s attributes are imparted to man, enabling him to exercise mercy and compassion. God’s covenant assures us of His unchangeable character. Why, then, are those who claim to believe in God changeable, fickle, untrustworthy? Why do they not do service heartily, as under obligation to please and glorify God?” —(Manuscript 148, 1897) *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 932.

* * *

“Let Them Make Me a Sanctuary”

“And let them make Me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.” Exodus 25:8.

“But the people were slow to learn the lesson. Accustomed as they had been in Egypt to material representations of the Deity, and these of the most degrading nature, it was difficult for them to conceive of the existence or the character of the Unseen One. In pity for their weakness, God gave them a symbol of His presence. ‘Let them make Me a sanctuary,’ He said; ‘that I may dwell among them.’ Exodus 25:8.”—*Education*, p. 35.

SUNDAY

COMING TO GOD FOR COUNSEL

1. **Before the building of the sanctuary, what possibility was there if someone felt the need to know the Lord’s will? With what respect did the people follow Moses to the tabernacle?**

Exodus 33:7-11 *And Moses took the tabernacle, and pitched it without the camp, afar off from the camp, and called it the Tabernacle of the congregation. And it came to pass, that every one which sought the Lord went out unto the tabernacle of the congregation, which was without the camp. ⁸And it came to pass, when Moses went out unto the tabernacle, that all the people rose up, and stood every man at his tent door, and looked after Moses, until he was gone into the tabernacle. ⁹And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses. ¹⁰And all the people saw the cloudy pillar stand at the tabernacle door: and all the people rose up and worshipped, every man in his tent door. ¹¹And the Lord spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.*

“The tabernacle here mentioned was a temporary tent arranged for the worship of God. The sanctuary, the pattern of which God gave to Moses, had not yet been built.

“All who sincerely repented of their sins, made supplication unto God in confessing their sins with great humility. Then Moses went into the tabernacle. The people watched with the deepest interest to see if God would accept his mediation in their behalf; if he condescended to meet with Moses, then they might hope that they would not be utterly consumed. When the cloudy pillar descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, then all the people wept for joy, and rose up and worshiped, every man in his tent door. They bowed themselves upon their faces to the earth in humility. As the pillar of cloud, the token of God’s presence, continued to rest at the door of the tabernacle, they knew that Moses was pleading in their behalf before God. ‘And the Lord spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend.’” —*Signs of the Times*, June 3, 1880.

MONDAY

DWELLING AMONG THE PEOPLE

2. **Referring to the Lord’s relationship with His people, what desire did He repeatedly express?**

Exodus 29:45 *And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God.*
1 Kings 6:13 *And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel.*

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

“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, worshipping 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*, p. 36.

TUESDAY

3. What commission did God give to His people to establish this relationship? How significant was it that this whole idea came from the Lord?

Exodus 25:8 *And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.*

2 Corinthians 6:16, last part *I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

“The question, What is the sanctuary? is clearly answered in the Scriptures. The term ‘sanctuary,’ as used in the Bible, refers, first, to the tabernacle built by Moses, as a pattern of heavenly things; and, secondly, to the ‘true tabernacle’ in heaven, to which the earthly sanctuary pointed.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 417.

“The tabernacle and temple of God on earth were patterned after the original in heaven. Around the sanctuary and its solemn services mystically gathered the grand truths which were to be developed through succeeding generations.... The manifestations of an invisible King were grand and unspeakably awful. A scepter was swayed, but it was held by no human hand.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 194.

WEDNESDAY

HIS PERSONAL PRESENCE

4. How did the Lord dwell among men besides through the sanctuary in the wilderness?

John 1:14 *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

“God commanded Moses for Israel, ‘Let them make Me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them’ (Exodus 25:8), and He abode in the sanctuary, in the midst of His people. Through all their weary wandering in the desert, the symbol of His presence was with them. So Christ set up His tabernacle in the midst of our human encampment. He pitched His tent by the side of the tents of men, that He might dwell among us, and make us familiar with His divine character and life. ‘The Word became flesh, and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the Only Begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth.’ John 1:14, R.V., margin.” —*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 23, 24.

THURSDAY

5. How did the artisans know how to create the design and objects of the tabernacle? What does a pattern imply?

Exodus 25:9, 40; 39:42 *According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it....*

⁴⁰And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount....³⁹⁻⁴² According to all that the Lord commanded Moses, so the children of Israel made all the work.

“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, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,’ Exodus 34:6.”—*Education*, p. 35.

“Further, the tabernacle built by Moses was made after a pattern. The Lord directed him: ‘According to all that I show thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.’ And again the charge was given, ‘Look that thou make them after their pattern, which was showed thee in the mount.’ Exodus 25:9, 40. And Paul says that the first tabernacle ‘was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices;’ that its holy places were ‘patterns of things in the heavens;’ that the priests who offered gifts according to the law served ‘unto the example and shadow of heavenly things,’ and that ‘Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.’ Hebrews 9:9, 23; 8:5; 9:24.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 413.

FRIDAY

THE THREE SECTIONS

6. What surrounded the tabernacle on all sides, and what purpose did it serve?

Exodus 27:9; 40:33 *And thou shalt make the court of the tabernacle: for the south side southward there shall be hangings for the court of fine twined linen of an hundred cubits long for one side:...*^{40:33} *And he reared up the court round about the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the hanging of the court gate.*

“The sacred tent was enclosed in an open space called the court, which was surrounded by hangings, or screens, of fine linen, suspended from pillars of brass. The entrance to this enclosure was at the eastern end. It was closed by curtains of costly material and beautiful workmanship, though inferior to those of the sanctuary. The hangings of the court being only about half as high as the walls of the tabernacle, the building could be plainly seen by the people without.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 347.

SABBATH

7. What were the two places or apartments of the earthly sanctuary called?

Exodus 26:33 *And thou shalt hang up the vail under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the vail the ark of the testimony: and the vail shall divide unto you between the holy place and the most holy.*

Hebrews 9:2, 3 *For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary. And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all.*

“The building was divided into two apartments by a rich and beautiful curtain, or veil, suspended from gold-plated pillars; and a similar veil closed the entrance of the first apartment. These, like the inner covering, which formed the ceiling, were of the most gorgeous colors, blue, purple, and scarlet, beautifully arranged, while inwrought with threads of gold and silver were cherubim to represent the angelic host who are connected with the work of the heavenly sanctuary and who are ministering spirits to the people of God on earth.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 347.

"I was also shown a sanctuary upon the earth containing two apartments. It resembled the one in heaven, and I was told that it was a figure of the heavenly. The furniture of the first apartment of the earthly sanctuary was like that in the first apartment of the heavenly." —*Early Writings*, pp. 252, 253.

ANOTHER LESSON

"But this ideal they were, in themselves, powerless to attain. The revelation at Sinai could only impress them with their need and helplessness. Another lesson the tabernacle, through its service of sacrifice, was to teach—the lesson of pardon of sin, and power through the Saviour for obedience unto life." —*Education*, p. 36.

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5

Sabbath, July 30, 2022

The Courtyard

"Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep." "I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." John 10:7, 9.

"The ministration of the priest throughout the year in the first apartment of the sanctuary, 'within the veil' which formed the door and separated the holy place from the outer court, represents the work of ministration upon which Christ entered at His ascension. It was the work of the priest in the daily ministration to present before God the blood of the sin offering, also the incense which ascended with the prayers of Israel. So did Christ plead His blood before the Father in behalf of sinners, and present before Him also, with the precious fragrance of His own righteousness, the prayers of penitent believers. Such was the work of ministration in the first apartment of the sanctuary in heaven." —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 420, 421.

SUNDAY

THE COURTYARD AND THE LINEN CURTAIN

1. What were the dimensions of the courtyard? What color was the linen curtain surrounding it? What does this color represent?

Exodus 27:9-15, 18 *And thou shalt make the court of the tabernacle: for the south side southward there shall be hangings for the court of fine twined linen of an hundred cubits long for one side: ¹⁰And the twenty pillars thereof and their twenty sockets shall be of brass; the hooks of the pillars and their fillets shall be of silver. ¹¹And likewise for the north side in length there shall be hangings of an hundred cubits long, and his twenty pillars and their twenty sockets of brass; the hooks of the pillars and their fillets of silver. ¹²And for the breadth of the court on the west side shall be hangings of fifty cubits: their pillars ten, and their sockets ten. ¹³And the breadth of the court on the east side eastward shall be fifty cubits. ¹⁴The hangings of one side of the gate shall be fifteen cubits: their pillars three, and their sockets three. ¹⁵And on the other side shall be hangings fifteen cubits: their pillars three, and their sockets three.... ¹⁸The length of the court shall be an hundred cubits, and the breadth fifty every where, and the height five cubits of fine twined linen, and their sockets of brass.*

Isaiah 61:10 *I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.*

Revelation 19:8 *And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.*

Romans 5:18, last part ... *So by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.*

MONDAY

2. How many entrances did the courtyard have? Whom did this represent?

Exodus 27:16 *And for the gate of the court shall be an hanging of twenty cubits, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, wrought with needlework: and their pillars shall be four, and their sockets four.*

John 10:7, 9 *Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.... 'I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.*

“We have access to God through the merits of the name of Christ, and God invites us to bring to Him our trials and temptations; for He understands them all. He would not have us pour out our woes to human ears. Through the blood of Christ we may come to the throne of grace and find grace to help in time of need. We may come with assurance, saying, ‘My acceptance is in the Beloved.’ ‘For through Him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.’ ‘In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of Him.’ Ephesians 2:18; 3:12.” *—In Heavenly Places*, p. 18.

TUESDAY

ALTAR OF BURNT OFFERING

3. What was the first object seen in the courtyard?

Exodus 27:1, 2, 6-8 *And thou shalt make an altar of shittim wood, five cubits long, and five cubits broad; the altar shall be foursquare: and the height thereof shall be three cubits. ²And thou shalt make the horns of it upon the four corners thereof: his horns shall be of the same: and thou shalt overlay it with brass.... ⁶And thou shalt make staves for the altar, staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with brass. ⁷And the staves shall be put into the rings, and the staves shall be upon the two sides of the altar, to bear it. ⁸Hollow with boards shalt thou make it: as it was shewed thee in the mount, so shall they make it.*

“Let us make diligent efforts to serve God. We need to reach a higher standard. The truth must not be kept in the outer court. Bring its principles into the inner sanctuary of the soul. Make Christ the guide of every action. Separate from the soul all selfishness. Hate it; for it is the destroyer of peace and godliness. ‘Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him.’ The grace of our Saviour is the grand, healing influence which conforms the life to the life of God.” *—Review and Herald*, January 7, 1902.

WEDNESDAY

4. With what was it overlaid? What was it for, and therefore what was its name?

Exodus 38:30; 30:28 *And therewith he made the sockets to the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and the brasen altar, and the brasen grate for it, and all the vessels of the altar;... ^{30:28}And the altar of burnt offering with all his vessels, and the laver and his foot. (See also Exodus 31:9; 35:16.)*

“In the court, and nearest the entrance, stood the brazen altar of burnt offering. Upon this altar were consumed all the sacrifices made by fire unto the Lord, and its horns were sprinkled with the atoning blood....

“The ministration of the sanctuary consisted of two divisions, a daily and a yearly service. The daily service was performed at the altar of burnt offering in the court of the tabernacle and in the holy place; while the yearly service was in the most holy.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 347, 351.

THURSDAY

5. What use was made of this altar? What ascended continually to heaven from it?

Leviticus 17:11 *For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.*

Hebrews 9:22 *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*

Exodus 29:38–42 *Now this is that which thou shalt offer upon the altar; two lambs of the first year day by day continually. ³⁹The one lamb thou shalt offer in the morning; and the other lamb thou shalt offer at even: ⁴⁰And with the one lamb a tenth deal of flour mingled with the fourth part of an hin of beaten oil; and the fourth part of an hin of wine for a drink offering. ⁴¹And the other lamb thou shalt offer at even, and shalt do thereto according to the meat offering of the morning, and according to the drink offering thereof, for a sweet savour, an offering made by fire unto the Lord. ⁴²This shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the Lord: where I will meet you, to speak there unto thee.*

“In the court, and nearest the entrance, stood the brazen altar of burnt offering. Upon this altar were consumed all the sacrifices made by fire unto the Lord, and its horns were sprinkled with the atoning blood.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 347.

“The cleansing, both in the typical and in the real service, must be accomplished with blood: in the former, with the blood of animals; in the latter, with the blood of Christ. The cleansing was not a removal of physical impurities, for it was to be accomplished with blood, and therefore must be a cleansing from sin.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 206.

FRIDAY

THE BASIN FOR WASHING

6. What was the second object in the courtyard of the tabernacle? From whom does the Lord require purification besides the priest and the ministers?

Exodus 30:18, 19 *Thou shalt also make a laver of brass, and his foot also of brass, to wash withal: and thou shalt put it between the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar; and thou shalt put water therein. ¹⁹For Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet thereat.*

James 4:8 *Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.*

“Between the altar and the door of the tabernacle was the laver, which was also of brass, made from the mirrors that had been the freewill offering of the women of Israel. At the laver the priests were to wash their hands and their feet whenever they went into the sacred apartments, or approached the altar to offer a burnt offering unto the Lord.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 347, 348.

SABBATH

7. What did the priests have to do before presenting offerings before the Lord? What purification does He command today from His people so that He may dwell among them?

Exodus 30:20, 21 *When they go into the tabernacle of the congregation, they shall wash with water; that they die not; or when they come near to the altar to minister; to*

burn offering made by fire unto the Lord: ²¹So they shall wash their hands and their feet, that they die not: and it shall be a statute for ever to them, even to him and to his seed throughout their generations.

Isaiah 52:11, last part ... Be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the Lord.

Ephesians 5:25, last part, 26 ... Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; ²⁶That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.

“The priests were not allowed to enter the sanctuary with their shoes on their feet; for the particles of dust cleaving to them would desecrate the holy place. They were to leave their shoes in the court before entering the sanctuary, and also to wash their hands and their feet before ministering in the tabernacle or at the altar of burnt-offering. Thus was constantly taught the lesson that all defilement must be put away from those who would come into the presence of God.”—*Gospel Workers*, p. 173.

PURIFICATION AND APPROACHING GOD

“In accordance with their office, a special dress was appointed for the priests. ‘Thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother, for glory and for beauty,’ was the divine direction to Moses. The robe of the common priest was of white linen, and woven in one piece. It extended nearly to the feet and was confined about the waist by a white linen girdle embroidered in blue, purple, and red. A linen turban, or miter, completed his outer costume. Moses at the burning bush was directed to put off his sandals, for the ground whereon he stood was holy. So the priests were not to enter the sanctuary with shoes upon their feet. Particles of dust cleaving to them would desecrate the holy place. They were to leave their shoes in the court before entering the sanctuary, and also to wash both their hands and their feet before ministering in the tabernacle or at the altar of burnt offering. Thus was constantly taught the lesson that all defilement must be put away from those who would approach into the presence of God.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 350.

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6

Sabbath, August 6, 2022

The Holy Place

“And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet incense every morning: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it. And when Aaron lighteth the lamps at even, he shall burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before the Lord throughout your generations.” Exodus 30:7, 8.

“In the holy place was the candlestick, on the south, with its seven lamps giving light to the sanctuary both by day and by night; on the north stood the table of shewbread; and before the veil separating the holy from the most holy was the golden altar of incense, from which the cloud of fragrance, with the prayers of Israel, was daily ascending before God.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 412.

SUNDAY

- 1. How was the first apartment or section of the sanctuary described? What three objects were in it?**

Hebrews 9:2 *For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary.*

Exodus 30:27; 31:8; 40:4, 5 *And the table and all his vessels, and the candlestick and his vessels, and the altar of incense, ... ^{31:8}And the table and his furniture, and the pure candlestick with all his furniture, and the altar of incense, ... ^{40:4}And thou shalt bring in the table, and set in order the things that are to be set in order upon it; and thou shalt bring in the candlestick, and light the lamps thereof. ⁵And thou shalt set the altar of gold for the incense before the ark of the testimony, and put the hanging of the door to the tabernacle.*

THE TABLE WITH THE BREAD OF HIS PRESENCE**2. What is told about the table set up in the holy place? What was its purpose?**

Exodus 25:23-30 *Thou shalt also make a table of shittim wood: two cubits shall be the length thereof, and a cubit the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof.²⁴ And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, and make thereto a crown of gold round about.²⁵ And thou shalt make unto it a border of an hand breadth round about, and thou shalt make a golden crown to the border thereof round about.²⁶ And thou shalt make for it four rings of gold, and put the rings in the four corners that are on the four feet thereof.²⁷ Over against the border shall the rings be for places of the staves to bear the table.²⁸ And thou shalt make the staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold, that the table may be borne with them.²⁹ And thou shalt make the dishes thereof, and spoons thereof, and covers thereof, and bowls thereof, to cover withal: of pure gold shalt thou make them.³⁰ And thou shalt set upon the table shewbread before me alway.*

TUESDAY

3. What did the bread that was constantly in God's presence represent?

John 6:35, 48, 51 *And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst....⁴⁸ I am that bread of life....⁵¹ I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.*

"The showbread was kept ever before the Lord as a perpetual offering.... It was called showbread, or 'bread of the presence,' because it was ever before the face of the Lord. It was an acknowledgment of man's dependence upon God for both temporal and spiritual food, and that it is received only through the mediation of Christ.... Both the manna and the showbread pointed to Christ, the living bread, who is ever in the presence of God for us." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 354.

WEDNESDAY

THE CANDLESTICK WITH SEVEN BOWLS**4. What precious material did the Israelites use to construct the candlestick? How many lamps did it have? After it was lit for the first time, for how long was it to burn?**

Exodus 25:31, first part, 32, 36-40; 37:24; 27:20 *And thou shalt make a candlestick of pure gold:....³² And six branches shall come out of the sides of it; three branches of the candlestick out of the one side, and three branches of the candlestick out of the other side:....³⁶ Their knops and their branches shall be of the same: all it shall be one beaten work of pure gold.³⁷ And thou shalt make the seven lamps thereof: and they shall light the lamps thereof, that they may give light over against it.³⁸ And the tongs thereof, and the snuffdishes thereof, shall be of pure gold.³⁹ Of a talent of pure gold shall he make it, with all these vessels.⁴⁰ And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount....^{37:24} Of a talent of pure gold made he it, and all the vessels thereof:....^{27:20} And thou shalt command the children of Israel, that they bring thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always.*

"On the south was the seven-branched candlestick, with its seven lamps. Its branches were ornamented with exquisitely wrought flowers, resembling lilies, and the whole was made from one solid piece of gold. There being no windows in the tabernacle, the lamps were never all extinguished at one time, but shed their light by day and by night." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 348.

5. Describe the beautiful candlestick. Whom did it represent?

John 8:12; 9:5; 12:35, 36, first part *Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life....^{9:5} As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world....^{12:35} Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. ³⁶While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light.*

“In the holy place was the candlestick, on the south, with its seven lamps giving light to the sanctuary both by day and by night; on the north stood the table of shewbread; and before the veil separating the holy from the most holy was the golden altar of incense, from which the cloud of fragrance, with the prayers of Israel, was daily ascending before God.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 412.

FRIDAY

THE ALTAR OF INCENSE

6. How was the third object in the Holy Place, the altar of incense, made? Where was it placed, and what was its purpose?

Exodus 30:1-3, 6 *And thou shalt make an altar to burn incense upon: of shittim wood shalt thou make it. ²A cubit shall be the length thereof, and a cubit the breadth thereof; foursquare shall it be: and two cubits shall be the height thereof: the horns thereof shall be of the same. ³And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, the top thereof, and the sides thereof round about, and the horns thereof; and thou shalt make unto it a crown of gold round about.... ⁶And thou shalt put it before the vail that is by the ark of the testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the testimony, where I will meet with thee.*

“In the first apartment, or holy place, were the table of showbread, the candlestick, or lampstand, and the altar of incense.... Just before the veil separating the holy place from the most holy and the immediate presence of God, stood the golden altar of incense. Upon this altar the priest was to burn incense every morning and evening; its horns were touched with the blood of the sin offering, and it was sprinkled with blood upon the great Day of Atonement. The fire upon this altar was kindled by God Himself and was sacredly cherished. Day and night the holy incense diffused its fragrance throughout the sacred apartments, and without, far around the tabernacle.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 348.

SABBATH

7. From this altar, how often every day did the sweet savor rise before the Lord? Like the incense offering that rose into God's presence, who is now interceding for the people?

Exodus 30:7, 8 *And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet incense every morning: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it. ⁸And when Aaron lighteth the lamps at even, he shall burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before the Lord throughout your generations.*

Romans 8:34 *Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*

Hebrews 7:25 *Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*

“The incense, ascending with the prayers of Israel, represents the merits and intercession of Christ, His perfect righteousness, which through faith is imputed to His people, and which can alone make the worship of sinful beings acceptable to God. Before the veil of the most holy place was an altar of perpetual intercession,

before the holy, an altar of continual atonement. By blood and by incense God was to be approached—symbols pointing to the great Mediator, through whom sinners may approach Jehovah, and through whom alone mercy and salvation can be granted to the repentant, believing soul.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 353.

“The ministration of the priest throughout the year in the first apartment of the sanctuary, ‘within the veil’ which formed the door and separated the holy place from the outer court, represents the work of ministration upon which Christ entered at His ascension. It was the work of the priest in the daily ministration to present before God the blood of the sin offering, also the incense which ascended with the prayers of Israel. So did Christ plead His blood before the Father in behalf of sinners, and present before Him also, with the precious fragrance of His own righteousness, the prayers of penitent believers. Such was the work of ministration in the first apartment of the sanctuary in heaven.”—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 420, 421.

CONSTANTLY SENDING PRAYERS TO THE FATHER

“In the offering of incense the priest was brought more directly into the presence of God than in any other act of the daily ministration. As the inner veil of the sanctuary did not extend to the top of the building, the glory of God, which was manifested above the mercy seat, was partially visible from the first apartment. When the priest offered incense before the Lord, he looked toward the ark; and as the cloud of incense arose, the divine glory descended upon the mercy seat and filled the most holy place, and often so filled both apartments that the priest was obliged to retire to the door of the tabernacle. As in that typical service the priest looked by faith to the mercy seat which he could not see, so the people of God are now to direct their prayers to Christ, their great High Priest, who, unseen by human vision, is pleading in their behalf in the sanctuary above.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 353.

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7

Sabbath, August 13, 2022

The Most Holy Place

“And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.”
Exodus 25:22.

“The tabernacle was composed of two apartments, separated by a curtain, or vail. All the furniture of the tabernacle was made of solid gold, or plated with gold. The curtains of the tabernacle were of a variety of colors, most beautifully arranged, and in these curtains were wrought, with threads of gold and silver, cherubim, which were to represent the angelic host, who are connected with the work of the heavenly sanctuary and who are ministering angels to the saints upon the earth.

“Within the second vail was placed the ark of the testimony, and the beautiful and rich curtain was drawn before the sacred ark. This curtain did not reach to the top of the building. The glory of God, which was above the mercy seat, could be seen from both apartments, but in a much less degree from the first apartment.”—*The Story of Redemption*, p. 154.

SUNDAY

VEIL BETWEEN THE HOLY AND MOST HOLY PLACES

- 1. What separated the holy place from the most holy place? What does this represent, according to the letter to the Hebrews? What happened to this separation when Jesus died?**

Exodus 26:31-33 *And thou shalt make a vail of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen of cunning work: with cherubims shall it be made: ³²And thou shalt hang it upon four pillars of shittim wood overlaid with gold: their hooks shall be of gold, upon the four sockets of silver: ³³And thou shalt hang up the vail under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the vail the ark of the testimony: and the vail shall divide unto you between the holy place and the most holy.*

Hebrews 10:19, 20 *Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh.*

Matthew 27:51 *And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent.*

“The building [tabernacle] was divided into two apartments by a rich and beautiful curtain, or veil, suspended from gold-plated pillars; and a similar veil closed the entrance of the first apartment. These, like the inner covering, which formed the ceiling, were of the most gorgeous colors, blue, purple, and scarlet, beautifully arranged, while inwrought with threads of gold and silver were cherubim to represent the angelic host who are connected with the work of the heavenly sanctuary, and who are ministering spirits to the people of God on earth.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 347.

“When Christ was crucified, the inner veil of the temple was rent in twain from top to bottom, signifying that the great final sacrifice had been made, and that the system of sacrificial offerings was forever at an end.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 165.

MONDAY

2. What was in the most holy place? How was it designed, and with what was it overlaid?

Exodus 26:33; 25:10, 11 *And thou shalt hang up the vail under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the vail the ark of the testimony: and the vail shall divide unto you between the holy place and the most holy.... ^{25:10}And they shall make an ark of shittim wood: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof: ¹¹And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, within and without shalt thou overlay it, and shalt make upon it a crown of gold round about.*

“Beyond the inner veil was the holy of holies, where centered the symbolic service of atonement and intercession, and which formed the connecting link between heaven and earth. In this apartment was the ark, a chest of acacia wood, overlaid within and without with gold, and having a crown of gold about the top. It was made as a depository for the tables of stone, upon which God Himself had inscribed the Ten Commandments. Hence it was called the ark of God’s testament, or the ark of the covenant, since the Ten Commandments were the basis of the covenant made between God and Israel.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 348.

TUESDAY

TABLES OF THE TESTIMONY

3. What did God instruct the leaders of Israel to put inside of the ark of the covenant? After five centuries, in the time of the temple’s dedication, what was still inside the ark of the covenant?

Exodus 25:16 *And thou shalt put into the ark the testimony which I shall give thee.*
Hebrews 9:4, last part ... *The ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron’s rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant.*

1 Kings 8:9 *There was nothing in the ark save the two tables of stone, which Moses put there at Horeb, when the Lord made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt.*

“The law of God, enshrined within the ark, was the great rule of righteousness and judgment. That law pronounced death upon the transgressor; but above the law was the mercy seat, upon which the presence of God was revealed, and from which, by virtue of the atonement, pardon was granted to the repentant sinner. Thus in the work of Christ for our redemption, symbolized by the sanctuary service, ‘mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.’ Psalm 85:10.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 349.

WEDNESDAY

4. **How was the testimony written? Was the written law a product of man or a gift from God? What is significant about the fact that human hands created other objects for the tabernacle but not the tables of the law?**

Exodus 24:12; 31:18; 32:16; 25:21, last part *And the Lord said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them....*^{31:18} *And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God....*^{32:16} *And the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables....*^{25:21} *And in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee.*

“Jehovah engraved His Ten Commandments on tables of stone, that all the inhabitants of earth might understand His eternal, unchangeable character.” –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students*, p. 248.

“We need to understand clearly the divine requirements that God makes of His people. The law, which is the transcript of His character, no one need fail to understand. The words written by the finger of God on tables of stone so perfectly reveal His will concerning His people that none need make any mistake. The laws of His kingdom were definitely made known, to be afterward revealed to the people of all nations and tongues as the principles of His government. We would do well to study those laws recorded in Exodus 20 and in the thirty-first chapter, verses 12-18.” –*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 225.

“In the earthly ark Moses was required to place the tables of stone. These were called the tables of the testimony; and the ark was called the ark of the testimony, because they contained God’s testimony in the Ten Commandments.” –*The Story of Redemption*, p. 154.

THURSDAY

5. **What was on each end of the mercy seat? What does the position of these gold objects represent?**

Exodus 25:17-20 *And thou shalt make a mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof.*¹⁸ *And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat.*¹⁹ *And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: even of the mercy seat shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof.*²⁰ *And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be.*

“But the Lord gave me a view of the heavenly sanctuary. The temple of God was open in heaven, and I was shown the ark of God covered with the mercy seat. Two angels stood one at either end of the ark, with their wings spread over the mercy seat, and their faces turned toward it. This, my accompanying angel informed me, represented all the heavenly host looking with reverential awe toward the law of God, which had been written by the finger of God.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 76.

FRIDAY

THE MERCY SEAT

6. **In addition to the testimony that was placed inside the ark, what was very special about its lid, or covering? What did it represent?**

Exodus 25:17, 21; 26:34 *And thou shalt make a mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof....²¹And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee....^{26:34}And thou shalt put the mercy seat upon the ark of the testimony in the most holy place.*

Hebrews 4:16 *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

“The ark was made to contain the tables of stone, on which God engraved, with His own finger, the Ten Commandments. It was in form like a chest.... The cover of this sacred chest was the mercy seat, made of solid gold. On each end of the mercy seat was fixed a cherub of pure, solid gold. Their faces were turned toward each other and were looking reverentially downward toward the mercy seat, which represented all the heavenly angels looking with interest and reverence upon the law of God deposited in the ark in the heavenly sanctuary. These cherubs had wings. One wing of each angel was stretched forth on high, while the other wing of each angel covered his form. The ark of the earthly sanctuary was the pattern of the true ark in heaven. There, beside the heavenly ark, stand living angels, at either end of the ark, each with one wing overshadowing the mercy seat, and stretching forth on high, while the other wings are folded over their forms in token of reverence and humility.” —*The Story of Redemption*, pp. 153, 154.

SABBATH

7. What was special about the mercy seat? How is it possible to enter the most holy place today?

Exodus 25:22; 30:6 *And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel....^{30:6}And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.*

Hebrews 10:19-22 *Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,²⁰By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;²¹And having an high priest over the house of God;²²Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*

“No language can describe the glory of the scene presented within the sanctuary—the gold-plated walls reflecting the light from the golden candlestick, the brilliant hues of the richly embroidered curtains with their shining angels, the table, and the altar of incense, glittering with gold; beyond the second veil the sacred ark, with its mystic cherubim, and above it the holy Shekinah, the visible manifestation of Jehovah’s presence; all but a dim reflection of the glories of the temple of God in heaven, the great center of the work for man’s redemption.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 349.

THE SHEKINAH, THE DIVINE PRESENCE

“Above the mercy seat was the Shekinah, the manifestation of the divine Presence; and from between the cherubim, God made known His will. Divine messages were sometimes communicated to the high priest by a voice from the cloud. Sometimes a light fell upon the angel at the right, to signify approval or acceptance, or a shadow or cloud rested upon the one at the left to reveal disapproval or rejection.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 349.

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Construction and Dedication

"Thus was all the work of the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation finished: and the children of Israel did according to all that the Lord commanded Moses, so did they." Exodus 39:32.

"The tabernacle was so constructed that it could be taken apart and borne with the Israelites in all their journeyings. Yet it was a structure of extraordinary magnificence. The walls consisted of upright boards heavily plated with purest gold. The sacred building was composed of two apartments, separated by a rich and beautiful curtain, or veil. A similar veil closed the entrance of the first apartment. These veils, with the curtain which formed the ceiling of the tabernacle, were of a variety of colors, most beautifully arranged; while inwrought with threads of gold and silver were cherubim, to represent the angelic host, who are connected with the work of the heavenly sanctuary, and who are ministering angels to the saints upon the earth." —*Signs of the Times*, June 24, 1880.

SUNDAY

OTHER NAMES FOR THE SANCTUARY

1. **What other names appear in the Scriptures for the sanctuary or part of it? What do they mean?**

Exodus 25:9; 26:36; 28:43, first part *According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it....^{26:36} And thou shalt make an hanging for the door of the tent, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, wrought with needlework....^{28:43} And they shall be upon Aaron, and upon his sons, when they come in unto the tabernacle of the congregation, or when they come near unto the altar to minister in the holy place; that they bear not iniquity, and die:...*

MONDAY

2. **What covered the wooden frame of the sanctuary walls? Describe the curtains and how they were designed.**

Exodus 26:1, 2, 6 *Moreover thou shalt make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet: with cherubims of cunning work shalt thou make them.² The length of one curtain shall be eight and twenty cubits, and the breadth of one curtain four cubits: and every one of the curtains shall have one measure....⁶ And thou shalt make fifty taches of gold, and couple the curtains together with the taches: and it shall be one tabernacle.*

"God placed His Spirit upon the builders of the earthly sanctuary. The artistic skill displayed in its construction was a manifestation of divine wisdom. The walls had the appearance of massive gold, reflecting in every direction the light of the seven lamps of the golden candlestick. The table of shewbread and the altar of incense glittered like burnished gold. The gorgeous curtain which formed the ceiling, inwrought with figures of angels in blue and purple and scarlet, added to the beauty of the scene. And beyond the second veil was the holy Shekinah, the visible manifestation of God's glory, before which none but the high priest could enter and live." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 414.

TUESDAY

TABERNACLE COVERINGS

3. **Above the ceiling of fine twined linen, what three types of skins were shaped to cover the tabernacle? What stage of Jesus' life did the coverings symbolize?**

Exodus 26:7, 14 *And thou shalt make curtains of goats' hair to be a covering upon the tabernacle: eleven curtains shalt thou make....¹⁴ And thou shalt make a covering for the tent of rams' skins dyed red, and a covering above of badgers' skins.*

Isaiah 53:2, 3 *For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. ³He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*

“For more than a thousand years the Jewish people had waited the coming of the promised Saviour. Their brightest hopes had rested upon this event. For a thousand years, in song and prophecy, in temple rite and household prayer, His name had been enshrined; and yet when He came, they did not recognize Him as the Messiah for whom they had so long waited. ‘He came unto His own, and His own received Him not.’ John 1:11. To their world-loving hearts the Beloved of heaven was ‘as a root out of a dry ground.’ In their eyes He had ‘no form nor comeliness;’ they discerned in Him no beauty that they should desire Him. Isaiah 53:2.” —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 710.

WEDNESDAY

4. How exactly did the Israelites carry out the detailed blueprint for the sanctuary? Therefore, what did they receive when their work was completed?

Exodus 39:32, 33, 42, 43 *Thus was all the work of the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation finished: and the children of Israel did according to all that the Lord commanded Moses, so did they. ³³And they brought the tabernacle unto Moses, the tent, and all his furniture, his taches, his boards, his bars, and his pillars, and his sockets, ... ⁴²According to all that the Lord commanded Moses, so the children of Israel made all the work. ⁴³And Moses did look upon all the work, and, behold, they had done it as the Lord had commanded, even so had they done it: and Moses blessed them.*

“A period of about half a year was occupied in the building of the tabernacle. When it was completed, Moses examined all the work of the builders, comparing it with the pattern shown him in the mount and the directions he had received from God. ‘As the Lord had commanded, even so had they done it: and Moses blessed them.’” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 349.

“The foundation firmly laid, we need wisdom that we may know how to build. When Moses was about to erect the sanctuary in the wilderness, he was cautioned, ‘See ... that thou make all things according to the pattern showed to thee in the mount.’ Hebrews 8:5. In His law, God has given us the pattern. Our character building is to be after ‘the pattern showed to thee in the mount.’ The law is the great standard of righteousness. It represents the character of God, and is the test of our loyalty to His government. And it is revealed to us, in all its beauty and excellence, in the life of Christ....” —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students*, p. 62.

THURSDAY

5. When were the various parts of the sanctuary assembled for the first time?

Exodus 40:1, 2, 16, 17 *And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, ²On the first day of the first month shalt thou set up the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation....¹⁶Thus did Moses: according to all that the Lord commanded him, so did he. ¹⁷And it came to pass in the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, that the tabernacle was reared up.*

“God was able to manifest His great power through Moses because of his constant faith in the power and in the loving intentions of their Deliverer. It was this implicit faith in God that made Moses what he was. According to all that the Lord commanded him, so did he. All the learning of the wise men could not make him a channel through which the Lord could labor, however, until he lost his self-

confidence, realized his own helplessness, and put his trust in God; until he was willing to obey God's commands whether they seemed to his human reason to be proper or not."—*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 344.

FRIDAY

THE LORD'S GLORY

6. What wonderful thing occurred when the sanctuary was assembled and dedicated?

Exodus 40:34, 35 *Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. ³⁵And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.*

"When the Lord invited Israel to contribute for the building of the tabernacle in the wilderness, there was a hearty response. The people 'came, everyone whose heart stirred him up, and everyone whom his spirit made willing, and they brought the Lord's offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation.'" They came, both men and women, as many as were willing hearted. Men came with their gifts of gold and silver, choice fabrics, and valuable wood. The rulers brought precious stones, costly spices, and oil for the lights. 'And all the women that were wise hearted did spin with their hands, and brought that which they had spun.' They brought 'free offerings every morning,' until the report was given to Moses: 'The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work, which the Lord commanded to make.' Exodus 35:21-25; 36:3, 5. This generous-hearted, willing service was pleasing to God; and when the tabernacle was completed, He signified His acceptance of the offering. 'A cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.' Exodus 40:34."—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 468.

SABBATH

7. How did the Lord carry out His promise of His presence being constantly with the children of Israel? What similar promise is also for God's people today?

Exodus 40:36-38 *And when the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel went onward in all their journeys: ³⁷But if the cloud were not taken up, then they journeyed not till the day that it was taken up. ³⁸For the cloud of the Lord was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.*

Matthew 18:19, 20 *Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*

"The pillar of cloud rested over the tabernacle by day, and the pillar of fire by night, an assurance that God would still be their guide and helper if they would walk in the way of His commandments."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 481.

"With eager interest the multitudes of Israel crowded around to look upon the sacred structure. While they were contemplating the scene with reverent satisfaction, the pillar of cloud floated over the sanctuary and, descending, enveloped it. 'And the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.' There was a revealing of the divine majesty, and for a time even Moses could not enter. With deep emotion the people beheld the token that the work of their hands was accepted. There were no loud demonstrations of rejoicing. A solemn awe rested upon all. But the gladness of their hearts welled up in tears of joy, and they murmured low, earnest words of gratitude that God had condescended to abide with them."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 349, 350.

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Please read the Missionary Report from Zambia on page 39.

Sacrifices for Sin

"If any one of the common people sin ... or if his sin, which he hath sinned, come to his knowledge: then he shall bring his offering.... And he shall lay his hand upon the head of the sin offering and slay the sin offering in the place of the burnt offering. And the priest shall take of the blood thereof with his finger, and put it upon the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and shall pour out all the blood thereof at the bottom of the altar.... And it shall be forgiven him." Leviticus 4:27-31.

"But forgiveness has a broader meaning than many suppose. When God gives the promise that He 'will abundantly pardon,' He adds, as if the meaning of that promise exceeded all that we could comprehend: 'My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.' Isaiah 55:7-9. God's forgiveness is not merely a judicial act by which He sets us free from condemnation. It is not only forgiveness for sin, but reclaiming from sin. It is the outflow of redeeming love that transforms the heart. David had the true conception of forgiveness when he prayed, 'Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.' Psalm 51:10. And again he says, 'As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us.' Psalm 103:12." —*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 114.

SUNDAY

CONFESSION OF SIN

1. What did the law require of a person who had fallen in sin?

Leviticus 5:5 *And it shall be, when he shall be guilty in one of these things, that he shall confess that he hath sinned in that thing.*

Numbers 5:5-7 *And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, "Speak unto the children of Israel, When a man or woman shall commit any sin that men commit, to do a trespass against the Lord, and that person be guilty; ⁶Then they shall confess their sin which they have done: and he shall recompense his trespass with the principal thereof, and add unto it the fifth part thereof, and give it unto him against whom he hath trespassed.*

Ezra 10:1, 11, first part *Now when Ezra had prayed, and when he had confessed, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, there assembled unto him out of Israel a very great congregation of men and women and children: for the people wept very sore.... ¹¹Now therefore make confession unto the Lord God of your fathers, and do his pleasure:...*

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.' Proverbs 28:13. The conditions of obtaining mercy of God are simple and just and reasonable. The Lord does not require us to do some grievous thing in order that we may have the forgiveness of sin. We need not make long and wearisome pilgrimages, or perform painful penances, to commend our souls to the God of heaven or to expiate our transgression; but he that confesseth and forsaketh his sin shall have mercy." —*Steps to Christ*, p. 37.

MONDAY

2. In addition, what was required of the repentant sinner in the case of robbery?

Leviticus 6:1-5 *And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, ²If a soul sin, and commit a trespass against the Lord, and lie unto his neighbour in that which was delivered him to keep, or in fellowship, or in a thing taken away by violence, or hath deceived his neighbour; ³Or have found that which was lost, and lieth concerning it, and*

sweareth falsely; in any of all these that a man doeth, sinning therein: "Then it shall be, because he hath sinned, and is guilty, that he shall restore that which he took violently away, or the thing which he hath deceitfully gotten, or that which was delivered him to keep, or the lost thing which he found." Or all that about which he hath sworn falsely; he shall even restore it in the principal, and shall add the fifth part more thereto, and give it unto him to whom it appertaineth, in the day of his trespass offering.

Numbers 5:7, last part ... *And he shall recompense his trespass with the principal thereof, and add unto it the fifth part thereof, and give it unto him against whom he hath trespassed.*

"Zacchaeus had heard of Jesus. The report of One who had borne Himself with kindness and courtesy toward the proscribed classes had spread far and wide. In this chief of the publicans was awakened a longing for a better life. Only a few miles from Jericho, John the Baptist had preached at the Jordan, and Zacchaeus had heard of the call to repentance. The instruction to the publicans, 'Exact no more than that which is appointed you' (Luke 3:13), though outwardly disregarded, had impressed his mind. He knew the Scriptures, and was convicted that his practice was wrong. Now, hearing the words reported to have come from the Great Teacher, he felt that he was a sinner in the sight of God. Yet what he had heard of Jesus kindled hope in his heart. Repentance, reformation of life, was possible, even to him; was not one of the new Teacher's most trusted disciples a publican? Zacchaeus began at once to follow the conviction that had taken hold upon him, and to make restitution to those whom he had wronged." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 553.

TUESDAY

PRESENTING A SACRIFICE

3. What step followed repentance and restoration?

Leviticus 6:6 *And he shall bring his trespass offering unto the Lord, a ram without blemish out of the flock, with thy estimation, for a trespass offering, unto the priest.*

Numbers 5:8 *But if the man have no kinsman to recompense the trespass unto, let the trespass be recompensed unto the Lord, even to the priest; beside the ram of the atonement, whereby an atonement shall be made for him.*

WEDNESDAY

4. After laying his hand on the head of the sacrificial animal and confessing his sin, what did the sinner do? What deep meaning was conveyed in his sacrifice?

Leviticus 4:27-29 *And if any one of the common people sin through ignorance, while he doeth somewhat against any of the commandments of the Lord concerning things which ought not to be done, and be guilty; ²⁸Or if his sin, which he hath sinned, come to his knowledge: then he shall bring his offering, a kid of the goats, a female without blemish, for his sin which he hath sinned. ²⁹And he shall lay his hand upon the head of the sin offering, and slay the sin offering in the place of the burnt offering.*

"Day by day the repentant sinner brought his offering to the door of the tabernacle and, placing his hand upon the victim's head, confessed his sins, thus in figure transferring them from himself to the innocent sacrifice. The animal was then slain. 'Without shedding of blood,' says the apostle, there is no remission of sin. 'The life of the flesh is in the blood.' Leviticus 17:11. The broken law of God demanded the life of the transgressor." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 418.

THURSDAY

SPRINKLING OF THE BLOOD

5. After the innocent animal was sacrificed, what did the priest do for the sinner's pardon? In such cases, where did the priest take the blood from the sacrifice?

Leviticus 4:30, 31; 6:7; 4:16-18 *And the priest shall take of the blood thereof with his finger, and put it upon the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and shall pour out all the blood thereof at the bottom of the altar. ³¹And he shall take away all the fat thereof, as the fat is taken away from off the sacrifice of peace offerings; and the priest shall burn it upon the altar for a sweet savour unto the Lord; and the priest shall make an atonement for him, and it shall be forgiven him.... ^{6:7}And the priest shall make an atonement for him before the Lord: and it shall be forgiven him for any thing of all that he hath done in trespassing therein.... ^{4:16}And the priest that is anointed shall bring of the bullock's blood to the tabernacle of the congregation: ¹⁷And the priest shall dip his finger in some of the blood, and sprinkle it seven times before the Lord, even before the veil. ¹⁸And he shall put some of the blood upon the horns of the altar which is before the Lord, that is in the tabernacle of the congregation, and shall pour out all the blood at the bottom of the altar of the burnt offering, which is at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.*

“The blood, representing the forfeited life of the sinner, whose guilt the victim bore, was carried by the priest into the holy place and sprinkled before the veil, behind which was the ark containing the law that the sinner had transgressed. By this ceremony the sin was, through the blood, transferred in figure to the sanctuary. In some cases the blood was not taken into the holy place; but the flesh was then to be eaten by the priest, as Moses directed the sons of Aaron, saying: ‘God hath given it you to bear the iniquity of the congregation.’ Leviticus 10:17.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 418.

FRIDAY

THE LAMB OF GOD

6. What antitypical Lamb was represented by the innocent victim whose life the repentant sinner had to sacrifice for his own forgiveness?

Isaiah 53:7 *He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.*

John 1:29 *The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*

“Upon Christ as our substitute and surety was laid the iniquity of us all. He was counted a transgressor, that He might redeem us from the condemnation of the law. The guilt of every descendant of Adam was pressing upon His heart. The wrath of God against sin, the terrible manifestation of His displeasure because of iniquity, filled the soul of His Son with consternation. All His life Christ had been publishing to a fallen world the good news of the Father’s mercy and pardoning love. Salvation for the chief of sinners was His theme.... The withdrawal of the divine countenance from the Saviour in this hour of supreme anguish pierced His heart with a sorrow that can never be fully understood by man. So great was this agony that His physical pain was hardly felt.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 753.

SABBATH

7. What were some major differences between the lambs that sinners offered in the sanctuary and the sacrifice of God’s Son?

Philippians 2:5-11 *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: ⁶Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ⁷But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. ⁹Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: ¹⁰That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ¹¹And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Hebrews 10:12-14 *But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; ¹³From henceforth expecting till his enemies be*

made his footstool. ¹⁴For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

“Think of what Christ accomplished during His earthly ministry. How earnest, how untiring, were His efforts! He allowed nothing to turn Him aside from the work given Him. Are we following in His footsteps? He gave up all to carry out God’s plan of mercy for the fallen race. In the fulfillment of the purpose of heaven, He became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. He had had no communion with sin, had known nothing of it; but He came to this world, and took upon His sinless soul the guilt of sinful man, that sinners might stand justified before God. He grappled with temptation, overcoming in our behalf. The Son of God, pure and unsullied, bore the penalty of transgression, and received the stroke of death that brought deliverance to the race.”—*Review and Herald*, January 20, 1903.

THE BROTHER WHOM YOU WOUNDED IS GOD’S PROPERTY

“The apostle says, ‘Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.’ James 5:16. Confess your sins to God, who only can forgive them, and your faults to one another. If you have given offense to your friend or neighbor, you are to acknowledge your wrong, and it is his duty freely to forgive you. Then you are to seek the forgiveness of God, because the brother you have wounded is the property of God, and in injuring him you sinned against his Creator and Redeemer. The case is brought before the only true Mediator, our great High Priest, who ‘was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin,’ and who is ‘touched with the feeling of our infirmities,’ and is able to cleanse from every stain of iniquity. Hebrews 4:15.”—*Steps to Christ*, p. 37.

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Missionary Report from Zambia

To be read on Sabbath, August 27, 2022

*The Special Sabbath School Offering
will be gathered on Sabbath, September 3, 2022*

“So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together...: for the people had a mind to work.” Nehemiah 4:6.

Zambia is a landlocked country located in southern Africa. It covers 752,618 square kilometers (467,656 square miles), with a total population of about 18 million people comprising 72 ethnic groups. About 95.5 percent of the population is Christian, of which 75.3 percent is Protestant and 20.2 percent is Roman Catholic. Missionary outreach was first begun in the late 1930s. In 1994, sixty-four years later, Zambia was organized as a Union, and it currently has four fields.

Land for the *Zambian Union Headquarters* is located in Avondale Township (15°22′51.03″S, 28°23′15.87″E), about 12 kilometers (7 miles) east of Lusaka Central Business District (CBD).

As of July 4, 2021, the membership of the *Zambian Union* was slightly over 1,100, with about 4,000 interested souls; this means that only 1 in about 18,000 Zambians was a member of the church when this report was prepared. This calls for a concerted effort to give the message to those who have not yet heard the everlasting gospel of the kingdom.

To fulfill the great commission of Matthew 28:19, 20, one of the prerequisites is the church's visibility in an established Union infrastructure, especially the union headquarters. Zambia has never had an official office since it was organized as a union. Currently, there is a temporary structure that is an extension of the Union house located on the property. While this space provides some solutions, it is very small and lacks the features that show the Union to be engaged in the great business of the God of order in heaven. Inspiration states, "If we see no necessity for harmonious action, and are disorderly ... and disorganized in our course of action, angels, who are thoroughly organized and move in perfect order, cannot work for us successfully." —*Christian Experience and Teachings of Ellen G. White*, p. 199. If we are content to do God's work in a much poorer and "more inconvenient place, He will not bestow upon us His blessing." —*Evangelism*, p. 377.

Being the custodians of truth in Zambia, we believe it is important to have a physical center where anyone in Zambia and the world at large can access the truth at any time. The current "office" can accommodate only three small tables and three people. There is hardly any space to keep books, conduct Bible studies and seminars, or hold Union Board meetings, as well as other things. The lack of a true Zambian Union headquarters building has affected the progress of the work that should have been done many years ago. Since space is readily and legally available, the IMS-SDARM Zambian Union unanimously resolved to build a simple but spacious Zambian headquarters building to be used for all administrative activities.

It is planned for the headquarters to have three office spaces for the executive officers and one open working space for department leaders, supplied with computers. There will also be a conference room, publishing house, reception area, and waiting room. The plan and details for the proposed headquarters infrastructure can be seen at: <https://youtu.be/TXAmARCRefg> on the Zambian Union YouTube Channel.

Like many other developing countries, the economy of Zambia has been hurt severely, especially during the COVID-19 outbreak. Therefore, we appeal for financial support to build a well-established Zambian Union headquarters, which is envisaged to bring respect to the honorable name of our God in heaven. In John 14:13, 14, the Lord Jesus Christ says: "... Whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in My name, I will do it." We cling to this Bible promise to strengthen our faith and optimism toward the realization of this long-overdue dream.

"May the Lord impress the hearts of those who have money to come up to His help, and assist in the erection of a building that will be wholesome and safe and convenient" for administrative work. —*Special Testimonies*, Series B, no. 13, p. 8. Amen!

—*For the Zambian Union Executive Board and Building Committee,*
Manoah Muchanga, Zambian Union Secretary and Building Committee Chair

Special Sabbath School Offering for Zambia

Let your gift reflect your faith in God's great goodness!

10

Sabbath, September 3, 2022

Ministry of the Priests

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light." 1 Peter 2:9.

SUNDAY

ESTABLISHED BY THE LORD

1. **Whom did the Lord choose to perform every aspect of the priesthood, including the worship services and symbolic rites in the sanctuary?**

Numbers 3:10 *And thou shalt appoint Aaron and his sons, and they shall wait on their priest's office: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.*

Exodus 28:1 *And take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office, even Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons.*

"By divine direction the tribe of Levi was set apart for the service of the sanctuary. In the earliest times every man was the priest of his own household. In the days of Abraham the priesthood was regarded as the birthright of the eldest son. Now, instead of the firstborn of all Israel, the Lord accepted the tribe of Levi for the work of the sanctuary. By this signal honor He manifested His approval of their fidelity, both in adhering to His service and in executing His judgments when Israel apostatized in the worship of the golden calf. The priesthood, however, was restricted to the family of Aaron. Aaron and his sons alone were permitted to minister before the Lord; the rest of the tribe were entrusted with the charge of the tabernacle and its furniture, and they were to attend upon the priests in their ministration, but they were not to sacrifice, to burn incense, or to see the holy things till they were covered."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 350.

MONDAY

2. **Whenever a penitent sinner came to the sanctuary to offer a sacrifice, what was the priest to do?**

Leviticus 6:2, 6, 7 *If a soul sin, and commit a trespass against the Lord, and lie unto his neighbour in that which was delivered him to keep, or in fellowship, or in a thing taken away by violence, or hath deceived his neighbour;... 'And he shall bring his trespass offering unto the Lord, a ram without blemish out of the flock, with thy estimation, for a trespass offering, unto the priest: 'And the priest shall make an atonement for him before the Lord: and it shall be forgiven him for any thing of all that he hath done in trespassing therein.*

"Not only the sanctuary itself, but the ministration of the priests, was to 'serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things.' Hebrews 8:5. Thus it was of great importance; and the Lord, through Moses, gave the most definite and explicit

instruction concerning every point of this typical service. The ministration of the sanctuary consisted of two divisions, a daily and a yearly service. The daily service was performed at the altar of burnt offering in the court of the tabernacle and in the holy place; while the yearly service was in the most holy.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 351, 352.

TUESDAY

SERVICES AND COMMUNICATION

3. What main services did the priests perform, and where?

Numbers 18:7 *Therefore thou and thy sons with thee shall keep your priest's office for everything of the altar, and within the vail; and ye shall serve: I have given your priest's office unto you as a service of gift: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.*

1 Samuel 2:28 *And did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to offer upon mine altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me? and did I give unto the house of thy father all the offerings made by fire of the children of Israel?*

Numbers 18:1 *And the Lord said unto Aaron, Thou and thy sons and thy father's house with thee shall bear the iniquity of the sanctuary: and thou and thy sons with thee shall bear the iniquity of your priesthood.*

“The tribe of Levi was chosen by the Lord for the sacred offices pertaining to the temple and the priesthood. Of the priest it was said, ‘The Lord thy God hath chosen him ... to stand to minister in the name of the Lord.’ Deuteronomy 18:5.”—*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 70.

“By offering Himself to make intercession for the transgression of the human race, Christ executed the office of priest.”—*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 403.

WEDNESDAY

4. What did the priest do when there was a serious need to consult the Lord?

Exodus 28:30, first part *And thou shalt put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim; and they shall be upon Aaron's heart, when he goeth in before the Lord: ...*

Numbers 27:21 *And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall ask counsel for him after the judgment of Urim before the Lord: at his word shall they go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he, and all the children of Israel with him, even all the congregation.*

“At the right and left of the breastplate were two large stones of great brilliancy. These were known as the Urim and Thummim. By them the will of God was made known through the high priest. When questions were brought for decision before the Lord, a halo of light encircling the precious stone at the right was a token of the divine consent or approval, while a cloud shadowing the stone at the left was an evidence of denial or disapprobation.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 351.

THURSDAY

TEACHERS IN ISRAEL

5. In addition, what was another great responsibility of the priests?

Deuteronomy 33:10 *They shall teach Jacob thy judgments, and Israel thy law: they shall put incense before thee, and whole burnt sacrifice upon thine altar.*

Leviticus 10:11 *And that ye may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the Lord hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses.*

Ezekiel 44:23, 24 *And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean. ²⁴And in controversy they shall stand in judgment; and they shall judge it according to my*

judgments; and they shall keep my laws and my statutes in all mine assemblies; and they shall hallow my sabbaths.

“The Lord had instructed His people that He was the Owner of the vineyard, and that all their possessions were given them in trust to be used for Him. But the priests and teachers did not perform the work of their sacred office as if they were handling the property of God.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 292.

“Had fathers and mothers followed the direction given by Christ, we should not now read and hear of sins and crimes committed not only by adults but even by youth and children. The evil condition of society exists because parents have disregarded this instruction and neglected to train and educate their children to respect and honor the holy commandments of God.”—*Mind, Character and Personality*, vol. 2, pp. 566, 567.

“Those who have seen the truth and felt its importance, and have had an experience in the things of God, are to teach sound doctrine to their children. They should make them acquainted with the great pillars of our faith, the reasons why we are Seventh-day Adventists—why we are called, as were the children of Israel, to be a peculiar people, a holy nation, separate and distinct from all other people on the face of the earth. These things should be explained to the children in simple language, easy to be understood; and as they grow in years, the lessons imparted should be suited to their increasing capacity, until the foundations of truth have been laid broad and deep.”—*Child Guidance*, p. 495.

FRIDAY

THE LEVITES

6. To whom did the Lord entrust many other responsibilities relating to the sanctuary and for the benefit of the people?

Numbers 1:51; 3:6-9 *And when the tabernacle setteth forward, the Levites shall take it down: and when the tabernacle is to be pitched, the Levites shall set it up: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death....^{3,6} Bring the tribe of Levi near, and present them before Aaron the priest, that they may minister unto him.⁷ And they shall keep his charge, and the charge of the whole congregation before the tabernacle of the congregation, to do the service of the tabernacle.⁸ And they shall keep all the instruments of the tabernacle of the congregation, and the charge of the children of Israel, to do the service of the tabernacle.⁹ And thou shalt give the Levites unto Aaron and to his sons: they are wholly given unto him out of the children of Israel.*

“The Lord designated a special family of the tribe of Levi to bear the ark; and others of the Levites were specially appointed of God to bear the tabernacle and all its furniture, and to perform the work of setting up and taking down the tabernacle. And if any man from curiosity or from lack of order got out of his place and touched any part of the sanctuary or furniture, or even came near any of the workmen, he was to be put to death. God did not leave His holy tabernacle to be borne, erected, and taken down, indiscriminately, by any tribe who might choose the office; but persons were chosen who could appreciate the sacredness of the work in which they were engaged. These men appointed of God were directed to impress upon the people the special sacredness of the ark and all that appertained thereunto, lest they should look upon these things without realizing their holiness and should be cut off from Israel. All things pertaining to the most holy place were to be looked upon with reverence.”—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 652.

SABBATH

SYMBOLIC AND REAL

7. What do the Scriptures say that the sanctuary, the sacrifices, and the priesthood of antiquity were? Where are the true sanctuary and the true High Priest located now?

Hebrews 9:9-12 *Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as*

pertaining to the conscience; ¹⁰Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation. ¹¹But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; ¹²Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

“Many have failed to realize the sacredness of the work in which they are engaged. Its exalted character should be kept before the workers, both by precept and example. Let all read the directions given by Christ to Moses, requiring every man to be in his place and to do the part of the work to which he was appointed and set apart. If in putting up or taking down the tabernacle any man was found out of his place, or ventured upon any officious action, in handling the sacred ark or bearing it, that man was put to death.”—(Manuscript 29, 1895) *The Publishing Ministry*, p. 59.

WITHOUT BLEMISH

“Everything worn by the priest was to be whole and without blemish. By those beautiful official garments was represented the character of the great antitype, Jesus Christ. Nothing but perfection, in dress and attitude, in word and spirit, could be acceptable to God. He is holy, and His glory and perfection must be represented by the earthly service. Nothing but perfection could properly represent the sacredness of the heavenly service. Finite man might rend his own heart by showing a contrite and humble spirit. This God would discern.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 709.

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11

Sabbath, September 10, 2022

In the Center of the Camp

“Every man of the children of Israel shall pitch by his own standard, with the ensign of their father’s house: far off about the tabernacle of the congregation shall they pitch.” Numbers 2:2.

“The Hebrew camp was arranged in exact order. It was separated into three great divisions, each having its appointed position in the encampment. In the center was the tabernacle, the abiding place of the invisible King. Around it were stationed the priests and Levites. Beyond these were encamped all the other tribes.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 374, 375.

SUNDAY

EVERY TRIBE IN ITS SPECIAL PLACE

- 1. After traveling, when the people stopped somewhere, how were the tribes to arrange their tents in the new camp? In every location, what place did the tabernacle occupy?**

Numbers 1:52; 2:1, 2 *And the children of Israel shall pitch their tents, every man by his own camp, and every man by his own standard, throughout their hosts....* ^{2:1}*And the Lord spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, ²Every man of the children of Israel shall pitch by his own standard, with the ensign of their father’s house: far off about the tabernacle of the congregation shall they pitch.*

“In all their journeyings they observed perfect order. Every tribe bore a standard, with the sign of their father’s house on it, and every tribe was commanded to pitch by their own standard. And when they traveled the different tribes marched in order, every tribe under their own standard. When they rested from their journeyings, the

tabernacle was erected, and then the different tribes pitched their tents in order, in just such a position as God commanded, around the tabernacle, at a distance from it.” —*The Story of Redemption*, p. 157.

MONDAY

2. **Which three tribes were situated in front of the entrance to the tabernacle, that is, on the eastern side? Which three were on the opposite side, on the west?**

Numbers 2:3, 5, 7, 18, 20, 22, first parts *And on the east side toward the rising of the sun shall they of the standard of the camp of Judah pitch throughout their armies: and ... of the children of Judah....* ⁵*And those that do pitch next unto him shall be the tribe of Issachar....* ⁷*Then the tribe of Zebulun:...* ¹⁸*On the west side shall be the standard of the camp of Ephraim....* ²⁰*And by him shall be the tribe of Manasseh:...* ²²*Then the tribe of Benjamin:...*

“From the outset of the journey from Egypt, lessons had been given for their training and discipline. Even before they left Egypt a temporary organization had been effected, and the people were arranged in companies, under appointed leaders. At Sinai the arrangements for organization were completed. The order so strikingly displayed in all the works of God was manifest in the Hebrew economy. God was the center of authority and government. Moses, as His representative, was to administer the laws in His name. Then came the council of seventy, then the priests and the princes, under these ‘captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, and captains over fifties, and captains over tens’ (Numbers 11:16, 17; Deuteronomy 1:15), and, lastly, officers appointed for special duties.” —*Education*, p. 37.

TUESDAY

3. **Which tribes were located on the north? And, finally, which tribes took their places on the south?**

Numbers 2:25, 27, 29, 10, 12, 14 *The standard of the camp of Dan shall be on the north side by their armies:...* ²⁷*And those that encamp by him shall be the tribe of Asher: and the captain of the children of Asher....* ²⁹*Then the tribe of Naphtali:...* ¹⁰*On the south side shall be the standard of the camp of Reuben....* ¹²*And those which pitch by him shall be the tribe of Simeon:...* ¹⁴*Then the tribe of Gad....*

“The position of each tribe also was specified. Each was to march and to encamp beside its own standard, as the Lord had commanded: ‘Every man of the children of Israel shall pitch by his own standard, with the ensign of their father’s house: far off about the tabernacle of the congregation shall they pitch.’ ‘As they encamp, so shall they set forward, every man in his place by their standards.’ Numbers 2:2, 17. The mixed multitude that had accompanied Israel from Egypt were not permitted to occupy the same quarters with the tribes, but were to abide upon the outskirts of the camp.... Deuteronomy 23:7, 8.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 375.

WEDNESDAY

THE LEVITES’ PLACE

4. **Who were the sons of Levi, who made up the three largest families of the Levites? In relation to all of the tribes, where did the Levites pitch their tents?**

Numbers 1:53; 3:17 *But the Levites shall pitch round about the tabernacle of testimony, that there be no wrath upon the congregation of the children of Israel: and the Levites shall keep the charge of the tabernacle of testimony....* ^{3:17}*And these were the sons of Levi by their name: Gershon, and Kohath, and Merari.*

“The camp was arranged in exact order, the tabernacle, the abiding place of God, in the midst, and around it the tents of the priests and the Levites. Outside of these each tribe encamped beside its own standard.” —*Education*, pp. 37, 38.

5. **Did the members of these families just camp in the first place they came to, or were there exact specifications for them to follow?**

Numbers 3:23, 29, 35, 38 *The families of the Gershonites shall pitch behind the tabernacle westward....²⁹The families of the sons of Kohath shall pitch on the side of the tabernacle southward....³⁵And the chief of the house of the father of the families of Merari was Zuriel the son of Abihail: these shall pitch on the side of the tabernacle northward....³⁸But those that encamp before the tabernacle toward the east, even before the tabernacle of the congregation eastward, shall be Moses, and Aaron and his sons, keeping the charge of the sanctuary for the charge of the children of Israel; and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.*

“To the Levites was committed the charge of the tabernacle and all that pertained thereto, both in the camp and on the journey. When the camp set forward they were to strike the sacred tent; when a halting place was reached they were to set it up. No person of another tribe was allowed to come near, on pain of death. The Levites were separated into three divisions, the descendants of the three sons of Levi, and each was assigned its special position and work. In front of the tabernacle, and nearest to it, were the tents of Moses and Aaron. On the south were the Kohathites, whose duty it was to care for the ark and the other furniture; on the north the Merarites, who were placed in charge of the pillars, sockets, boards, etc.; in the rear the Gershonites, to whom the care of the curtains and hangings was committed.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 375.

FRIDAY

ORDER IN THE CAMP AND FOR TRAVEL

6. **When were the people to respect the established order—only when camped, or also at other times?**

Numbers 1:51; 2:17 *And when the tabernacle setteth forward, the Levites shall take it down: and when the tabernacle is to be pitched, the Levites shall set it up: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death....^{2:17} Then the tabernacle of the congregation shall set forward with the camp of the Levites in the midst of the camp: as they encamp, so shall they set forward, every man in his place by their standards.*

“In all their journeyings they were required to observe perfect order. Every tribe bore a standard with the sign of their father’s house upon it, and each tribe was required to pitch under its own standard. When the ark moved, the armies journeyed, the different tribes marching in order, under their own standards. The Levites were designated by the Lord as the tribe in the midst of whom the sacred ark was to be borne, Moses and Aaron marching just in front of the ark, and the sons of Aaron following near them, each bearing trumpets. They were to receive directions from Moses, which they were to signify to the people by speaking through the trumpets. These trumpets gave special sounds which the people understood, and directed their movements accordingly.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 650.

SABBATH

7. **What instruction do we receive concerning God’s order through the example of the Hebrews? How do you think people today would have behaved if they had lived under that system? In a similar manner, who should be the center and great focus of a Christian’s life?**

Numbers 2:34 *And the children of Israel did according to all that the Lord commanded Moses: so they pitched by their standards, and so they set forward, every one after their families, according to the house of their fathers.*

John 3:14, 15 *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: ¹⁵That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.*

Hebrews 12:2 *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

“Christ designs that heaven’s order, heaven’s plan of government, heaven’s divine harmony, shall be represented in His church on earth. Thus in His people He is glorified. Through them the Sun of Righteousness will shine in undimmed luster to the world. Christ has given to His church ample facilities, that He may receive a large revenue of glory from His redeemed, purchased possession. He has bestowed upon His people capabilities and blessings that they may represent His own sufficiency. The church, endowed with the righteousness of Christ, is His depositary, in which the riches of His mercy, His grace, and His love, are to appear in full and final display. Christ looks upon His people in their purity and perfection, as the reward of His humiliation, and the supplement of His glory—Christ, the great Center, from whom radiates all glory.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 680.

“As the serpent was lifted up in the wilderness by Moses, and all that had been bitten by the fiery serpents were bidden to look and live, so also the Son of man must be lifted up, that ‘whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.’”—*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 92.

THE GREAT CENTER

“The third angel’s message calls for the presentation of the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, and this truth must be brought before the world; but the great Center of attraction, Jesus Christ, must not be left out of the third angel’s message....

“The sinner must ever look toward Calvary; and with the simple faith of a little child, he must rest in the merits of Christ, accepting His righteousness and believing in His mercy.”—(Review and Herald, March 20, 1894) *Evangelism*, pp. 184, 185.

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12

Sabbath, September 17, 2022

The Daily Service

“And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by My glory. And I will sanctify the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar: I will sanctify also both Aaron and his sons, to minister to Me in the priest’s office.” Exodus 29:43, 44.

“Every morning and evening a lamb was offered upon the altar. This was to represent the death of the Saviour. As the child Jesus looked upon the innocent victim, the Holy Spirit taught Him its meaning. He knew that He Himself, as the Lamb of God, must die for the sins of men.”—*The Story of Jesus*, p. 32.

“Family worship should not be governed by circumstances. You are not to pray occasionally and, when you have a large day’s work to do, neglect it. In thus doing you lead your children to look upon prayer as of no special consequence. Prayer means very much to the children of God, and thank offerings should come up before God morning and evening. Says the psalmist, ‘O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms.’”—*Prayer*, p. 189.

SUNDAY

- 1. Besides the sacrifices offered in the sanctuary by individuals for the forgiveness of sin, what other types of offerings were offered?**

Exodus 29:38-40 *Now this is that which thou shalt offer upon the altar; two lambs of the first year day by day continually. ³⁹The one lamb thou shalt offer in the morning; and the other lamb thou shalt offer at even: ⁴⁰And with the one lamb a tenth deal of flour mingled with the fourth part of an hin of beaten oil; and the fourth part of an hin of wine for a drink offering.*

“Every morning and evening a lamb of a year old was burned upon the altar, with its appropriate meat offering, thus symbolizing the daily consecration of the nation to Jehovah, and their constant dependence upon the atoning blood of Christ. God expressly directed that every offering presented for the service of the sanctuary should be ‘without blemish.’... Only an offering ‘without blemish’ could be a symbol of His perfect purity who was to offer Himself as ‘a lamb without blemish and without spot.’ 1 Peter 1:19. The apostle Paul points to these sacrifices as an illustration of what the followers of Christ are to become. He says, ‘I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.’” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 352.

MONDAY

2. How do the holy Scriptures describe these sacrifices and their purpose?

Exodus 29:41, 42 *And the other lamb thou shalt offer at even, and shalt do thereto according to the meat offering of the morning, and according to the drink offering thereof, for a sweet savour, an offering made by fire unto the Lord. ⁴²This shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the Lord: where I will meet you, to speak there unto thee.*

“The ministration of the sanctuary consisted of two divisions, a daily and a yearly service. The daily service was performed at the altar of burnt offering in the court of the tabernacle, and in the holy place; while the yearly service was in the most holy.... The daily service consisted of the morning and evening burnt offering, the offering of sweet incense on the golden altar, and the special offerings for individual sins.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 352.

TUESDAY

GOD MET WITH HIS PEOPLE

3. How special were the sacrifices for the people every day? What deep meaning did the services contain?

Exodus 29:43, 44 *And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by my glory. ⁴⁴And I will sanctify the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar: I will sanctify also both Aaron and his sons, to minister to me in the priest's office.*

“The incense, ascending with the prayers of Israel, represents the merits and intercession of Christ, His perfect righteousness, which through faith is imputed to His people, and which can alone make the worship of sinful beings acceptable to God. Before the veil of the most holy place, was an altar of perpetual intercession, before the holy, an altar of continual atonement. By blood and by incense, God was to be approached—symbols pointing to the great Mediator, through whom sinners may approach Jehovah, and through whom alone mercy and salvation can be granted to the repentant, believing soul.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 353.

WEDNESDAY

4. In what special sense, then, did the Lord want to dwell among His people?

Exodus 29:45, 46 *And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God. ⁴⁶And they shall know that I am the Lord their God, that brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them: I am the Lord their God.*

“Henceforth the people were to be honored with the abiding presence of their King. ‘I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God,’ ‘and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by My glory’ Exodus 29:45, 43), was the assurance given to Moses. As the symbol of God’s authority and the embodiment of His will, there was delivered to Moses a copy of the Decalogue engraved by the finger of God Himself upon two tables of stone (Deuteronomy 9:10; Exodus 32:15, 16), to be sacredly enshrined in the sanctuary, which, when made, was to be the visible center of the nation’s worship.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 314.

THURSDAY

SYMBOL OF AND PREPARATION FOR THE GREATEST SACRIFICE

5. Of whom was every sacrifice a symbol? Therefore, for what was the Lord preparing His people?

Ezekiel 46:13 *Thou shalt daily prepare a burnt offering unto the Lord of a lamb of the first year without blemish: thou shalt prepare it every morning.*

1 Peter 1:18-21, 10-12 *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; ¹⁹But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: ²⁰Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, ²¹Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.... ¹⁰Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: ¹¹Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. ¹²Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.*

“From a race of slaves the Israelites had been exalted above all peoples to be the peculiar treasure of the King of kings. God had separated them from the world, that He might commit to them a sacred trust. He had made them the depositaries of His law, and He purposed, through them, to preserve among men the knowledge of Himself. Thus the light of heaven was to shine out to a world enshrouded in darkness, and a voice was to be heard appealing to all peoples to turn from their idolatry to serve the living God. If the Israelites would be true to their trust, they would become a power in the world. God would be their defense, and He would exalt them above all other nations. His light and truth would be revealed through them, and they would stand forth under His wise and holy rule as an example of the superiority of His worship over every form of idolatry.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 314.

FRIDAY

6. Before the birth of Jesus, during the hour when incense was burned, who were together in the temple courtyard to pray? Later, after Jesus’ ascension, what miracle was done there in His name?

Luke 1:5, 8-10 *There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.... ⁸And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest’s office before God in the order of his course, ⁹According to the custom of the priest’s office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. ¹⁰And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense.*

Acts 3:1, 2, 6, 7 *Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. ²And a certain man lame from his mother’s womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;... ⁶Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. ⁷And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.*

“The hours appointed for the morning and the evening sacrifice were regarded as sacred, and they came to be observed as the set time for worship throughout the Jewish nation.... In this custom, Christians have an example for morning and evening prayer. While God condemns a mere round of ceremonies, without the spirit of worship, He looks with great pleasure upon those who love Him, bowing morning and evening to seek pardon for sins committed, and to present their requests for needed blessings.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 353-354.

SABBATH

7. To whom do the saints’ daily prayers reach when the incense of heavenly grace rises with them?

Revelation 8:3, 4 *And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel’s hand.*

“The religious services, the prayers, the praise, the penitent confession of sin ascend from true believers as incense to the heavenly sanctuary; but passing through the corrupt channels of humanity, they are so defiled that unless purified by blood, they can never be of value with God. They ascend not in spotless purity, and unless the Intercessor who is at God’s right hand presents and purifies all by His righteousness, it is not acceptable to God. All incense from earthly tabernacles must be moist with the cleansing drops of the blood of Christ. He holds before the Father the censer of His own merits, in which there is no taint of earthly corruption. He gathers into this censer the prayers, the praise, and the confessions of His people, and with these He puts His own spotless righteousness. Then, perfumed with the merits of Christ’s propitiation, the incense comes up before God wholly and entirely acceptable. Then gracious answers are returned.” —*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 344.

GREAT TRUTHS OF SALVATION TAUGHT TO THE PEOPLE

“Thus in the ministration of the tabernacle, and of the temple that afterward took its place, the people were taught each day the great truths relative to Christ’s death and ministration, and once each year their minds were carried forward to the closing events of the great controversy between Christ and Satan, the final purification of the universe from sin and sinners.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 358.

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13

Sabbath, September 24, 2022

The Yearly Cleansing of the Sanctuary

“... *Ye shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, whether it be one of your own country, or a stranger that sojourneth among you: For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the Lord.*” Leviticus 16:29, 30.

“Once a year, on the great Day of Atonement, the priest entered the most holy place for the cleansing of the sanctuary. The work there performed completed the yearly round of ministration. On the Day of Atonement two kids of the goats were brought to the door of the tabernacle, and lots were cast upon them, ‘one lot for the Lord, and the other lot for the scapegoat.’ Verse 8. The goat upon which fell the lot for the Lord was to be slain as a sin offering for the people...”

“And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: and the goat shall bear upon him all their

iniquities unto a land not inhabited.' Verses 21, 22. The scapegoat came no more into the camp of Israel, and the man who led him away was required to wash himself and his clothing with water before returning to the camp." –*The Great Controversy*, p. 419.

SUNDAY

WHAT THE CONGREGATION PROVIDED

1. What special service occurred on the Day of Atonement? What resulted from casting lots over the two goats?

Leviticus 16:5, 7, 8 *And he shall take of the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering....⁷And he shall take the two goats, and present them before the Lord at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. ⁸And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the Lord, and the other lot for the scapegoat.*

"Once a year, on the great Day of Atonement, the priest entered the most holy place for the cleansing of the sanctuary. The work there performed completed the yearly round of ministration. On the Day of Atonement two kids of the goats were brought to the door of the tabernacle, and lots were cast upon them, 'one lot for the Lord, and the other lot for the scapegoat.'" –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 355.

MONDAY

2. How did the purification of Aaron and his house take place? Did our Redeemer likewise purify Himself before offering His great sacrifice? How is that applicable today?

Leviticus 16:11-14 *And Aaron shall bring the bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and shall make an atonement for himself, and for his house, and shall kill the bullock of the sin offering which is for himself: ¹²And he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the Lord, and his hands full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the vail: ¹³And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the Lord, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is upon the testimony, that he die not: ¹⁴And he shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward; and before the mercy seat shall he sprinkle of the blood with his finger seven times.*

"Type met antitype in the death of Christ, the Lamb slain for the sins of the world. Our great High Priest has made the only sacrifice that is of any value in our salvation. When He offered Himself on the cross, a perfect atonement was made for the sins of the people. We are now standing in the outer court, waiting and looking for that blessed hope, the glorious appearing of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. No sacrifices are to be offered without, for the great High Priest is performing His work in the Most Holy Place. In His intercession as our advocate, Christ needs no man's virtue, no man's intercession. He is the only sin-bearer, the only sin-offering. Prayer and confession are to be offered only to Him who has entered once for all into the Most Holy Place. He will save to the uttermost all who come to Him in faith. He ever liveth to make intercession for us...." –*Lift Him Up*, p. 319.

TUESDAY

SACRIFICE FOR CLEANSING

3. After Aaron had offered the sacrifice for himself and his household, how did he carry out the cleansing of the people and the sanctuary? Whom did the goat that was sacrificed represent?

Leviticus 16:15, 16, 18, 19 *Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the vail, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat: ¹⁶And he shall make an atonement for the holy place, because of the unclean-*

ness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness....¹⁸ And he shall go out unto the altar that is before the Lord, and make an atonement for it; and shall take of the blood of the bullock, and of the blood of the goat, and put it upon the horns of the altar round about.¹⁹ And he shall sprinkle of the blood upon it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it, and hallow it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel.

Hebrews 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

Matthew 20:28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister; and to give his life a ransom for many.

“In the sanctuary of the wilderness tabernacle and of the temple that were the earthly symbols of God’s dwelling place, one apartment was sacred to His presence. The veil inwrought with cherubim at its entrance was not to be lifted by any hand save one. To lift that veil, and intrude unbidden into the sacred mystery of the most holy place, was death. For above the mercy seat dwelt the glory of the Holiest—glory upon which no man might look and live. On the one day of the year appointed for ministry in the most holy place, the high priest with trembling entered God’s presence, while clouds of incense veiled the glory from his sight. Throughout the courts of the temple every sound was hushed. No priests ministered at the altars. The host of worshipers, bowed in silent awe, offered their petitions for God’s mercy.”
—*The Ministry of Healing*, pp. 437, 438.

WEDNESDAY

4. **How was the high priest to carry out the atonement service? In what respects was Jesus’ service similar at the time of His great sacrifice?**

Leviticus 16:17 And there shall be no man in the tabernacle of the congregation when he goeth in to make an atonement in the holy place, until he come out, and have made an atonement for himself, and for his household, and for all the congregation of Israel.

Isaiah 63:5 I And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me.

John 16:32 Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.

“Having made the decision, He fell dying to the ground from which He had partially risen. Where now were His disciples, to place their hands tenderly beneath the head of their fainting Master, and bathe that brow, marred indeed more than the sons of men? The Saviour trod the wine press alone, and of the people there was none with Him.

“But God suffered with His Son. Angels beheld the Saviour’s agony. They saw their Lord enclosed by legions of satanic forces, His nature weighed down with a shuddering, mysterious dread. There was silence in heaven. No harp was touched. Could mortals have viewed the amazement of the angelic host as in silent grief they watched the Father separating His beams of light, love, and glory from His beloved Son, they would better understand how offensive in His sight is sin.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 693.

THURSDAY

5. **What did the high priest do with the live goat? When a man took this goat into the desert, symbolically carrying the sin that had been confessed over it, what happened to the sins that had been thus cleansed from the sanctuary?**

Leviticus 16:20-22 And when he hath made an end of reconciling the holy place, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat: ²¹And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins,

putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: ²²And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness.

““And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: and the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities into a land not inhabited.’ Not until the goat had been thus sent away did the people regard themselves as freed from the burden of their sins....

“At the door of the tabernacle he laid his hands upon the head of the scapegoat and confessed over him ‘all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat.’ And as the goat bearing these sins was sent away, they were, with him, regarded as forever separated from the people. Such was the service performed ‘unto the example and shadow of heavenly things.’ Hebrews 8:5.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 355, 356.

FRIDAY

FASTING, REPENTANCE, AND CONFESSION

6. What was it necessary for the people to do so the Lord could forgive their sins and cleanse them from unrighteousness?

Leviticus 16:29, last part-31, first part; 23:27-29 ... *Ye shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, whether it be one of your own country, or a stranger that sojourneth among you: ³⁰For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the Lord. ³¹It shall be a sabbath of rest unto you, and ye shall afflict your souls,...* ^{23:27} *Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord. ²⁸And ye shall do no work in that same day: for it is a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the Lord your God. ²⁹For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people.*

“Every man was to afflict his soul while the work of atonement was going forward. All business was laid aside, and the whole congregation of Israel spent the day in solemn humiliation before God, with prayer, fasting, and deep searching of heart.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 355.

“God’s people, rescued from the fire by Jesus Christ, have a sense of their sin, and feel humbled and ashamed. God sees and recognizes their repentance and notes their sorrow for sin, which they cannot remove or cancel themselves; but as they pray, their prayers are heard, and this is the reason that Satan stands by to resist Christ.... He steps in between the repenting, believing soul and Christ. He seeks to cast his hellish shadow before that soul, to dampen faith, and to make of none effect the words of God.” —*Christ Triumphant*, p. 275.

SABBATH

7. In reality, who was the One who carried man’s sins in His body and paid with His life for the sin of the whole world, thus granting sinful man forgiveness and redemption?

Isaiah 53:4-6, 11 *Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. ⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.... ¹¹He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.*

1 Peter 2:21-25 *For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: ²²Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: ²³Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when*

he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: ²⁴Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. ²⁵For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

“The typical shadows of the Jewish tabernacle no longer possess any virtue. A daily and yearly typical atonement is no longer to be made, but the atoning sacrifice through a mediator is essential because of the constant commission of sin. Jesus is officiating in the presence of God, offering up His shed blood, as it had been a lamb slain. Jesus presents the oblation offered for every offense and every shortcoming of the sinner.

“Christ, our Mediator, and the Holy Spirit are constantly interceding in man’s behalf, but the Spirit pleads not for us as does Christ, who presents His blood, shed from the foundation of the world; the Spirit works upon our hearts, drawing out prayers and penitence, praise and thanksgiving. The gratitude which flows from our lips is the result of the Spirit’s striking the chords of the soul in holy memories, awakening the music of the heart.”—*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 344.

IMPRESSIONS OF GOD’S SUPREME HOLINESS

“The whole ceremony was designed to impress the Israelites with the holiness of God and His abhorrence of sin; and, further, to show them that they could not come in contact with sin without becoming polluted. Every man was required to afflict his soul while this work of atonement was going forward. All business was to be laid aside, and the whole congregation of Israel were to spend the day in solemn humiliation before God, with prayer, fasting, and deep searching of heart.”—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 419, 420.

* * *

14

Sabbath, October 1, 2022

From Gilgal to Jerusalem

“For I have not dwelt in an house since the day that I brought up Israel unto this day; but have gone from tent to tent, and from one tabernacle to another.” 1 Chronicles 17:5.

“The greatness of God is to us incomprehensible. ‘The Lord’s throne is in heaven’ (Psalm 11:4); yet by His Spirit He is everywhere present. He has an intimate knowledge of, and a personal interest in, all the works of His hand.”—*Education*, p. 132.

“The psalmist represents the presence of the Infinite One as pervading the universe. ‘If I ascend up into heaven, Thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, Thou art there.’ We can never find a solitude where God is not.

“The Lord God omnipotent, who reigneth in the heavens, declares, ‘I am with you.’ He assures His people that those who are obedient are in a position where He can bless them, to the glory of His name.... He will be a present help to all who serve Him in preference to serving self.”—*The Faith I Live By*, p. 62.

SUNDAY

- 1. After crossing the Jordan River and entering Canaan, what was the first place where Israel set up their camp? Therefore, what was the first place where the sanctuary was set up in the land of Canaan?**

Joshua 4:19; 5:10 *And the people came up out of Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and encamped in Gilgal, in the east border of Jericho....^{5:10} And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho.*

“Heretofore Gilgal had been the headquarters of the nation and the seat of the tabernacle. But now the tabernacle was to be removed to the place chosen for its permanent location.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 514.

MONDAY

THE TENT OF MEETING IN SHILOH

2. **Still during the life of Joshua, what was the second place where the tabernacle was set up? Although he was still very young, whom did the Lord call and speak to in Shiloh?**

Joshua 18:1; 19:51 *And the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh, and set up the tabernacle of the congregation there. And the land was subdued before them....^{19:51} These are the inheritances, which Eleazar the priest, and Joshua the son of Nun, and the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel, divided for an inheritance by lot in Shiloh before the Lord, at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. So they made an end of dividing the country.*

1 Samuel 3:20, 21 *And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the Lord.²¹ And the Lord appeared again in Shiloh: for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the Lord.*

“This was Shiloh, a little town in the lot of Ephraim. It was near the center of the land, and was easy of access to all the tribes. Here a portion of country had been thoroughly subdued, so that the worshipers would not be molested. ‘And the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh, and set up the tabernacle of the congregation there.’ The tribes that were still encamped when the tabernacle was removed from Gilgal followed it, and pitched near Shiloh. Here these tribes remained until they dispersed to their possessions.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 514.

TUESDAY

3. **In Eli’s time, what happened to the ark of the covenant in Shiloh? What message did the Lord give to the conquerors when they put the ark in the temple of Dagon?**

1 Samuel 4:10, 11; 5:1-5; 6:1, 2 *And the Philistines fought, and Israel was smitten, and they fled every man into his tent: and there was a very great slaughter; for there fell of Israel thirty thousand footmen.¹¹ And the ark of God was taken; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were slain....^{5:1} And the Philistines took the ark of God, and brought it from Ebenezer unto Ashdod.² When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon, and set it by Dagon.³ And when they of Ashdod arose early on the morrow, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the earth before the ark of the Lord. And they took Dagon, and set him in his place again.⁴ And when they arose early on the morrow morning, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the ground before the ark of the Lord; and the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands were cut off upon the threshold; only the stump of Dagon was left to him.⁵ Therefore neither the priests of Dagon, nor any that come into Dagon’s house, tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod unto this day....^{6:1} And the ark of the Lord was in the country of the Philistines seven months.² And the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners, saying, What shall we do to the ark of the Lord? tell us wherewith we shall send it to his place.*

“The Philistines made a fierce assault, which resulted in the defeat of Israel, with great slaughter. Thirty thousand men lay dead upon the field, and the ark of God was taken, the two sons of Eli having fallen while fighting to defend it. Thus again was left upon the page of history a testimony for all future ages—that the iniquity of God’s professed people will not go unpunished. The greater the knowledge of God’s will, the greater the sin of those who disregard it....

“The ark remained at Shiloh for three hundred years, until, because of the sins of Eli’s house, it fell into the hands of the Philistines, and Shiloh was ruined. The ark was never returned to the tabernacle here, the sanctuary service was finally transferred to the temple at Jerusalem, and Shiloh fell into insignificance. There are only ruins to mark the spot where it once stood. Long afterward its fate was made use of as a warning to Jerusalem. ‘Go ye now unto My place which was in Shiloh,’ the Lord declared by the prophet Jeremiah, ‘where I set My name at the first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of My people Israel.... Therefore will I do unto this house, which is called by My name, wherein ye trust, and unto the place which I gave to you and to your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh.’ Jeremiah 7:12-14.”
—Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 583, 584, 514, 515.

WEDNESDAY

THE ARK IN BETHSHEMESH

- 4. What happened to the Philistines while the ark was in their territory? After leaving that territory, in what village did the cows pulling the ark stop? What happened there?**

1 Samuel 5:6, 8-10, first part; 6:12-14, first part *But the hand of the Lord was heavy upon them of Ashdod, and he destroyed them, and smote them with emerods, even Ashdod and the coasts thereof....⁸They sent therefore and gathered all the lords of the Philistines unto them, and said, What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel? And they answered, Let the ark of the God of Israel be carried about unto Gath. And they carried the ark of the God of Israel about thither: ⁹And it was so, that, after they had carried it about, the hand of the Lord was against the city with a very great destruction: and he smote the men of the city, both small and great, and they had emerods in their secret parts. ¹⁰Therefore they sent the ark of God to Ekron. And it came to pass, as the ark of God came to Ekron, that the Ekronites cried out,...^{6,12}And the kine took the straight way to the way of Bethshemesh, and went along the highway, lowing as they went, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left; and the lords of the Philistines went after them unto the border of Bethshemesh. ¹³And they of Bethshemesh were reaping their wheat harvest in the valley: and they lifted up their eyes, and saw the ark, and rejoiced to see it. ¹⁴And the cart came into the field of Joshua, a Bethshemite, and stood there,...*

“The men of Bethshemesh were curious to know what great power could be in that ark, which caused it to accomplish such marvelous things. They looked upon the ark alone as being so powerful, and were not accrediting the power to God. None but men sacredly appointed for the purpose could look upon the ark, divested of its coverings, without being slain, for it was as though looking upon God Himself. And as the people gratified their curiosity and opened the ark to gaze into its sacred recesses, which the heathen idolaters had not dared to do, the angels attending the ark slew above fifty thousand of the people.

“And the people of Bethshemesh were afraid of the ark, and they said, ‘Who is able to stand before this holy Lord God? and to whom shall He go up from us? And they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kirjath-jearim, saying, The Philistines have brought again the ark of the Lord; come ye down, and fetch it up to you.’” *—The Story of Redemption*, p. 191.

THURSDAY

- 5. After what happened to the inhabitants of Bethshemesh because of their irreverence with the ark, whom did they call to take it from them?**

1 Samuel 6:20, 21; 7:1, 2 *And the men of Bethshemesh said, Who is able to stand before this holy Lord God? and to whom shall he go up from us? ²¹And they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kirjathjearim, saying, The Philistines have brought again the ark of the Lord; come ye down, and fetch it up to you....^{7:1}And the men of Kirjathjearim came, and fetched up the ark of the Lord, and brought it into the house of Abinadab in the hill, and sanctified Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the Lord. ²And it came to pass, while the ark abode in Kirjathjearim, that the time was long; for it was twenty years: and all the house of Israel lamented after the Lord.*

“The people of Kirjath-jearim brought the ark of the Lord to the house of Abinadab and sanctified his son to keep it. For twenty years the Hebrews were in the power of the Philistines, and they were greatly humbled and repented of their sins, and Samuel interceded for them, and God was again merciful to them. And the Philistines made war with them, and the Lord again wrought in a miraculous manner for Israel, and they overcame their enemies.” —*The Story of Redemption*, p. 191.

FRIDAY

6. Where was the sanctuary in the time of King Saul?

1 Samuel 21:1, 6 *Then came David to Nob to Ahimelech the priest: and Ahimelech was afraid at the meeting of David, and said unto him, Why art thou alone, and no man with thee? ... “So the priest gave him hallowed bread: for there was no bread there but the shewbread, that was taken from before the Lord, to put hot bread in the day when it was taken away.*

“The king’s son returned to Gibeah, and David hastened to reach Nob, a city but a few miles distant, and also belonging to the tribe of Benjamin. The tabernacle had been taken to this place from Shiloh, and here Ahimelech the high priest ministered. David knew not whither to flee for refuge, except to the servant of God. The priest looked upon him with astonishment, as he came in haste and apparently alone, with a countenance marked by anxiety and sorrow. He inquired what had brought him there. The young man was in constant fear of discovery, and in his extremity he resorted to deception.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 655, 656.

SABBATH

7. Where was the tabernacle located before it was moved to Jerusalem?

1 Chronicles 21:29; 16:39 *For the tabernacle of the Lord, which Moses made in the wilderness, and the altar of burnt offering, were at that season in the high place at Gibeon....^{16:39} And Zadok the priest, and his brethren the priests, before the tabernacle of the Lord in the high place that was at Gibeon.*

“In his youth Solomon made David’s choice his own, and for many years he walked uprightly, his life marked with strict obedience to God’s commands. Early in his reign he went with his counselors of state to Gibeon, where the tabernacle that had been built in the wilderness still was, and there he united with his chosen advisers, ‘the captains of thousands and of hundreds,’ ‘the judges,’ and ‘every governor in all Israel, the chief of the fathers,’ in offering sacrifices to God and in consecrating themselves fully to the Lord’s service. 2 Chronicles 1:2.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 27.

THE ARK TRANSFERRED TO JERUSALEM

8. What desire did David have for the ark of the Lord? At his initiative, what was done with it?

1 Chronicles 13:1, 3, 4; 15:3, 12 *And David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds, and with every leader....³ And let us bring again the ark of our God to us: for we enquired not at it in the days of Saul. “And all the congregation said that they would do so: for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people....^{15:3} David gathered all Israel together to Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the Lord unto his place, which he had prepared for it....¹² And said unto them, Ye are the chief of the fathers of the Levites: sanctify yourselves, both ye and your brethren, that ye may bring up the ark of the Lord God of Israel unto the place that I have prepared for it.*

“Now that David was firmly established upon the throne and free from the invasions of foreign foes, he turned to the accomplishment of a cherished purpose—to bring up the ark of God to Jerusalem. For many years the ark had remained at

Kirjath-jearim, nine miles distant; but it was fitting that the capital of the nation should be honored with the token of the divine Presence....

"Then the gates were opened wide, the procession entered, and with reverent awe the ark was deposited in the tent that had been prepared for its reception. Before the sacred enclosure altars for sacrifice were erected; the smoke of peace offerings and burnt offerings, and the clouds of incense, with the praises and supplications of Israel, ascended to heaven. The service ended, the king himself pronounced a benediction upon his people."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 704, 708.

* * *

15

Sabbath, October 8, 2022

From a Tent to a Temple

"And, behold, I purpose to build an house unto the name of the Lord my God, as the Lord spake unto David my father, saying, Thy son, whom I will set upon thy throne in thy room, he shall build an house unto My name." 1 Kings 5:5.

"Of surpassing beauty and unrivaled splendor was the palatial building which Solomon and his associates erected for God and His worship. Garnished with precious stones, surrounded by spacious courts with magnificent approaches, and lined with carved cedar and burnished gold, the temple structure, with its brodered hangings and rich furnishings, was a fit emblem of the living church of God on earth, which through the ages has been building in accordance with the divine pattern, with materials that have been likened to 'gold, silver, precious stones,' 'polished after the similitude of a palace.' 1 Corinthians 3:12; Psalm 144:12. Of this spiritual temple Christ is 'the chief Cornerstone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord.' Ephesians 2:20, 21."—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 36.

SUNDAY

1. **Considering that he lived in a house lined with cedar and the ark of the Lord was in a simple tent, what desire did David have? What did the prophet Nathan answer when David told him of his plan?**

2 Samuel 7:2, 3 *That the king said unto Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in an house of cedar; but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains. ³And Nathan said to the king, Go, do all that is in thine heart; for the Lord is with thee.*

"David, while dwelling in his palace of cedar, felt disturbed in his conscience as he considered that there was no suitable dwelling place for the ark of God, which symbolized His presence. It still rested in the tabernacle which had been constructed in the wilderness, and borne all the way from Horeb to Jerusalem in a pilgrimage of nearly forty years. But now the nation had ended their pilgrimage and obtained a permanent location. David looked around him upon the costly buildings of cedar, the homes of the inhabitants settled in the goodly land of Canaan, and conceived the idea that a temple should be built, more worthy for the residence of God."—*Christ Triumphant*, p. 155.

MONDAY

THE LORD'S RESPONSE TO DAVID'S DESIRE

2. **Although the king and the prophet agreed, what answer came from the Lord? Why did He respond in this way?**

1 Kings 8:19 *Nevertheless thou shalt not build the house; but thy son that shall come forth out of thy loins, he shall build the house unto my name.*

1 Chronicles 22:8 *But the word of the Lord came to me, saying, Thou hast shed blood abundantly, and hast made great wars: thou shalt not build an house unto my name, because thou hast shed much blood upon the earth in my sight.*

2 Samuel 7:12-14, first part *And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. ¹⁴I will be his father, and he shall be my son....*

“As David had desired to build a house for God, the promise was given. ‘The Lord telleth thee that He will make thee a house.... I will set up thy seed after thee.... He shall build a house for My name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom forever.’

“The reason why David was not to build the temple was declared: ‘Thou hast shed blood abundantly, and hast made great wars: thou shalt not build a house unto My name.... Behold, a son shall be born to thee, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies:... his name shall be Solomon [peaceable], and I will give peace and quietness unto Israel in his days. He shall build a house for My name.’ 1 Chronicles 22:8-10.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 712.

TUESDAY

3. However, what did David do before his death? What did Solomon resolve to do after his father passed away?

1 Chronicles 22:2-5 *And David commanded to gather together the strangers that were in the land of Israel; and he set masons to hew wrought stones to build the house of God. ³And David prepared iron in abundance for the nails for the doors of the gates, and for the joinings; and brass in abundance without weight; ⁴Also cedar trees in abundance: for the Zidonians and they of Tyre brought much cedar wood to David. ⁵And David said, Solomon my son is young and tender, and the house that is to be build for the Lord must be exceeding magnifical, of fame and of glory throughout all countries: I will therefore now make preparation for it. So David prepared abundantly before his death.*

1 Kings 5:5 *And, behold, I purpose to build an house unto the name of the Lord my God, as the Lord spake unto David my father, saying, Thy son, whom I will set upon thy throne in thy room, he shall build an house unto my name.*

“From the very opening of David’s reign one of his most cherished plans had been that of erecting a temple to the Lord. Though he had not been permitted to execute this design, he had manifested no less zeal and earnestness in its behalf. He had provided an abundance of the most costly material—gold, silver, onyx stones, and stones of divers colors; marble, and the most precious woods. And now these valuable treasures that he had collected must be committed to others; for other hands must build the house for the ark, the symbol of God’s presence.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 751.

WEDNESDAY

ORGANIZATION OF THE MISSION

4. What great assembly of people did the king enlist to build the temple for the Lord? What characterized the builders?

2 Chronicles 2:1, 2, 17, 18 *And Solomon determined to build an house for the name of the Lord, and an house for his kingdom. ²And Solomon told out threescore and ten thousand men to bear burdens, and fourscore thousand to hew in the mountain, and three thousand and six hundred to oversee them.... ¹⁷And Solomon numbered all the strangers that were in the land of Israel, after the numbering wherewith David his father had numbered them; and they were found an hundred and fifty thousand and three thousand and six hundred. ¹⁸And he set threescore and ten thousand of them to be bearers of burdens, and fourscore thousand to be hewers in the mountain, and three thousand and six hundred overseers to set the people a work.*

“The people that built the temple were many and the house that they built was large and grand; and the Lord God of heaven honored them because they had built Him a sanctuary where they could meet to worship Him. Those that worshiped Him sincerely had His blessing.”—*Christ Triumphant*, p. 155.

THURSDAY

5. **What site was selected for the temple? How long did the construction take? Once the work was completed, whom did Solomon call to be present for the dedication?**

2 Chronicles 3:1-3 *Then Solomon began to build the house of the Lord at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where the Lord appeared unto David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite. ²And he began to build in the second day of the second month, in the fourth year of his reign. ³Now these are the things wherein Solomon was instructed for the building of the house of God. The length by cubits after the first measure was threescore cubits, and the breadth twenty cubits.*

1 Kings 6:37, 38 *In the fourth year was the foundation of the house of the Lord laid, in the month Zif: ³⁸And in the eleventh year, in the month Bul, which is the eighth month, was the house finished throughout all the parts thereof, and according to all the fashion of it. So was he seven years in building it.*

2 Chronicles 5:1-3 *Thus all the work that Solomon made for the house of the Lord was finished: and Solomon brought in all the things that David his father had dedicated, and the silver, and the gold, and all the instruments, put he among the treasures of the house of God. ²Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the children of Israel, unto Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord out of the city of David, which is Zion. ³Wherefore all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto the king in the feast which was in the seventh month.*

“The care shown in the building of the temple is a lesson to us regarding the care that we are to show in our character building. No cheap material was to be used. No haphazard work was to be done in matching the different parts. Piece must fit piece perfectly. Just as God’s temple was, so must His church be. Into their character-building His people are to bring no worthless timbers, no careless, indifferent work....

“Now we are in the workshop of God, and the process is going on in these hours of probation to fit us for the glorious temple. We cannot now be indifferent, and negligent, and careless, and refuse to depart from sin,... and expect to become pure and holy and fashioned in character after the similitude of a palace.... Now is the day of preparation; now is the time when we can have our defects removed.

“A stone that does not shine is worthless. That which constitutes the value of our churches is not dead, lusterless stones, but living stones, stones that catch the bright beams from the Chief Cornerstone, even the Sun of Righteousness.”—*Our High Calling*, p. 165; *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, p. 1030.

FRIDAY

TRANSFER FROM THE TENT TO THE TEMPLE

6. **What took place after the work on the temple was completed?**

2 Chronicles 5:4-7 *And all the elders of Israel came; and the Levites took up the ark. ⁵And they brought up the ark, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and all the holy vessels that were in the tabernacle, these did the priests and the Levites bring up. ⁶Also king Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel that were assembled unto him before the ark, sacrificed sheep and oxen, which could not be told nor numbered for multitude. ⁷And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the Lord unto his place, to the oracle of the house, into the most holy place, even under the wings of the cherubims.*

“It is impossible to describe the beauty and splendor of this sanctuary. Into this place the sacred ark was borne with solemn reverence by the priests, and set in its place beneath the wings of the two stately cherubim that stood upon the floor.

“The sacred choir lifted their voices in praise to God, and the melody of their voices was accompanied by all kinds of musical instruments. And while the courts of the temple resounded with praise, the cloud of God’s glory took possession of the house, as it had formerly filled the wilderness tabernacle.” –(Review and Herald, November 9, 1905) *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*; vol. 2, p. 1030.

SABBATH

SOLOMON’S DEDICATION PRAYER

7. What did Solomon express in his prayer to God during the temple dedication?

2 Chronicles 6:18-21, 41, 42 *But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth? behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built! ¹⁹Have respect therefore to the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O Lord my God, to hearken unto the cry and the prayer which thy servant prayeth before thee: ²⁰That thine eyes may be open upon this house day and night, upon the place whereof thou hast said that thou wouldest put thy name there; to hearken unto the prayer which thy servant prayeth toward this place. ²¹Hearken therefore unto the supplications of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, which they shall make toward this place: hear thou from thy dwelling place, even from heaven; and when thou hearest, forgive.... ⁴¹Now therefore arise, O Lord God, into thy resting place, thou, and the ark of thy strength: let thy priests, O Lord God, be clothed with salvation, and let thy saints rejoice in goodness. ⁴²O Lord God, turn not away the face of thine anointed: remember the mercies of David thy servant.*

“At the appointed time the hosts of Israel, with richly clad representatives from many foreign nations, assembled in the temple courts. The scene was one of unusual splendor.... Solomon then knelt upon the platform, and in the hearing of all the people offered the dedicatory prayer....

“‘Will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee; how much less this house which I have built? Have respect therefore to the prayer of Thy servant, and to his supplication, O Lord my God, to hearken unto the cry and the prayer which Thy servant prayeth before Thee: that Thine eyes may be open upon this house day and night, upon the place whereof Thou hast said that Thou wouldest put Thy name there; to hearken unto the prayer which Thy servant prayeth toward this place. Hearken therefore unto the supplications of Thy servant, and of Thy people Israel, which they shall make toward this place: hear Thou from Thy dwelling place, even from heaven; and when Thou hearest, forgive....’” –*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 38, 40.

DAVID’S RESPONSE TO GOD’S MESSAGE

“Though the cherished purpose of his heart had been denied, David received the message with gratitude. ‘Who am I, O Lord God?’ he exclaimed, ‘and what is my house, that Thou hast brought me hitherto? And this was yet a small thing in Thy sight, O Lord God; but Thou hast spoken also of Thy servant’s house for a great while to come;’ and he then renewed his covenant with God.

“David knew that it would be an honor to his name and would bring glory to his government to perform the work that he had purposed in his heart to do, but he was ready to submit his will to the will of God. The grateful resignation thus manifested is rarely seen, even among Christians. How often do those who have passed the strength of manhood cling to the hope of accomplishing some great work upon which their hearts are set, but which they are unfitted to perform! God’s providence may speak to them, as did His prophet to David, declaring that the work which they so much desire is not committed to them. It is theirs to prepare the way for another to accomplish it.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 712.

* * *

Help from the Sanctuary

“The Lord hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee; Send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion.” Psalm 20:1, 2.

“From the creation and fall of man to the present time, there has been a continual unfolding of the plan of God for the redemption, through Christ, of the fallen race. The tabernacle and temple of God on earth were patterned after the original in heaven. Around the sanctuary and its solemn services mystically gathered the grand truths which were to be developed through succeeding generations.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 194.

SUNDAY

INSIDE THE SANCTUARY

1. **What does one who seeks guidance, assistance, and light find in the sanctuary?**

Psalms 96:6; 63:2, 3 *Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary....^{63:2} To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary. ³ Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.*

“There has been no time when God has granted greater evidences of His grandeur and exalted majesty than while He was the acknowledged governor of Israel. The manifestations of an invisible King were grand and unspeakably awful. A scepter was swayed, but it was held by no human hand. The sacred ark, covered by the mercy seat, and containing the holy law of God, was symbolical of Jehovah Himself. It was the power of the Israelites.... Before it idols were thrown down, and for rashly looking into it thousands perished. Never in our world has the Lord given such open manifestations of His supremacy as when He alone was the acknowledged king of Israel.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 194.

MONDAY

2. **In face of human arrogance and injustice for which we have no solution or answer, where do we find light?**

Psalms 73:16, 17; 27:4, 5 *When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me; ¹⁷ Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.... ^{27:4} One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple. ⁵ For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.*

“Christ sees the termination of the conflict. The battle is waging more and more fiercely. Soon He will come whose right it is, and will take possession of all earthly things. All the confusion in our world, all the violence and crime, are a fulfilment of the words of Christ. They are the signs of the nearness of His coming. In that day of His coming, Christ will preserve those who have followed Him, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He has pledged Himself to be their sanctuary. He says to them, Enter thou into a safe retreat for a little moment, and hide thee until I shall cleanse the earth from her iniquity.” —*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 354.

TUESDAY

HELP AND SUPPORT FROM THE SANCTUARY

3. **What does the psalmist pray for God’s people in the day of tribulation and distress? What comes from the sanctuary?**

Psalms 20:1, 2; 3:4 *The Lord hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee; ²Send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion;... ^{3:4}I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill.*

“There is joy and consolation for the true-hearted, faithful Christian, that the world knows not of. To them it is a mystery. The Christian’s hope is big with immortality and full of glory. It reacheth to that within the veil, and is as an anchor to the soul, both sure and steadfast. And when the storm of God’s wrath shall come upon the ungodly, this hope will not fail them, but they are hid as in the secret of His pavilion.” —*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 354.

WEDNESDAY

THE PSALMIST’S GREAT LONGING

4. Amid life’s many problems, what was the psalmist’s great yearning? What does he say about those who seek the house of the Lord?

Psalm 84:2-4, 10 *My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God. ³Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O Lord of hosts, my King, and my God. ⁴Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee.... ¹⁰For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.*

“If we do not receive the religion of Christ by feeding upon the word of God, we shall not be entitled to an entrance into the city of God. Having lived on earthly food, having educated our tastes to love worldly things, we would not be fitted for the heavenly courts; we could not appreciate the pure, heavenly current that circulates in heaven. The voices of the angels and the music of their harps would not satisfy us. The science of heaven would be as an enigma to our minds. We need to hunger and thirst for the righteousness of Christ; we need to be molded and fashioned by the transforming influence of His grace, that we may be fitted for the society of heavenly angels.” —*God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 251.

THURSDAY

5. What wonderful prospect have those who have their delight in the house of the Lord?

Psalms 84:4; 65:4; 92:13 *Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee.... ^{65:4}Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple... ^{92:13}Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.*

Jeremiah 17:7, 8 *Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is. ⁸For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.*

“The great reason of such feeble Christianity is that those who claim to believe the truth have so little knowledge of Christ, and so low an estimate of what He will be to them, and what they may be to Him. We have the most solemn, weighty truths ever committed to mortals. Were our words, our thoughts our actions, more pure and elevated, more in accordance with the holy faith we profess, we should view our responsibilities in a far different light. How solemn, how sacred, they would appear. We would have a deeper sense of our obligations, and should make it our constant aim to perfect holiness in the fear of God. Earthly, temporal things would be subordinate to the heavenly and eternal.

“The language of the heart and lips would be, as expressed by the Psalmist: ‘How amiable are Thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts! My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God. Yes, the sparrow hath found a house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may

lay her young, even Thine altars, O Lord of hosts, my King, and my God. Blessed are they that dwell in Thine house: they will be still praising Thee.” —*The Ellen G. White 1888 Material*, pp. 1099, 1100.

FRIDAY

PRAISING THE LORD IN HIS HOUSE

6. What should those who regularly go to the house of the Lord render to Him, especially since they know of the blessings bestowed in that sacred place?

Psalms 135:1, 2; 134:1, 2 *Praise ye the Lord. Praise ye the name of the Lord; praise him, O ye servants of the Lord. ²Ye that stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God. ... ^{134:1}Behold, bless ye the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord, which by night stand in the house of the Lord. ²Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the Lord.*

“There is need of prayer—most earnest, fervent, agonizing prayer—such prayer as David offered when he exclaimed: ‘As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God.’ ‘I have longed after Thy precepts’; ‘I have longed for Thy salvation.’ ‘My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.’ ‘My soul breaketh for the longing that it hath unto Thy judgments.’ Psalms 42:1; 119:40, 174; 84:2; 119:20. This is the spirit of wrestling prayer, such as was possessed by the royal psalmist. . . .” —*In Heavenly Places*, p. 73.

“I have heard those who have been in the faith for years, say that they used to be able to endure trial and difficulty, but since the infirmities of age began to press upon them, they had been greatly distressed when brought under discipline. What does this mean? Does it mean that Jesus has ceased to be your Saviour? Does it mean that when you are old and gray-headed, you are privileged to display unholy passion? Think of this. You should use your reasoning powers in this matter, as you do in temporal things. You should deny self, and make your service to God the first business of your life. You must not permit anything to disturb your peace. There is no need of it; there must be a constant growth, a constant progress in the divine life.” —*Selected Messages*, book 2, p. 222.

SABBATH

7. Who was a type of sanctuary in the time of Exodus? Today who represents the Lord’s sanctuary?

Psalms 114:1, 2 *When Israel went out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language; ²Judah was his sanctuary, and Israel his dominion.*

1 Corinthians 3:9, last part, 16, 17 ... *Ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building. . . . ¹⁶Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? ¹⁷If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy: for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.*

“There are troublous times before us; the judgments of God are coming upon our world. The nations of the earth are to tremble. There will be trials and perplexities on every hand; men’s hearts will fail them for fear. And what shall we do in that day? Though the earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and be removed like a cottage, if we have made God our trust, He will deliver us. ‘He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.’ ‘Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the Most High, thy habitation; there shall no evil befall thee. . . . For He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.’” —*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 354.

PRAYER IS ALWAYS ANSWERED FOR GOOD

“We may commune with God in our hearts; we may walk in companionship with Christ. When engaged in our daily labor, we may breathe out our heart’s desire, inaudible to any human ear; but that word cannot die away into silence, nor can it be

lost. Nothing can drown the soul's desire. It rises above the din of the street, above the noise of machinery. It is God to whom we are speaking, and our prayer is heard. "Ask, then; ask, and ye shall receive. Ask for humility, wisdom, courage, increase of faith. To every sincere prayer an answer will come. It may not come just as you desire, or at the time you look for it; but it will come in the way and at the time that will best meet your need. The prayers you offer in loneliness, in weariness, in trial, God answers, not always according to your expectations, but always for your good." —*Gospel Workers*, p. 258.

* * *

17

Sabbath, October 22, 2022

From the First Temple to the Second

"And the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadech, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the Lord of hosts, their God." Haggai 1:14.

SUNDAY

IMAGES OF ANIMALS IN THE TEMPLE

1. **Less than four centuries after the temple was rebuilt, what were people doing in God's house? According to what was shown to Ezekiel, what stood at the temple entrance?**

Ezekiel 8:3, 5, 6 *And he put forth the form of an hand, and took me by a lock of mine head; and the spirit lifted me up between the earth and the heaven, and brought me in the visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the inner gate that looketh toward the north; where was the seat of the image of jealousy, which provoketh to jealousy....³Then said he unto me, Son of man, lift up thine eyes now the way toward the north. So I lifted up mine eyes the way toward the north, and behold northward at the gate of the altar this image of jealousy in the entry. ⁵He said furthermore unto me, Son of man, seest thou what they do? even the great abominations that the house of Israel committeth here, that I should go far off from my sanctuary? but turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations.*

"While Jeremiah continued to bear his testimony in the land of Judah, the prophet Ezekiel was raised up from among the captives in Babylon, to warn and to comfort the exiles, and also to confirm the word of the Lord that was being spoken through Jeremiah. During the years that remained of Zedekiah's reign, Ezekiel made very plain the folly of trusting to the false predictions of those who were causing the captives to hope for an early return to Jerusalem. He was also instructed to foretell, by means of a variety of symbols and solemn messages, the siege and utter destruction of Jerusalem." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 448.

MONDAY

2. **What was carved into the wall? In addition to the leaders of Israel, who else bowed to and worshiped the idols?**

Ezekiel 8:9-12 *And he said unto me, Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here. ¹⁰So I went in and saw; and behold every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, pourtrayed upon the wall round about. ¹¹And there stood before them seventy men of the ancients of the house of Israel, and in the midst of them stood Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan, with every man his censer in his hand; and a thick cloud of incense went up. ¹²Then said he unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in*

the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery? for they say, the Lord seeth us not; the Lord hath forsaken the earth.

“In the sixth year of the reign of Zedekiah, the Lord revealed to Ezekiel in vision some of the abominations that were being practiced in Jerusalem, and within the gate of the Lord’s house, and even in the inner court. The chambers of images, and the pictured idols, ‘every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel’—all these in rapid succession passed before the astonished gaze of the prophet. Ezekiel 8:10.

“Those who should have been spiritual leaders among the people, ‘the ancients of the house of Israel,’ to the number of seventy, were seen offering incense before the idolatrous representations that had been introduced into hidden chambers within the sacred precincts of the temple court. ‘The Lord seeth us not,’ the men of Judah flattered themselves as they engaged in their heathenish practices; ‘the Lord hath forsaken the earth,’ they blasphemously declared. Verses 11, 12.” —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 448.

TUESDAY

THE SUN WAS WORSHIPED

- 3. What were women doing at the building’s entrance? What were men doing in the courtyard? How was it possible for the spiritual condition of God’s chosen people to become so degraded ?**

Ezekiel 8:13-16 *He said also unto me, Turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations that they do. ¹⁴Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the Lord’s house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz. ¹⁵Then said he unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations than these. ¹⁶And he brought me into the inner court of the Lord’s house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the Lord, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the Lord, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east.*

“And now the glorious Being who accompanied Ezekiel throughout this astonishing vision of wickedness in high places in the land of Judah, inquired of the prophet: ‘Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke Me to anger: and, lo, they put the branch to their nose. Therefore will I also deal in fury: Mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in Mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them.’ Verses 17, 18.” —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 449.

WEDNESDAY

- 4. Because of such desecration, what departed from the temple? Then, how would it be possible for God’s blessings to come to the people? How might this relate to weekly church services today?**

Ezekiel 9:3; 10:4, 18, 19 *And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed with linen, which had the writer’s inkhorn by his side.... ^{10:4}Then the glory of the Lord went up from the cherub, and stood over the threshold of the house; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the Lord’s glory.... ¹⁸Then the glory of the Lord departed from off the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubims. ¹⁹And the cherubims lifted up their wings, and mounted up from the earth in my sight: when they went out, the wheels also were beside them, and every one stood at the door of the east gate of the Lord’s house; and the glory of the God of Israel was over them above.*

“Men cannot with impunity reject the warning which God in mercy sends them. A message was sent from heaven to the world in Noah’s day, and their salvation

depended upon the manner in which they treated that message. Because they rejected the warning, the Spirit of God was withdrawn from the sinful race, and they perished in the waters of the Flood. In the time of Abraham, mercy ceased to plead with the guilty inhabitants of Sodom, and all but Lot with his wife and two daughters were consumed by the fire sent down from heaven. So in the days of Christ. The Son of God declared to the unbelieving Jews of that generation: 'Your house is left unto you desolate.' Matthew 23:38. Looking down to the last days, the same Infinite Power declares, concerning those who 'received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved': 'For this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.' 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12. As they reject the teachings of His word, God withdraws His Spirit and leaves them to the deceptions which they love."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 431.

THURSDAY

THE ARK REMOVED FROM THE TEMPLE

5. What happened to the ark of the covenant when Jerusalem and the temple fell into the Babylonians' hands? When the temple was rebuilt, what was in the Most Holy Place?

Jeremiah 3:16 *And it shall come to pass, when ye be multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, saith the Lord, they shall say no more, The ark of the covenant of the Lord: neither shall it come to mind: neither shall they remember it; neither shall they visit it; neither shall that be done any more.*

"Because of Israel's transgression of the commandments of God and their wicked acts, God suffered them to go into captivity, to humble and punish them. Before the temple was destroyed, God made known to a few of His faithful servants the fate of the temple, which was the pride of Israel, and which they regarded with idolatry, while they were sinning against God. He also revealed to them the captivity of Israel. These righteous men, just before the destruction of the temple, removed the sacred ark containing the tables of stone, and with mourning and sadness secreted it in a cave where it was to be hidden from the people of Israel because of their sins, and was to be no more restored to them. That sacred ark is yet hidden. It has never been disturbed since it was secreted."—*The Story of Redemption*, p. 195.

"The precious record of the law was placed in the ark of the testament and is still there, safely hidden from the human family. But in God's appointed time He will bring forth these tables of stone to be a testimony to all the world against the disregard of His commandments and against the idolatrous worship of a counterfeit Sabbath."—(Manuscript 122, 1901) *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, p. 1109.

FRIDAY

6. In B.C. 586, what happened to the glorious temple that Solomon had built? What do we learn from the fact that such a wonderful, blessed building ended in complete devastation?

2 Chronicles 36:17-19 *Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand. ¹⁸And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes; all these he brought to Babylon. ¹⁹And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof.*

"After the settlement of the Hebrews in Canaan, the tabernacle was replaced by the temple of Solomon, which, though a permanent structure and upon a larger scale, observed the same proportions, and was similarly furnished. In this form the sanctuary existed—except while it lay in ruins in Daniel's time—until its destruction by the Romans, in A.D. 70."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 412.

“The fact that they, the worshipers of Jehovah, were captives to Babylon; that the vessels of God’s house had been placed in the temple of the gods of Babylon; that the king of Israel was himself a prisoner in the hands of the Babylonians, was boastfully cited by the victors as evidence that their religion and customs were superior to the religion and customs of the Hebrews. Under such circumstances, through the very humiliations that Israel’s departure from His commandments had invited, God gave to Babylon evidence of His supremacy, of the holiness of His requirements, and of the sure result of obedience. And this testimony He gave, as alone it could be given, through those who still held fast their loyalty.”—*Education*, p. 54.

SABBATH

GOD’S COMMAND TO REBUILD HIS HOUSE

7. Whom did the Lord use to rebuild the temple? How is every child of God also responsible for constructing sacred houses for Him in different places?

2 Chronicles 36:23 *Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the Lord God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? The Lord his God be with him, and let him go up.*

Ezra 1:3; 5:1; 6:14, first part *Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the Lord God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem^{5:1} Then the prophets, Haggai the prophet, and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied unto the Jews that were in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, even unto them....^{6:14} And the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo.*

“They saw enough to make them praise God. They saw that the Lord had visited them after He had scattered them for their ingratitude and disloyalty to His commandments. He had moved upon the heart of Cyrus to aid those who were appointed to rebuild His house. But those who were easily discouraged did not walk by faith. They entertained discouraging sentiments, that were not a savor of life unto good works.”—(Manuscript 116, 1897) *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 3, p. 1134.

“This was a time of wonderful opportunity for the Jews. The highest agencies of heaven were working on the hearts of kings, and it was for the people of God to labor with the utmost activity to carry out the decree of Cyrus. They should have spared no effort to restore the temple and its services, and to re-establish themselves in their Judean homes. But in the day of God’s power many proved unwilling. The opposition of their enemies was strong and determined, and gradually the builders lost heart.”—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 572.

8. Who were present when the foundation for the rebuilt temple of the Lord was laid? How can you be one of the builders of God’s “house”?

Ezra 3:8-11; 6:14, last part, 15 *Now in the second year of their coming unto the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second month, began Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and the remnant of their brethren the priests and the Levites, and all they that were come out of the captivity unto Jerusalem; and appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to set forward the work of the house of the Lord. ⁹Then stood Jeshua with his sons and his brethren, Kadmiel and his sons, the sons of Judah, together, to set forward the workmen in the house of God: the sons of Henadad, with their sons and their brethren the Levites. ¹⁰And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the Lord, after the ordinance of David king of Israel. ¹¹And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the Lord; because he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was*

laid....^{6:14} And they builded, and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.¹⁵ And this house was finished on the third day of the month Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king.

“The house that was about to be rebuilt had been the subject of many prophecies concerning the favor that God desired to show Zion, and all who were present at the laying of the cornerstone should have entered heartily into the spirit of the occasion.” —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 563.

“This praise and thanksgiving, we have no need to say, was entirely appropriate. The house upon which their eyes rested was of sufficient consequence for the Lord to send His word again and again to encourage the builders. The Lord gives His servants words to speak; and this gratitude all should have ... expressed when they saw that the foundation of the house ... was laid.” —(Manuscript 116, 1897) *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 3, p. 1133.

BUILT UP AS A SPIRITUAL HOUSE

“To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded.” 1 Peter 2:4-6.

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**Please read the Missionary Report
for the University in Guatemala on page 73.**

18

Sabbath, October 29, 2022

The Sanctuary Grossly Disrespected

“... How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.” Daniel 8:13, 14.

“Honored by men with the responsibilities of state and with the secrets of kingdoms bearing universal sway, Daniel was honored by God as His ambassador, and was given many revelations of the mysteries of ages to come. His wonderful prophecies, as recorded by him in chapters 7 to 12 of the book bearing his name, were not fully understood even by the prophet himself; but before his life labors closed, he was given the blessed assurance that ‘at the end of the days’—in the closing period of this world’s history—he would again be permitted to stand in his lot and place. It was not given him to understand all that God had revealed of the divine purpose. ‘Shut up the words, and seal the book,’ he was directed concerning his prophetic writings; these were to be sealed ‘even to the time of the end.’” —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 547.

SUNDAY

- 1. What power was to arise and expand? According to the prophecy, what kind of power would that be, and when was it to arise?**

Daniel 8:9, 23 *And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land....²³And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up.*

"A third power is here introduced into the prophecy. In the explanation given to Daniel by the angel of this symbol, is not described as definitely as are Medo-Persia and Greece....

"It has been an easy matter to show that the little horn does not denote Antiochus. It will be as easy to show that it does denote Rome....

"Rome meets all the specifications of the prophecy. No other power does meet them. Hence Rome, and no other, is the power in question." –Uriah Smith, *The Prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation*, 1944, pp. 156, 158, 162.

MONDAY

THE LITTLE HORN

2. How would this little horn act against God's people, the Prince, and the sanctuary?

Daniel 8:10-12, English Standard Version *It grew until it reached the host of the heavens, and it threw some of the starry host down to the earth and trampled on them. ¹¹It set itself up to be as great as the commander of the army of the Lord; it took away the daily sacrifice from the Lord, and his sanctuary was thrown down. ¹²Because of rebellion, the Lord's people and the daily sacrifice were given over to it. It prospered in everything it did, and truth was thrown to the ground.*

"The little horn 'waxed great, even to [against, margin] the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground.' Rome did this also. In this expression two figures are introduced, 'the host' and 'the stars.' When used in a symbolic sense concerning events taking place on earth, these figures refer almost always to the people of God and their leaders. In verse 13 of this chapter we read that both the sanctuary and the host will be trodden under foot. Here undoubtedly reference is made to God's people and the place of their worship. The stars would naturally represent the leaders of the work of God. This thought is further indicated in one of the applications of Revelation 12:4 where we read that the great red dragon, a symbol of Rome, cast down a third part of the stars to the ground.

"The little horn magnified himself even to the Prince of the host. Rome alone did this. In the interpretation (verse 25) the little horn is said to 'stand up against the Prince of princes.' This is clearly an allusion to the crucifixion of our Lord under the jurisdiction of the Romans." – Uriah Smith, *The Prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation*, p. 159.

TUESDAY

3. What did one angel ask another? Does this question imply that the heinous work of the little horn would be short-lived?

Daniel 8:13 *Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?*

"These two verses [13 and 14] of Daniel 8 close the vision proper. They introduce the one remaining point which of all others would naturally be of most absorbing interest to the prophet and to the church, namely, the length of time the desolating powers previously brought to view were to continue. How long shall they continue their course of oppression against God's people? If time had been given, Daniel might have asked this question himself, but God ever anticipates our desires, and sometimes answers them before we ask." – Uriah Smith, *The Prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation*, p. 162.

WEDNESDAY

A PROPHECY OF LONG DURATION

4. What was the other angel's response? How long would it take before the cleansing of the sanctuary would take place? Are these literal or prophetic days?

Daniel 8:14 *And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.*

“‘Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.’ Following his rule of making Scripture its own interpreter, Miller learned that a day in symbolic prophecy represents a year (Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6); he saw that the period of 2300 prophetic days, or literal years, would extend far beyond the close of the Jewish dispensation, hence it could not refer to the sanctuary of that dispensation.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 324.

“God’s people are now to have their eyes fixed on the heavenly sanctuary, where the final ministration of our great High Priest in the work of the judgment is going forward—where He is interceding for His people.”—(Review and Herald, November 27, 1883) *Evangelism*, p. 223.

THURSDAY

5. Did Daniel understand the vision that he had been given? According to the angel’s explanation, to what time does the vision refer?

Daniel 8:15-17 *And it came to pass, when I, even I Daniel, had seen the vision, and sought for the meaning, then, behold, there stood before me as the appearance of a man. ¹⁶And I heard a man’s voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision. ¹⁷So he came near where I stood: and when he came, I was afraid, and fell upon my face: but he said unto me, Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision.*

“We now enter upon the interpretation of the vision. We have already mentioned Daniel’s longing to understand these things. He sought for the meaning. Immediately there stood before the prophet one who had the appearance of a man. Daniel heard a man’s voice, that is, the voice of an angel as of a man speaking. The commandment was given to make this man Daniel understand the vision. It was addressed to Gabriel, a name that signifies ‘the strength of God, or ‘man of God.’ He continues his instruction to Daniel in chapter 9.”—Uriah Smith, *The Prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation*, p. 187.

FRIDAY

6. What did the angel repeat? Then, why is it not possible to apply the vision to the Greek Empire and its time?

Daniel 8:23, 18, 19 *And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up.... ¹⁸Now as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep on my face toward the ground: but he touched me, and set me upright. ¹⁹And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end shall be.*

“This power succeeds to the four divisions of the goat kingdom in the latter time of their kingdom, that is, toward the termination of their career. It is of course the same as the little horn of verse 9 and onward. Apply it to Rome, as set forth in remarks on verse 9, and all is harmonious and clear.”—Uriah Smith, *The Prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation*, p. 189.

SABBATH

THE PROPHESED POWER

7. What would God’s people suffer under the iron rule? Even whom would this power go against? What world power fulfilled this prophecy?

Daniel 8:24-26 *And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. ²⁵And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand. ²⁶And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for many days.*

Luke 2:1, 6, 7; 3:1, 2 *And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.... ⁶And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. ⁷And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.... ^{3:1}Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene, ²Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.*

“Rome has been distinguished above all other powers for a policy of craft, by means of which it brought the nations under its control. This is true of both pagan and papal Rome. Thus by peace it destroyed many. Finally, in the person of one of its governors, Rome stood up against the Prince of princes, by giving sentence of death against Jesus Christ. ‘But he shall be broken without hands.’ This parallels the prophecy of Daniel 2:34, where the stone ‘cut out without hands’ destroys all earthly powers.... ‘The vision of the evening and the morning’ refers to the period of 2300 days. In view of the long period of oppression, and the calamities which were to come upon his people, Daniel fainted and was sick certain days. He was astonished at the vision, but did not understand it.” – Uriah Smith, *The Prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation*, pp. 190, 191.

ONLY THAT WHICH REFLECTS HIS CHARACTER CAN ENDURE

“From the rise and fall of nations as made plain in the books of Daniel and the Revelation, we need to learn how worthless is mere outward and worldly glory. Babylon, with all its power and magnificence, the like of which our world has never since beheld—power and magnificence which to the people of that day seemed so stable and enduring—how completely has it passed away! As ‘the flower of the grass,’ it has perished. James 1:10. So perished the Medo-Persian kingdom, and the kingdoms of Grecia and Rome. And so perishes all that has not God for its foundation. Only that which is bound up with His purpose, and expresses His character, can endure. His principles are the only steadfast things our world knows.” – *Prophets and Kings*, p. 548.

* * *

Missionary Report for the University in Guatemala

To be read on Sabbath, October 29, 2022

*The Special Sabbath School Offering
will be gathered on Sabbath, November 5, 2022*

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom...” Proverbs 9:10.

The Scientific College of Computer Studies is one of the educational centers around the world that has received support from the General Conference. The College is located in the city of Coatepeque in southern Guatemala, thirty minutes from the Mexican border. The school was created, authorized, and operated under the Departmental Directorate of the Ministry of Education of Guatemala under Resolution No. 156-9, dated October 6, 1995. This is an educational institution that offers three levels of study—Complete Primary, Basic, and Diversified. Having met the requirements for these three levels makes this college a pre-university school. It belongs to the International Missionary Society, Seventh-day Adventist Church, Reform Movement, Guatemalan Field, and the General Conference as co-owners of the school and facilities.

According to the master plan for the levels of education, we now have the opportunity to begin the process of opening a university, following God’s plan as written in *Child Guidance*, p. 306: “Church schools are to be established for the children in the cities, and in connection with these schools provision is to be made for the teaching of higher studies, where these are called for.”

Today we have the opportunity to move forward with this project, and we pray that with God’s guidance we can comply with the procedures for advancing higher education and very soon have a university that belongs to the church. This will give many of our young people the opportunity to complete their advanced studies.

So far, we have had interviews with members of the Superior Council of Rectors of Private Universities, who have provided the guidelines for the facilities, six modules of which have already been completed. One requirement to be authorized as a university is that we complete construction of the two modules for the second level, after which we will have constructed eight modules (four for the first level and four for the second level). Thanks to the support of the General Conference, we have begun such construction and have thus completed the requirement. At the same time, there is a group of professional brethren who are working on the curriculum so that we will have all the documents requested by the Superior Council of Rectors of Private Universities, which will decide about the approval of the operation of the university. The plan is for the university to be approved for in-person instruction under the Faculty of Humanities and at the same time to operate a virtual-learning system so the brothers and sisters in other countries may have virtual access to the school.

Therefore, we appeal to all our dear brothers, sisters, friends, and supporters from all over the world: Please make a financial contribution, according to the blessings that you have received from God, so that this project of the Scientific University in the Americas may become a reality. We believe that God will continue to provide means through the generosity of His children who desire the church’s educational institutions to be a means for preaching the gospel so that many people will come to the knowledge of the truth. God bless you.

—Danilo Monterroso
Latin American Division Leader

Special Sabbath School Offering for the University in Guatemala

God bless your generous offering!

19

Sabbath, November 5, 2022

Prophecy of the Sanctuary's Cleansing

"But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us." Hebrews 9:11, 12.

"In patriarchal times the sacrificial offerings connected with divine worship constituted a perpetual reminder of the coming of a Saviour, and thus it was with the entire ritual of the sanctuary services throughout Israel's history.... The sacrifices and offerings of the Mosaic ritual were ever pointing toward a better service, even a heavenly. The earthly sanctuary was 'a figure for the time then present,' in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices; its two holy places were 'patterns of things in the heavens;' for Christ, our great High Priest, is today 'a minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.' Hebrews 9:9, 23; 8:2."—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 684.

SUNDAY

THE PROPHETIC KEY

1. In prophecy, what does a day equal in actual time? So, how many years are 2300 prophetic days?

Numbers 13:25; 14:34 *And they returned from searching of the land after forty days....^{14:34}After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.*

Ezekiel 4:6 *And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee each day for a year.*

Luke 13:32, 33 *And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.*

³³*Nevertheless I must walk to day, and to morrow, and the day following: for it cannot be that a prophet perish out of Jerusalem.*

"Following his rule of making Scripture its own interpreter, Miller learned that a day in symbolic prophecy represents a year (Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6); he saw that the period of 2300 prophetic days, or literal years, would extend far beyond the close of the Jewish dispensation, hence it could not refer to the sanctuary of that dispensation."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 324.

MONDAY

2. What period do the 2300 prophetic days include? How many literal years are represented by the 70 prophetic weeks?

Daniel 9:24 *Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.*

"Seventy weeks," said the angel, 'are determined upon thy people and upon

thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most holy." Daniel 9:24. A day in prophecy stands for a year. See Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6. The seventy weeks, or four hundred and ninety days, represent four hundred and ninety years."—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 698.

TUESDAY

BEGINNING OF THE 2300 PROPHETIC DAYS

3. If we know the beginning of these prophetic weeks, what other beginning will we discover?

Daniel 9:25 *Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.*

"A starting point for this period is given: 'Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks' (Daniel 9:25), sixty-nine weeks, or four hundred and eighty-three years. The commandment to restore and build Jerusalem, as completed by the decree of Artaxerxes Longimanus, went into effect in the autumn of 457 B.C. See Ezra 6:14; 7:1, 9. From this time four hundred and eighty-three years extend to the autumn of A.D. 27. According to the prophecy, this period was to reach to the Messiah, the Anointed One. In A.D. 27, Jesus at His baptism received the anointing of the Holy Spirit and soon afterward began His ministry. Then the message was proclaimed, 'The time is fulfilled.' Mark 1:15."—*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 698, 699.

WEDNESDAY

4. What decree did King Artaxerxes issue concerning the Hebrews' return to Jerusalem to reconstruct the temple and re-establish its services in Jerusalem? When did he issue this decree? According to our reckoning, what was the date of this decree?

Ezra 7:11-26, 7, 8 *Now this is the copy of the letter that the king Artaxerxes gave unto Ezra the priest, the scribe, even a scribe of the words of the commandments of the Lord, and of his statutes to Israel.* ¹²*Artaxerxes, king of kings, unto Ezra the priest, a scribe of the law of the God of heaven, perfect peace, and at such a time.* ¹³*I make a decree, that all they of the people of Israel, and of his priests and Levites, in my realm, which are minded of their own freewill to go up to Jerusalem, go with thee.* ¹⁴*Forasmuch as thou art sent of the king, and of his seven counsellors, to enquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, according to the law of thy God which is in thine hand;* ¹⁵*And to carry the silver and gold, which the king and his counsellors have freely offered unto the God of Israel, whose habitation is in Jerusalem,* ¹⁶*And all the silver and gold that thou canst find in all the province of Babylon, with the freewill offering of the people, and of the priests, offering willingly for the house of their God which is in Jerusalem:* ¹⁷*That thou mayest buy speedily with this money bullocks, rams, lambs, with their meat offerings and their drink offerings, and offer them upon the altar of the house of your God which is in Jerusalem.* ¹⁸*And whatsoever shall seem good to thee, and to thy brethren, to do with the rest of the silver and the gold, that do after the will of your God.* ¹⁹*The vessels also that are given thee for the service of the house of thy God, those deliver thou before the God of Jerusalem.* ²⁰*And whatsoever more shall be needful for the house of thy God, which thou shalt have occasion to bestow, bestow it out of the king's treasure house.* ²¹*And I, even I Artaxerxes the king, do make a decree to all the treasurers which are beyond the river, that whatsoever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the law of the God of heaven, shall require of you, it be done speedily.* ²²*Unto an hundred talents of silver, and to an hundred measures of wheat, and to an hundred baths of wine, and to an hundred baths of oil, and salt without prescribing how much.* ²³*Whatsoever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it be diligently done for the house of the God of heaven: for why should there be wrath against the realm of the king and his sons?* ²⁴*Also we*

certify you, that touching any of the priests and Levites, singers, porters, Nethinims, or ministers of this house of God, it shall not be lawful to impose toll, tribute, or custom, upon them. ²⁵*And thou, Ezra, after the wisdom of thy God, that is in thine hand, set magistrates and judges, which may judge all the people that are beyond the river, all such as know the laws of thy God; and teach ye them that know them not.* ²⁶*And whosoever will not do the law of thy God, and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily upon him, whether it be unto death, or to banishment, or to confiscation of goods, or to imprisonment....* ²⁷*And there went up some of the children of Israel, and of the priests, and the Levites, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinims, unto Jerusalem, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king.* ²⁸*And he came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king.*

“In the seventh chapter of Ezra the decree is found. Verses 12-26. In its completest form it was issued by Artaxerxes, king of Persia, 457 B.C. But in Ezra 6:14 the house of the Lord at Jerusalem is said to have been built ‘according to the commandment [decree, margin] of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.’ These three kings, in originating, reaffirming, and completing the decree, brought it to the perfection required by the prophecy to mark the beginning of the 2300 years. Taking 457 B.C., the time when the decree was completed, as the date of the commandment, every specification of the prophecy concerning the seventy weeks was seen to have been fulfilled.

“From the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks’—namely, sixty-nine weeks, or 483 years. The decree of Artaxerxes went into effect in the autumn of 457 B.C. From this date, 483 years extend to the autumn of A.D. 27. At that time this prophecy was fulfilled. The word ‘Messiah’ signifies ‘the Anointed One.’ In the autumn of A.D. 27 Christ was baptized by John and received the anointing of the Spirit. The apostle Peter testifies that ‘God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power.’ Acts 10:38. And the Saviour Himself declared: ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor.’ Luke 4:18. After His baptism He went into Galilee, ‘preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled.’ Mark 1:14, 15.”—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 326, 327.

THURSDAY

CONCLUSION OF THE PROPHETIC 2300 DAYS

- 5. Knowing that the beginning date of the 70 weeks and the 2300 days is B.C. 457, what year does the prophecy of 2300 prophetic days end?**

“Thus far every specification of the prophecies is strikingly fulfilled, and the beginning of the seventy weeks is fixed beyond question at 457 B.C., and their expiration in A.D. 34. From this data there is no difficulty in finding the termination of the 2300 days. The seventy weeks—490 days—having been cut off from the 2300, there were 1810 days remaining. After the end of 490 days, the 1810 days were still to be fulfilled. From A.D. 34, 1810 years extend to 1844. Consequently the 2300 days of Daniel 8:14 terminate in 1844. At the expiration of this great prophetic period, upon the testimony of the angel of God, ‘the sanctuary shall be cleansed.’ Thus the time of the cleansing of the sanctuary—which was almost universally believed to take place at the second advent—was definitely pointed out.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 328.

FRIDAY

- 6. What was then to happen in the heavenly sanctuary, for at the end of the 2300 prophetic days there was no sanctuary or temple on earth and had not been for a very long time?**

Daniel 8:14 *And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.*

Leviticus 16:16, 33 *And he shall make an atonement for the holy place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth*

among them in the midst of their uncleanness....³³And he shall make an atonement for the holy sanctuary, and he shall make an atonement for the tabernacle of the congregation, and for the altar, and he shall make an atonement for the priests, and for all the people of the congregation.

“At the time appointed for the judgment—the close of the 2300 days, in 1844—began the work of investigation and blotting out of sins. All who have ever taken upon themselves the name of Christ must pass its searching scrutiny. Both the living and the dead are to be judged ‘out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.’” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 486.

SABBATH

HIGH PRIEST OF THE HEAVENLY SANCTUARY

7. Who has been ministering in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary since 1844 to cleanse it, as prefigured in the typical day of atonement in the earthly sanctuary?

Hebrews 8:1, 2; 9:11-14 *Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; ²A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man....⁹⁻¹¹But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; ¹²Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. ¹³For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: ¹⁴How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

“Sabbath, March 24, 1849, we had a sweet and very interesting meeting with the brethren at Topsham, Maine. The Holy Ghost was poured out upon us, and I was taken off in the Spirit to the city of the living God. Then I was shown that the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ relating to the shut door could not be separated, and that the time for the commandments of God to shine out with all their importance, and for God’s people to be tried on the Sabbath truth, was when the door was opened in the most holy place in the heavenly sanctuary, where the ark is, in which are contained the ten commandments. This door was not opened until the mediation of Jesus was finished in the holy place of the sanctuary in 1844. Then Jesus rose up and shut the door of the holy place, and opened the door into the most holy, and passed within the second veil, where He now stands by the ark, and where the faith of Israel now reaches....

“The blood of Jesus was then shed, which was to be offered by Himself in the heavenly sanctuary. As the priest entered the most holy once a year to cleanse the earthly sanctuary, so Jesus entered the most holy of the heavenly, at the end of the 2300 days of Daniel 8, in 1844, to make a final atonement for all who could be benefited by His mediation, and thus to cleanse the sanctuary.” —*Early Writings*, pp. 42, 253.

A SUBJECT THAT PROVIDES GREAT LIGHT

“As a people, we should be earnest students of prophecy; we should not rest until we become intelligent in regard to the subject of the sanctuary, which is brought out in the visions of Daniel and John. This subject sheds great light on our present position and work, and gives us unmistakable proof that God has led us in our past experience. It explains our disappointment in 1844, showing us that the sanctuary to be cleansed was not the earth, as we had supposed, but that Christ then entered into the most holy apartment of the heavenly sanctuary, and is there performing the closing work of His priestly office, in fulfillment of the words of the angel to the prophet Daniel, ‘Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.’” —*Evangelism*, pp. 222, 223.

* * *

End of the Earthly Sanctuary

“The Holy Spirit this signifying, that the way into the holy place hath not yet been made manifest, while the first tabernacle is yet standing.” Hebrews 9:8, American Standard Version.

“Christ’s words to the priests and rulers, ‘Behold, your house is left unto you desolate’ (Matthew 23:38), had struck terror to their hearts. They affected indifference, but the question kept rising in their minds as to the import of these words. An unseen danger seemed to threaten them. Could it be that the magnificent temple, which was the nation’s glory, was soon to be a heap of ruins?... As Christ’s attention was attracted to the magnificence of the temple, what must have been the unuttered thoughts of that Rejected One! The view before Him was indeed beautiful, but He said with sadness, I see it all. The buildings are indeed wonderful. You point to these walls as apparently indestructible; but listen to My words: The day will come when ‘there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.’”
—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 627.

SUNDAY

1. **What did Jesus see when He entered the temple shortly before the Passover? How did He react to this desecration of the holy grounds?**

John 2:13-15 *And the Jews’ passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: ¹⁵And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers’ money, and overthrew the tables.*

“A great number of sacrifices were offered at the time of the Passover, and the sales at the temple were very large. The consequent confusion indicated a noisy cattle market rather than the sacred temple of God. There could be heard sharp bargaining, the lowing of cattle, the bleating of sheep, the cooing of doves, mingled with the chinking of coin and angry disputation. So great was the confusion that the worshipers were disturbed, and the words addressed to the Most High were drowned in the uproar that invaded the temple. The Jews were exceedingly proud of their piety. They rejoiced over their temple, and regarded a word spoken in its disfavor as blasphemy; they were very rigorous in the performance of ceremonies connected with it; but the love of money had overruled their scruples. They were scarcely aware how far they had wandered from the original purpose of the service instituted by God Himself....

“As Jesus came into the temple, He took in the whole scene. He saw the unfair transactions. He saw the distress of the poor, who thought that without shedding of blood there would be no forgiveness for their sins. He saw the outer court of His temple converted into a place of unholy traffic. The sacred enclosure had become one vast exchange.”—*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 155, 157.

MONDAY

PURIFICATION OF THE TEMPLE

2. **What was God’s plan for His earthly house? Yet, to what had it been reduced?**

Matthew 21:13 *And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.*

Isaiah 56:7 *Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.*

"The confusion is hushed. The sound of traffic and bargaining has ceased. The silence becomes painful. A sense of awe overpowers the assembly. It is as if they were arraigned before the tribunal of God to answer for their deeds. Looking upon Christ, they behold divinity flash through the garb of humanity. The Majesty of heaven stands as the Judge will stand at the last day—not now encircled with the glory that will then attend Him, but with the same power to read the soul. His eye sweeps over the multitude, taking in every individual. His form seems to rise above them in commanding dignity, and a divine light illuminates His countenance. He speaks, and His clear, ringing voice—the same that upon Mount Sinai proclaimed the law that priests and rulers are transgressing—is heard echoing through the arches of the temple: 'Take these things hence; make not My Father's house an house of merchandise.'" —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 158.

TUESDAY

3. When Jesus died on the cross, what happened to the veil that separated the holy place from the most holy place in the temple? What was the meaning of this supernatural event?

Matthew 27:50, 51 *Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. ⁵¹And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent.*

Exodus 26:31-33 *And thou shalt make a vail of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen of cunning work: with cherubims shall it be made: ³²And thou shalt hang it upon four pillars of shittim wood overlaid with gold: their hooks shall be of gold, upon the four sockets of silver. ³³And thou shalt hang up the vail under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the vail the ark of the testimony: and the vail shall divide unto you between the holy place and the most holy.*

"When the loud cry, 'It is finished,' came from the lips of Christ, the priests were officiating in the temple. It was the hour of the evening sacrifice. The lamb representing Christ had been brought to be slain....

"All is terror and confusion. The priest is about to slay the victim; but the knife drops from his nerveless hand, and the lamb escapes. Type has met antitype in the death of God's Son. The great sacrifice has been made." —*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 756, 757.

WEDNESDAY

PROPHECY OF THE END OF THE SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM

4. According to prophecy, what was to happen in the middle of the last week of the seventy weeks?

Daniel 9:27 *And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.*

Hebrews 10:8-10 *Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldst not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; ⁹Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. ¹⁰By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

1 Kings 9:6-8 *But if ye shall at all turn from following me, ye or your children, and will not keep my commandments and my statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods, and worship them: ⁷Then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; and this house, which I have hallowed for my name, will I cast out of my sight; and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people: ⁸And at this house, which is high, every one that passeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss; and they shall say, Why hath the Lord done thus unto this land, and to this house?*

Micah 3:12 *Therefore shall Zion for your sake be plowed as a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of the forest.*

“The influence of these powerful persons produced a reaction in the minds of the people. Then the elders united in protesting against the decision of the priests regarding the fate of Jeremiah. They cited the case of Micah, who prophesied judgments upon Jerusalem, saying: ‘Zion shall be plowed like a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of a forest.’ They put to them the question: ‘Did Hezekiah king of Judah and all Judah put him at all to death? did he not fear the Lord, and besought the Lord, and the Lord repented Him of the evil which He had pronounced against them? Thus might we procure great evil against our souls.’” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 168.

“They [the disciples] were to see Jerusalem a desolation, the temple swept away, its worship forever ended, and Israel scattered to all lands, like wrecks on a desert shore.” —*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 120.

THURSDAY

5. In fact, what came to pass at the prophesied time? Following the Jews’ war with the Romans, what happened to the city and the temple?

Daniel 9:26 *And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.*

Matthew 27:54 *Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.*

“At the time when Jerusalem was destroyed and the temple laid in ruins, many thousands of the Jews were sold to serve as bondmen in heathen lands. Like wrecks on a desert shore they were scattered among the nations. For eighteen hundred years the Jews have wandered from land to land throughout the world, and in no place have they been given the privilege of regaining their ancient prestige as a nation. Maligned, hated, persecuted, from century to century theirs has been a heritage of suffering.” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 379.

“Christ would have averted the doom of the Jewish nation if the people had received Him. But envy and jealousy made them implacable. They determined that they would not receive Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah. They rejected the Light of the world, and henceforth their lives were surrounded with darkness as the darkness of midnight. The doom foretold came upon the Jewish nation. Their own fierce passions, uncontrolled, wrought their ruin. In their blind rage they destroyed one another. Their rebellious, stubborn pride brought upon them the wrath of their Roman conquerors. Jerusalem was destroyed, the temple laid in ruins, and its site plowed like a field. The children of Judah perished by the most horrible forms of death. Millions were sold to serve as bondmen in heathen lands.” —*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 712, 713.

FRIDAY

JESUS’ MESSAGE REGARDING THE EARTHLY TEMPLE

6. What did Jesus say twice about the temple and the worship that was conducted there?

John 4:21, 23, 24 *Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father....²³ But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.²⁴ God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*

Matthew 24:1, 2 *And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple.² And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.*

“Massive blocks of white marble, of almost fabulous size, forwarded from Rome for this purpose, formed a part of its structure; and to these the disciples had called

the attention of their Master, saying: 'See what manner of stones and what buildings are here!'

"To these words, Jesus made the solemn and startling reply: 'Verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.' Matthew 24:2.... Jesus declared to the listening disciples the judgments that were to fall upon apostate Israel, and especially the retributive vengeance that would come upon them for their rejection and crucifixion of the Messiah. Unmistakable signs would precede the awful climax. The dreaded hour would come suddenly and swiftly. And the Saviour warned His followers: 'When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand;) then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains.' Matthew 24:15, 16; Luke 21:20, 21."—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 24, 26.

SABBATH

7. Although the temple in Jerusalem ceased to have any meaning, what is true of the heavenly sanctuary?

Hebrews 9:8, American Standard Version; 8:1, 2 *The Holy Spirit this signifying, that the way into the holy place hath not yet been made manifest, while the first tabernacle is yet standing....*^{8:1} *Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; ²A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.*

"The way into the holiest is laid open. A new and living way is prepared for all. No longer need sinful, sorrowing humanity await the coming of the high priest. Henceforth the Saviour was to officiate as priest and advocate in the heaven of heavens. It was as if a living voice had spoken to the worshipers: There is now an end to all sacrifices and offerings for sin. The Son of God is come according to His word, 'Lo, I come (in the volume of the Book it is written of Me,) to do Thy will, O God.' 'By His own blood' He entereth 'in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.' Hebrews 10:7; 9:12."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 757.

JESUS GAINED THE VICTORY ON THE CROSS

"Christ did not yield up His life till He had accomplished the work which He came to do, and with His parting breath He exclaimed, 'It is finished.' John 19:30. The battle had been won. His right hand and His holy arm had gotten Him the victory. As a Conqueror He planted His banner on the eternal heights. Was there not joy among the angels? All heaven triumphed in the Saviour's victory. Satan was defeated, and knew that his kingdom was lost."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 757.

* * *

The Heavenly Sanctuary

"And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened." Revelation 15:5.

"Moses made the earthly sanctuary, 'according to the fashion that he had seen.' Paul declares that 'the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry,' when completed, were 'the patterns of things in the heavens.' Acts 7:44; Hebrews 9:21, 23. And John says that he saw the sanctuary in heaven. That sanctuary, in which Jesus ministers in our behalf, is the great original, of which the sanctuary built by Moses was a copy.

"The heavenly temple, the abiding place of the King of kings, where 'thousand thousands ministered unto Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him' (Daniel 7:10), that temple filled with the glory of the eternal throne, where seraphim, its shining guardians, veil their faces in adoration—no earthly structure could represent its vastness and its glory."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 357.

SUNDAY

VISION OF THE HEAVENLY SANCTUARY

1. **Even though it is not made of the same material as was the earthly, what can we imagine that the great original sanctuary in heaven is like?**

Revelation 15:5-8 *And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened: ⁶And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles. ⁷And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever. ⁸And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.*

"In holy vision John was taken into the heavenly sanctuary. He says: 'The temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in His temple the ark of His testament.' 'And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened.' The sanctuary that Moses was commanded to make was to be after the pattern of the heavenly sanctuary. In the ark were placed the ten commandments which had been written by the finger of God. The law that was placed in the ark on earth was a copy of the law that is contained in the ark of the testament in heaven, and the precepts of Jehovah are immutable. The ten commandments constitute the moral standard of character. God requires on the part of man perfect conformity to His law, and a curse is pronounced against everyone who continues not in all things written in the law to do them."—*Signs of the Times*, June 11, 1894.

MONDAY

2. **What surrounded the earthly sanctuary? Where was it located in relation to the sanctuary? According to the vision in Revelation, how does the heavenly sanctuary differ from this?**

Exodus 27:9; 30:18 *And thou shalt make the court of the tabernacle: for the south side southward there shall be hangings for the court of fine twined linen of an hundred cubits long for one side: ... ^{30:18}Thou shalt also make a laver of brass, and his foot also of brass, to wash withal: and thou shalt put it between the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar; and thou shalt put water therein.*

Revelation 11:1, 2 *And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar; and them that worship therein. ²But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure*

it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.

“Have you, dear youth, your lamps trimmed and burning? The work is going on in the heavenly court. In vision on the Isle of Patmos John said: ‘And there was given me a reed like unto a rod, and the angel stood, saying, Arise and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.’ This solemn work is to be done upon the earth. Look and see how stands your measurement of character as compared with God’s standard of righteousness, His holy law. The worshipers are to pass under the measuring line of God. Who will bear the test? Christ says, ‘I know thy works.’ Nothing is hid from Him of whom John says, ‘His head and His hair were white like wool, white as snow, and His eyes were as a flame of fire.’ How many are purifying their souls by obeying the truth? How many are now in this time wholly on the Lord’s side? How many are seeking to be a blessing to those around them? Many need help, kind words, thoughtful attentions; and if you pray with such, you may be a blessing to them.” –*The Youth’s Instructor*, August 25, 1886.

TUESDAY

3. What object was seen in vision that was in the earthly sanctuary?

Exodus 27:1; 30:28 *And thou shalt make an altar of shittim wood, five cubits long, and five cubits broad; the altar shall be foursquare: and the height thereof shall be three cubits ^{30:28}And the altar of burnt offering with all his vessels, and the laver and his foot.*

Revelation 6:9 *And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held.*

“And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: and they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, Holy and true, dost Thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them [they were pronounced pure and holy]; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.’ Revelation 6:9-11. Here were scenes presented to John that were not in reality but that which would be in a period of time in the future. [Revelation 8:1-4, quoted.]” – *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 20, pp. 197, 198.

WEDNESDAY

GOLDEN OBJECTS

4. What other object of the earthly sanctuary appears in a vision given to the apostle John? What is similar in the two views?

Revelation 9:13, 14 *And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, ¹⁴Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.*

Exodus 30:6-8 *And thou shalt put it before the vail that is by the ark of the testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the testimony, where I will meet with thee. ⁷And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet incense every morning: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it. ⁸And when Aaron lighteth the lamps at even, he shall burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before the Lord throughout your generations.*

“The work of God is to be carried on to completion by the cooperation of divine and human agencies. Those who are self-sufficient may be apparently active in the work of God; but if they are prayerless, their activity is of no avail. Could they look into the censer of the angel that stands at the golden altar before the rainbow-circled throne, they would see that the merit of Jesus must be mingled with our prayers and efforts, or they are as worthless as was the offering of Cain. Could we see all the activity of human instrumentality, as it appears before God, we would see that only the work accomplished by much prayer, which is sanctified by the merit of Christ,

will stand the test of the judgment. When the grand review shall take place, then shall ye return and discern between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not.”
—*Review and Herald*, July 4, 1893.

THURSDAY

5. **What else is seen in the Revelation that was characteristic of the earthly sanctuary? What does the angel do in front of the golden altar?**

Revelation 8:3, 4 *And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. ⁴And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.*

“As has been stated, the earthly sanctuary was built by Moses according to the pattern shown him in the mount. It was ‘a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices;’ its two holy places were ‘patterns of things in the heavens;’ Christ, our great High Priest, is ‘a minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.’ Hebrews 9:9, 23; 8:2. As in vision the apostle John was granted a view of the temple of God in heaven, he beheld there ‘seven lamps of fire burning before the throne.’ He saw an angel ‘having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.’ Revelation 4:5; 8:3. Here the prophet was permitted to behold the first apartment of the sanctuary in heaven; and he saw there the ‘seven lamps of fire’ and the ‘golden altar’ represented by the golden candlestick and the altar of incense in the sanctuary on earth. Again, ‘the temple of God was opened’ (Revelation 11:19), and he looked within the inner veil, upon the holy of holies. Here he beheld ‘the ark of His testament’ (Revelation 11:19), represented by the sacred chest constructed by Moses to contain the law of God.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 356.

FRIDAY

LOST ON EARTH BUT EXISTING IN HEAVEN

6. **What important objects in the most holy place did not exist later in the earthly temple but were seen in vision in the heavenly temple? What meaning does this have for God's people today?**

Revelation 11:19 *And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.*

Malachi 3:6 *For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*

“When God's temple in heaven is opened, what a triumphant time that will be for all who have been faithful and true! In the temple will be seen the ark of the testament in which were placed the two tables of stone, on which are written God's law. These tables of stone will be brought forth from their hiding place, and on them will be seen the Ten Commandments engraved by the finger of God. These tables of stone now lying in the ark of the testament will be a convincing testimony to the truth and binding claims of God's law.” —(Letter 47, 1902) *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 972.

SABBATH

7. **What did the ark of the covenant in the earthly sanctuary contain that was so precious? What is inside of the heavenly ark?**

Deuteronomy 10:2-5 *And I will write on the tables the words that were in the first tables which thou brakest, and thou shalt put them in the ark. ³And I made an ark of shittim wood, and hewed two tables of stone like unto the first, and went up into the mount, having the two tables in mine hand. ⁴And he wrote on the tables, according to the first writing, the ten commandments, which the Lord spake unto you in the mount*

out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly: and the Lord gave them unto me. ³And I turned myself and came down from the mount, and put the tables in the ark which I had made; and there they be, as the Lord commanded me.

“In the holiest I saw an ark; on the top and sides of it was purest gold. On each end of the ark was a lovely cherub, with its wings spread out over it. Their faces were turned toward each other, and they looked downward. Between the angels was a golden censer. Above the ark, where the angels stood, was an exceeding bright glory, that appeared like a throne where God dwelt. Jesus stood by the ark, and as the saints’ prayers came up to Him, the incense in the censer would smoke, and He would offer up their prayers with the smoke of the incense to His Father. In the ark was the golden pot of manna, Aaron’s rod that budded, and the tables of stone which folded together like a book. Jesus opened them, and I saw the ten commandments written on them with the finger of God. On one table were four, and on the other six.” —*Early Writings*, p. 32.

ESSENTIAL PARTS OF THE PLAN OF SALVATION

“The intercession of Christ in man’s behalf in the sanctuary above is as essential to the plan of salvation as was His death upon the cross. By His death He began that work which after His resurrection He ascended to complete in heaven. We must by faith enter within the veil, ‘whither the forerunner is for us entered.’ Hebrews 6:20. There the light from the cross of Calvary is reflected. There we may gain a clearer insight into the mysteries of redemption. The salvation of man is accomplished at an infinite expense to heaven; the sacrifice made is equal to the broadest demands of the broken law of God. Jesus has opened the way to the Father’s throne, and through His mediation the sincere desire of all who come to Him in faith may be presented before God.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 489.

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22

Sabbath, November 26, 2022

Built by the Lord

“Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.” Hebrews 8:1, 2.

“The sanctuary in heaven is the very center of Christ’s work in behalf of men. It concerns every soul living upon the earth. It opens to view the plan of redemption, bringing us down to the very close of time and revealing the triumphant issue of the contest between righteousness and sin. It is of the utmost importance that all should thoroughly investigate these subjects and be able to give an answer to everyone that asketh them a reason of the hope that is in them.” —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 488, 489.

SUNDAY

BIBLICAL DESCRIPTION

1. How do the holy Scriptures describe the heavenly sanctuary? Why is this so important?

Hebrews 8:1, 2 *Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.*

Zechariah 6:12, 13 *And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The Branch; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the Lord: ¹³Even he shall build the temple of the Lord; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.*

“He became the minister of the ‘true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.’ Hebrews 8:2. Men reared the Jewish tabernacle; men built the Jewish temple; but the sanctuary above, of which the earthly was a type, was built by no human architect. ‘Behold the Man whose name is The Branch;... He shall build the temple of the Lord; and He shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon His throne; and He shall be a priest upon His throne.’ Zechariah 6:12, 13.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 165.

As has been stated, the earthly sanctuary was built by Moses according to the pattern shown him in the mount. It was ‘a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices;’ its two holy places were ‘patterns of things in the heavens;’ Christ, our great High Priest, is ‘a minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.’ Hebrews 9:9, 23; 8:2.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 356.

MONDAY

2. **What is another characteristic that differentiates the heavenly sanctuary from the earthly tabernacle?**

Hebrews 9:24 *For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.*

“Such was the service performed ‘unto the example and shadow of heavenly things.’ And what was done in type in the ministration of the earthly sanctuary is done in reality in the ministration of the heavenly sanctuary. After His ascension our Saviour began His work as our high priest. Says Paul: ‘Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.’ Hebrews 9:24.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 420.

TUESDAY

TWO APARTMENTS

3. **How many apartments did the earthly tabernacle contain? What was in the first apartment?**

Hebrews 9:1, 2 *Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary. ²For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary.*

“I was then bidden to take notice of the two apartments of the heavenly sanctuary. The curtain, or door, was opened, and I was permitted to enter. In the first apartment I saw the candlestick with seven lamps, the table of shewbread, the altar of incense, and the censer. All the furniture of this apartment looked like purest gold and reflected the image of the one who entered the place. The curtain which separated the two apartments was of different colors and material, with a beautiful border, in which were figures wrought of gold to represent angels.” —*Early Writings*, pp. 251, 252.

WEDNESDAY

4. **What important object was in the second apartment—the most holy place?**

Hebrews 9:3-5 *And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all; Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that*

budded, and the tables of the covenant; ⁵And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly.

“The veil was lifted, and I looked into the second apartment. I saw there an ark which had the appearance of being of the finest gold. As a border around the top of the ark, was most beautiful work representing crowns. In the ark were tables of stone containing the ten commandments.”—*Early Writings*, p. 252.

“The ministration of the sanctuary consisted of two divisions, a daily and a yearly service. The daily service was performed at the altar of burnt offering in the court of the tabernacle and in the holy place; while the yearly service was in the most holy.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 351.

THURSDAY

5. What is the relationship between the earthly tabernacle and the heavenly sanctuary?

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

“The sanctuary in heaven, in which Jesus ministers in our behalf, is the great original, of which the sanctuary built by Moses was a copy. God placed His Spirit upon the builders of the earthly sanctuary. The artistic skill displayed in its construction was a manifestation of divine wisdom. The walls had the appearance of massive gold, reflecting in every direction the light of the seven lamps of the golden candlestick. The table of shewbread and the altar of incense glittered like burnished gold. The gorgeous curtain which formed the ceiling, inwrought with figures of angels in blue and purple and scarlet, added to the beauty of the scene. And beyond the second veil was the holy Shekinah, the visible manifestation of God’s glory, before which none but the high priest could enter and live.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 414.

FRIDAY

6. Which of the two tabernacles is greater and more perfect?

Hebrews 9:11 *But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building.*

“The sacrificial service that had pointed to Christ passed away; but the eyes of men were turned to the true sacrifice for the sins of the world. The earthly priesthood ceased; but we look to Jesus, the minister of the new covenant, and ‘to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.’ ‘... The way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing:... but Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands,... by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.’ Hebrews 12:24; 9:8-12.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 166.

SABBATH

7. When was the heavenly sanctuary revealed in Scripture? How do God’s people draw near to the heavenly house of God?

Hebrews 9:8; 10:21, 22 *The Holy Ghost thus signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: ... ^{10:21}And having an high priest over the house of God; ²²Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*

“When Christ cried, ‘It is finished,’ God’s unseen hand rent the strong fabric composing the veil of the temple from top to bottom. The way into the holiest of all was made manifest. God bowed His head satisfied. Now His justice and mercy

could blend. He could be just, and yet the justifier of all who should believe on Christ. He looked upon the victim expiring on the cross, and said, 'It is finished. The human race shall have another trial.' The redemption price was paid, and Satan fell like lightning from heaven."—(Manuscript 111, 1897) *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, p. 1150.

THINK BEYOND THE EARTHLY SERVICE

"As with holy boldness Paul proclaimed the gospel in the synagogue at Thessalonica, a flood of light was thrown upon the true meaning of the rites and ceremonies connected with the tabernacle service. He carried the minds of his hearers beyond the earthly service and the ministry of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary, to the time when, having completed His mediatorial work, Christ would come again in power and great glory, and establish His kingdom on the earth. Paul was a believer in the second coming of Christ; so clearly and forcibly did he present the truths concerning this event, that upon the minds of many who heard there was made an impression which never wore away."—*Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 228, 229.

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23

Sabbath, December 3, 2022

One Eternal Sacrifice

"For then must He often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself." Hebrews 9:26.

"When the high priest entered the holy place, representing the place where our High Priest is now pleading, and offered sacrifice on the altar, no propitiatory sacrifices were offered without. While the high priest was interceding within, every heart was to be bowed in contrition before God, pleading for the pardon of transgression. Type met antitype in the death of Christ, the Lamb slain for the sins of the world. The great High Priest has made the only sacrifice that will be of any value...."—*That I May Know Him*, p. 73.

SUNDAY

NEED TO REPEAT THE SACRIFICE

- 1. What did the Levitical high priest have to do every year? How was Jesus' sacrifice totally different from this?**

Hebrews 9:25 *Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others.*

Leviticus 16:29, 34 *And this shall be a statute for ever unto you: that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, ye shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, whether it be one of your own country, or a stranger that sojourneth among you: ... ³⁴And this shall be an everlasting statute unto you, to make an atonement for the children of Israel for all their sins once a year. And he did as the Lord commanded Moses.*

"Christ did not rend His robe, but His soul was rent. His garment of human flesh was rent as He hung on the cross, the Sin-bearer of the race. By His suffering and death a new and living way was opened. There is no longer a wall of partition between Jew and Gentile. 'By one offering He hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.' This enabled Him to proclaim on the cross, with a clear and triumphant voice, 'It is finished.' 'Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands,

which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; nor yet that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with the blood of others; for then must He often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.' 'This man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God.' Christ entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. 'Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.' He has qualified Himself to be not only man's representative, but his advocate, so that every soul, if he will, may say, I have a Friend at court, a High Priest who is touched with the feeling of my infirmities." —*Review and Herald*, June 12, 1900.

MONDAY

2. What did the high priest have to take with him and offer to enter the most holy place?

Hebrews 9:7, 22 *But into the second went the high priest alone once every year; not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people; ...²² And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*

"In His intercession as our Advocate, Christ needs no man's virtue, no man's intercession. Christ is the only Sinbearer, the only sin offering. Prayer and confession are to be offered only to Him who has entered once for all into the holy place." —*That I May Know Him*, p. 73.

TUESDAY

REASON FOR THE REPETITION

3. In the earthly sacrificial service, why was it necessary to repeat the sacrifice for the cleansing of the sanctuary every year?

Hebrews 10:2; 9:13, 14 *For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins....^{9:13} For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: ¹⁴How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

Micah 7:19 *He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.*

"The gospel of Christ reflects glory upon the Jewish age. It sheds light upon the whole Jewish economy, and gives significance to the ceremonial law. The tabernacle, or temple, of God on earth was a pattern of the original in heaven. All the ceremonies of the Jewish law were prophetic, typical of mysteries in the plan of redemption.

"The rites and ceremonies of the law were given by Christ Himself, who, enshrouded in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, was the leader of the hosts of Israel; and this law should be treated with great respect, for it is sacred. Even after it was no longer to be observed, Paul presented it before the Jews in its true position and value, showing its place in the plan of redemption and its relation to the work of Christ; and the great apostle pronounces this law glorious, worthy of its divine Originator." —(Signs of the Times, July 29, 1886) *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, p. 1095.

WEDNESDAY

NO NEED TO OFFER SACRIFICES FOR HIMSELF

4. What great offering did the Son of God present instead of offering some other victim? Did He need to offer sacrifices for Himself to enter the most holy place, as did the earthly high priest?

Hebrews 7:27 *Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.*

1 Peter 1:18, 19 *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; ¹⁹But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*

THURSDAY

5. Why did Jesus not need to repeat His sacrifice, as the Levitical high priest had to do every year?

Hebrews 9:26, 28 *For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.... ²⁸So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.*

“Behold the apostle preaching in the synagogue at Corinth, reasoning from the writings of Moses and the prophets, and bringing his hearers down to the advent of the promised Messiah. Listen as he makes plain the work of the Redeemer as the great high priest of mankind—the One who through the sacrifice of His own life was to make atonement for sin once for all, and was then to take up His ministry in the heavenly sanctuary. Paul’s hearers were made to understand that the Messiah, for whose advent they had been longing, had already come; that His death was the antitype of all the sacrificial offerings, and that His ministry in the sanctuary in heaven was the great object that cast its shadow backward and made clear the ministry of the Jewish priesthood.” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 246.

FRIDAY

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND REDEMPTION

6. What, then, do we have in Him and in His blood? What does His one sacrifice ensure His followers forever?

Ephesians 1:7 *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.*

Romans 5:11 *And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.*

Hebrews 9:12 *Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.*

“Our great High Priest completed the sacrificial offering of Himself when He suffered without the gate. Then a perfect atonement was made for the sins of the people. Jesus is our Advocate, our High Priest, our Intercessor. Our present position therefore is like that of the Israelites, standing in the outer court, waiting and looking for that blessed hope, the glorious appearing of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” —*That I May Know Him*, p. 73.

SABBATH

ONE SUFFICIENT SACRIFICE

7. What does Jesus’ one offering mean? For whom was His sacrifice effective?

Hebrews 10:10; 5:9 *By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.... ^{5:9}And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.*

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

“Our Saviour is in the sanctuary pleading in our behalf. He is our interceding High Priest, making an atoning sacrifice for us, pleading in our behalf the efficacy of

His blood. Parents should seek to represent this Saviour to their children to establish in their minds the plan of salvation, how that because of transgression of the law of God, Christ became our Sinbearer. The fact that the only-begotten Son of God gave His life because of man's transgression, to satisfy justice and to vindicate the honor of God's law, should be constantly kept before the minds of children and youth. The object of this great sacrifice should also be kept before them; for it was to uplift fallen man degraded by sin that this great sacrifice was made. Christ suffered in order that through faith in Him our sins might be pardoned. He became man's substitute and surety, Himself taking the punishment, though all undeserving, that we who deserved it might be free, and return to our allegiance to God through the merits of a crucified and risen Saviour. He is our only hope of salvation." —*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 369.

WHAT CHRIST SUFFERED

"Justice demanded the sufferings of man; but Christ rendered the sufferings of a God. He needed no atonement of suffering for Himself; all His sufferings were for us; all His merits and holiness were open to fallen man, presented as a gift." —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 102.

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24

Sabbath, December 10, 2022

Ministry of the Great High Priest

"Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us." Romans 8:34.

"Christ is our Mediator and officiating High Priest in the presence of the Father. He was shown to John as a lamb that had been slain, as in the very act of pouring out His blood in the sinner's behalf. When the law of God is set before the sinner, showing him the depth of his sins, he should then be pointed to the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world. He should be taught repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. Thus will the labor of Christ's representative be in harmony with the Saviour's work in the heavenly sanctuary." —*Gospel Workers*, p. 13.

SUNDAY

THE GREAT HIGH PRIEST FOR MAN

1. What ministry is Jesus currently carrying out for the human race? Where is He officiating?

Hebrews 3:1; 4:14, 15 *Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;...⁴ Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.¹⁵ For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

"Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus." Hebrews 3:1. Study Christ. Study His character, feature by feature. He is our Pattern that we are required to copy in our lives and our characters, else we fail to represent Jesus, but present to the world a spurious copy. Do not imitate any man, for men are defective in habits, in speech, in manners, in character. I present before you the Man Christ Jesus. You must individually know Him as your Saviour before you can study Him as your pattern and your example." —*Selected Messages*, book 3, p. 170.

2. **After performing His supreme sacrifice on the cross, what great work is Jesus performing in the heavenly sanctuary?**

1 Timothy 2:5, 6 *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 'Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.*

Romans 8:34 *Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*

“The world’s Redeemer possessed the power to draw men to Himself, to quiet their fears, to dispel their gloom, to inspire them with hope and courage, to enable them to believe in the willingness of God to receive them through the merits of the divine Substitute. As subjects of the love of God we ever should be grateful that we have a Mediator, an Advocate, an Intercessor in the heavenly courts, who pleads in our behalf before the Father.” —*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 258.

TUESDAY

3. **Is His a high priesthood like that of Aaron, who first needed a sacrifice for himself and for his family? What did Jesus accomplish through His death?**

Hebrews 7:26, 27; 5:6, 9, 10; 6:20 *For such an high priest became us, who is holy; harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; ²⁷Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people’s: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.... ^{5:6}As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.... ⁹And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; ¹⁰Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.... ^{6:20}Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.*

“Thither the faith of Christ’s disciples followed Him as He ascended from their sight. Here their hopes centered, ‘which hope we have,’ said Paul, ‘as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an High Priest forever.’ ‘Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.’ Hebrews 6:19, 20; 9:12.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 421.

WEDNESDAY

MINISTERING IN THE HOLY PLACE

4. **How can one compare the offerings and service of the priests in the mosaic tabernacle with what happens in the heavenly sanctuary?**

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

“The gospel of Christ reflects glory upon the Jewish age. It sheds light upon the whole Jewish economy, and gives significance to the ceremonial law. The tabernacle, or temple, of God on earth was a pattern of the original in heaven. All the ceremonies of the Jewish law were prophetic, typical of mysteries in the plan of redemption....

“There is no discord between the Old Testament and the New. In the Old Testament we find the gospel of a coming Saviour; in the New Testament we have the gospel of a Saviour revealed as the prophecies had foretold. While the Old Testament is constantly pointing forward to the true offering, the New Testament shows that the Saviour prefigured by the typical offerings has come. The dim glory of the Jewish age has been succeeded by the brighter, clearer glory of the Christian age.” —(Signs of the Times, July 29, 1886) *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, p. 1095.

5. **If the earthly service was a copy and shadow of the heavenly one and the priests ministered daily in the holy place and the high priest once a year in the most holy place, where did Jesus first minister in heaven?**

Hebrews 9:23; 10:1; 7:25 *It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these....* ^{10:1}*For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect....* ^{7:25}*Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*

“Such was the service performed ‘unto the example and shadow of heavenly things.’ And what was done in type in the ministration of the earthly sanctuary is done in reality in the ministration of the heavenly sanctuary. After His ascension our Saviour began His work as our high priest. Says Paul: ‘Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.’ Hebrews 9:24.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 420.

6. **Where did the earthly priests carry out their ministry day by day? Similarly, where did Jesus carry out the first phase of His ministry until 1844?**

Hebrews 9:6, 24 *Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God....* ²⁴*For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.*

“The ministration of the priest throughout the year in the first apartment of the sanctuary, ‘within the veil’ which formed the door and separated the holy place from the outer court, represents the work of ministration upon which Christ entered at His ascension. It was the work of the priest in the daily ministration to present before God the blood of the sin offering, also the incense which ascended with the prayers of Israel. So did Christ plead His blood before the Father in behalf of sinners, and present before Him also, with the precious fragrance of His own righteousness, the prayers of penitent believers. Such was the work of ministration in the first apartment of the sanctuary in heaven.” —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 420, 421.

WORK OF INVESTIGATION AND JUDGMENT

7. **Where did the high priest perform the purification service on the typical Day of Atonement? If the earthly one was a copy and a shadow of the one in the heavens, where has Jesus been carrying out the work of purification since 1844?**

Hebrews 9:7, 23 *But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people: ...* ²³*It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.*

Daniel 8:14 *Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.*

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

a work of atonement for the removal of sin from the sanctuary. This is the service which began when the 2300 days ended. At that time, as foretold by Daniel the prophet, our High Priest entered the most holy, to perform the last division of His solemn work—to cleanse the sanctuary.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 421.

“This service involves a work of investigation, a work of judgment; and it immediately precedes the coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory; for when He comes, every case has been decided. Says Jesus: ‘My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be.’ Revelation 22:12. It is this work of judgment, immediately preceding the second advent, that is announced in the first angel’s message of Revelation 14:7: ‘Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come.’”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 352.

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25

Sabbath, December 17, 2022

The Judgment Hour

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.” Revelation 14:6, 7.

“Then men will have a clear, sharp remembrance of all their transactions in this life. Not a word or a deed will escape their memory. Those will be trying times. And while we are not to mourn over the time of trouble to come, let us, as Christ’s followers, search our hearts as with a lighted candle to see what manner of spirit we are of. For our present and eternal good, let us criticize our actions, to see how they stand in the light of the law of God. For this law is our standard. Let every soul search his own heart.”—(Letter 22, 1901) *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 986.

SUNDAY

1. What do the Scriptures say about everyone and his actions, good or bad?

Ecclesiastes 12:14 *For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.*

2 Corinthians 5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

“In these final hours of probation for the sons of men, when the fate of every soul is so soon to be decided forever, the Lord of heaven and earth expects His church to arouse to action as never before. Those who have been made free in Christ through a knowledge of precious truth, are regarded by the Lord Jesus as His chosen ones, favored above all other people on the face of the earth; and He is counting on them to show forth the praises of Him who hath called them out of darkness into His marvelous light. The blessings which are so liberally bestowed are to be communicated to others. The good news of salvation is to go to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people.”—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 716.

MONDAY

VISION OF JUDGMENT

2. What did Daniel see in vision?

Daniel 7:9, 10 *I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. ¹⁰A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.*

“In 1844 our great High Priest entered the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, to begin the work of the investigative judgment. The cases of the righteous dead have been passing in review before God. When that work shall be completed, judgment is to be pronounced upon the living. How precious, how important are these solemn moments! Each of us has a case pending in the court of heaven. We are individually to be judged according to the deeds done in the body. In the typical service, when the work of atonement was performed by the high priest in the most holy place of the earthly sanctuary, the people were required to afflict their souls before God, and confess their sins, that they might be atoned for and blotted out. Will any less be required of us in this antitypical day of atonement, when Christ in the sanctuary above is pleading in behalf of His people, and the final, irrevocable decision is to be pronounced upon every case?” —*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 125.

TUESDAY

3. As the heavenly judgment has been proceeding, who continues to be active on earth? In what time does this judgment takes place?

Daniel 7:11, 12 *I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame. ¹²As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time.*

“... The little horn continues to utter its blasphemies, holding its millions of votaries in the bonds of blind superstition, until the beast is given to the burning flame. This is not its conversion, but its destruction.” —U. Smith, *The Prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation*, p. 114.

WEDNESDAY

JUDGMENT COMPLETED BEFORE JESUS RETURNS

4. Who will be present in the judgment before Jesus' second advent? What decisions does the Judge make in the heavenly investigative judgment

Daniel 7:13, 14, 26, 27 *I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. ¹⁴And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.... ²⁶But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end. ²⁷And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.*

“Christ had come, not to the earth, as they expected, but, as foreshadowed in the type, to the most holy place of the temple of God in heaven. He is represented by the prophet Daniel as coming at this time to the Ancient of Days: ‘I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came’—not to the earth, but—‘to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him.’ Daniel 7:13.

“This coming is foretold also by the prophet Malachi: ‘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.’ Malachi 3:1. The coming of the Lord to His temple was sudden, unexpected, to His people. They were not looking for Him there. They expected Him to come to earth, ‘in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel.’ 2 Thessalonians 1:8.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 424.

THURSDAY

5. Who else presented the message that the time of judgment has come?

Revelation 14:6, 7 *And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, ²Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.*

1 Peter 4:17 *For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God; and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?*

“The prophecy of the first angel’s message, brought to view in Revelation 14, found its fulfillment in the advent movement of 1840-44. In both Europe and America, men of faith and prayer were deeply moved as their attention was called to the prophecies, and, tracing down the Inspired Record, they saw convincing evidence that the end of all things was at hand. The Spirit of God urged His servants to give the warning. Far and wide spread the message of the everlasting gospel, ‘Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come.’ Revelation 14:7....

“The Spirit of God rested upon them, and with hearts softened and subdued they joined to sound the cry, ‘Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come.’ Revelation 14:7.” —*The Story of Redemption*, pp. 356, 359.

FRIDAY

THE STANDARD IN THE JUDGMENT

6. What will be the infallible standard for judging man and his actions?

Romans 2:12 *For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law.*

James 2:12, 13 *So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.*

“When the judgment shall sit, and everyone shall be judged by the things written in the books, the authority of God’s law will be looked upon in a light altogether different from that in which it is now regarded by the Christian world. Satan has blinded their eyes and confused their understanding, as he blinded and confused Adam and Eve, and led them into transgression. The law of Jehovah is great, even as its Author is great. In the judgment it will be recognized as holy, just, and good in all its requirements. Those who transgress this law will find that they have a serious account to settle with God; for His claims are decisive.” —(Review and Herald, May 7, 1901) *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 986.

SABBATH

7. Where are every person’s actions recorded? What will be consulted in the judgment when it deals with man’s deeds?

Daniel 7:10 *A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.*

Revelation 20:12 *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

“All can choose life if they will. They can resist sin, take pleasure in the ways of righteousness and true holiness, and be rewarded with eternal life in God’s everlasting kingdom. If they choose to corrupt their ways before the Lord, defile their own bodies and commit self-murder, they can do so; but they should remember the judgment is to sit, and the books are to be opened, and they are to be judged out of those things which are written in the books, according to their works. What a fearful, spotted record will be opened before them, of their secret thoughts, and vile acts. Sentence is pronounced upon them, and they are shut out from the city of God, with the ungodly, and miserably perish with the wicked.” —*An Appeal to Mothers*, p. 33.

“As the books of record are opened in the judgment, the lives of all who have believed on Jesus come in review before God. Beginning with those who first lived upon the earth, our Advocate presents the cases of each successive generation, and closes with the living. Every name is mentioned, every case closely investigated.”
—The Great Controversy, p. 483.

SABBATH

8. What decision will be made for those who confess their sins and are forgiven through the blood of Jesus? Therefore, what should be our wish and prayer now, while Jesus is interceding for His people before the Father?

Proverbs 28:13 *He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.*

1 John 1:8, 9 *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Psalm 51:7, 10 *Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.... ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.*

1 John 1:7 *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

Hebrews 10:21, 22 *And having an high priest over the house of God; ²²Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*

“All who have truly repented of sin, and by faith claimed the blood of Christ as their atoning sacrifice, have had pardon entered against their names in the books of heaven; as they have become partakers of the righteousness of Christ, and their characters are found to be in harmony with the law of God, their sins will be blotted out, and they themselves will be accounted worthy of eternal life. The Lord declares, by the prophet Isaiah: ‘I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for Mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.’ Isaiah 43:25. Said Jesus: ‘He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels.’ ‘Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven.’ Revelation 3:5; Matthew 10:32, 33.” *—The Great Controversy, p. 483.*

“Christ would have all understand the events of His second appearing. The judgment scene will take place in the presence of all the worlds; for in this judgment the government of God will be vindicated, and His law will stand forth as ‘holy, and just, and good.’ Then every case will be decided, and sentence will be passed upon all. Sin will not then appear attractive, but will be seen in all its hideous magnitude. All will see the relation in which they stand to God and to one another.” *—(Review and Herald, September 20, 1898) Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 7, p. 986.*

ALL HEAVEN IS FOCUSED ON MAN’S SALVATION

“All heaven is interested in our salvation. The angels of God are walking up and down the streets of these cities, and marking the deeds of men. They record in the books of God’s remembrance the words of faith, the acts of love, the humility of spirit; and in that day when every man’s work shall be tried of what sort it is, the work of the humble follower of Christ will stand the test, and will receive the commendation of Heaven.” *—(Review and Herald, September 6, 1890) Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 7, p. 986.*

* * *

We Have an Advocate

"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." 1 John 2:1.

"As anciently the sins of the people were by faith placed upon the sin offering and through its blood transferred, in figure, to the earthly sanctuary, so in the new covenant the sins of the repentant are by faith placed upon Christ and transferred, in fact, to the heavenly sanctuary. And as the typical cleansing of the earthly was accomplished by the removal of the sins by which it had been polluted, so the actual cleansing of the heavenly is to be accomplished by the removal, or blotting out, of the sins which are there recorded. But before this can be accomplished, there must be an examination of the books of record to determine who, through repentance of sin and faith in Christ, are entitled to the benefits of His atonement. The cleansing of the sanctuary therefore involves a work of investigation—a work of judgment. This work must be performed prior to the coming of Christ to redeem His people; for when He comes, His reward is with Him to give to every man according to his works. Revelation 22:12." —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 421, 422.

SUNDAY

1. **In the earthly sanctuary, what happened on the day of atonement to those who humbled themselves and repented of their sins? What could those who did not repent of their sins expect?**

Leviticus 16:29, last part, 30; 23:29 ... *And this shall be a statute for ever unto you: that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, ye shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, whether it be one of your own country, or a stranger that sojourneth among you: ³⁰For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the Lord.... ^{23:29}For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people.*

Psalms 69:28 *Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous.*

Exodus 32:32 *Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin—; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.*

"Evil surmising and evil speaking will be put away. You will talk and we will not be thinking of ourselves and what others are doing, but what God and Jesus are doing.... What are they doing? They are cleansing the sanctuary.... We should be with Him in this work and be cleansing the sanctuary of our souls of all unrighteousness, that our names may be written in the Lamb's book of life, that our sins may be blotted out when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord. It is the most solemn work that was ever given to mortals." —*Lift Him Up*, p. 216.

MONDAY

BLOTTING OUT SINS

2. **Instead of a human minister, who is by our side to defend and assist us when we confess and forsake our sins? Who will be declared righteous in the judgment?**

1 John 2:1 *My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*

Psalms 51:1, 2, 9 *Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. ²Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.... ⁹Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.*

Revelation 3:5 *He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and*

I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father; and before his angels.

Daniel 12:1, last part ... *And at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.*

Philippians 4:3 *And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.*

“He has placed at His altar an Advocate clothed in His nature. As our intercessor, Christ’s office work is to introduce us to God as His sons and daughters. He intercedes in behalf of those who receive Him. With His own blood He has paid their ransom. By virtue of His own merits He gives them power to become members of the royal family, children of the heavenly King. And the Father demonstrates His infinite love for Christ by receiving and welcoming Christ’s friends as His friends. He is satisfied with the atonement made. He is glorified by the incarnation, the life, death, and mediation, of His Son.”—*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 14.

TUESDAY

3. What will happen in the investigative judgment with those who have not confessed and turned away from their sins?

Exodus 32:33, last part ... *Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.*

Deuteronomy 29:20 *The Lord will not spare him, but then the anger of the Lord and his jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him, and the Lord shall blot out his name from under heaven.*

“The cleansing of the sanctuary therefore involves a work of investigation—a work of judgment. This work must be performed prior to the coming of Christ to redeem His people; for when He comes, His reward is with Him to give to every man according to his works. Revelation 22:12.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 421.

“As the books of record are opened in the judgment, the lives of all who have believed on Jesus come in review before God. Beginning with those who first lived upon the earth, our Advocate presents the cases of each successive generation, and closes with the living. Every name is mentioned, every case closely investigated. Names are accepted, names rejected. When any have sins remaining upon the books of record, unrepented of and unforgiven, their names will be blotted out of the book of life, and the record of their good deeds will be erased from the book of God’s remembrance. The Lord declared to Moses: ‘Whosoever hath sinned against Me, him will I blot out of My book.’ Exodus 32:33. And says the prophet Ezekiel: ‘When the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity,... all his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned.’ Ezekiel 18:24.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 483.

WEDNESDAY

WHEN CHANGE WILL NO LONGER BE POSSIBLE

4. Will it be possible to change the verdict after it is pronounced?

Revelation 22:11 *He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.*

Matthew 25:10-13 *And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. ¹¹Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. ¹²But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. ¹³Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.*

Hebrews 12:16, 17 *Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. ¹⁷For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.*

“When the third angel’s message closes, mercy no longer pleads for the guilty inhabitants of the earth. The people of God have accomplished their work. They have received ‘the latter rain,’ ‘the refreshing from the presence of the Lord,’ and they are prepared for the trying hour before them. Angels are hastening to and fro in heaven. An angel returning from the earth announces that his work is done; the final test has been brought upon the world, and all who have proved themselves loyal to the divine precepts have received ‘the seal of the living God.’ Then Jesus ceases His intercession in the sanctuary above. He lifts His hands and with a loud voice says, ‘It is done;’ and all the angelic host lay off their crowns as He makes the solemn announcement: ‘He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.’ Revelation 22:11. Every case has been decided for life or death. Christ has made the atonement for His people and blotted out their sins. The number of His subjects is made up; ‘the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven,’ is about to be given to the heirs of salvation, and Jesus is to reign as King of kings and Lord of Lords.”—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 613, 614.

THURSDAY

5. Whose names will be called in the heavenly judgment? Who will escape from that day?

Romans 14:10, last part *For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.*

2 Corinthians 5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

1 Peter 4:5 *Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.*

“Let everyone who professes the name of Christ consider the fact that he must meet every act of injustice, give an account for every harsh word, at the judgment seat of Christ. It will not be pleasant to review the words that have been spoken that have wounded and bruised souls, to review the decisions that have worked against souls for whom Christ died. Every action will come into judgment, and the spirit that prompted it will be made manifest. The fruit of every selfish, arbitrary exaction will be made plain, and men will see the results of their doings even as God sees them. They will see that they have turned precious souls out of the right path by dealing with them in an un-Christlike manner. We are living in the great Day of Atonement, and it is now time that everyone should repent before God, confess his sins, and by living faith rest upon the merit of a crucified and living Saviour.”—*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, pp. 224, 225.

FRIDAY

WHAT TO DO WHILE THERE IS TIME

6. Considering the solemn reality of the investigative judgment, what must be done now?

Luke 16:2 *And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward.*

Mark 13:35-37 *Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: ³⁶Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. ³⁷And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.*

“In 1844 our great High Priest entered the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, to begin the work of the investigative judgment. The cases of the righteous dead have been passing in review before God. When that work shall be completed, judgment is to be pronounced upon the living. How precious, how important are these solemn moments! Each of us has a case pending in the court of heaven. We are individually to be judged according to the deeds done in the body. In the typical service, when the work of atonement was performed by the high priest in the most

holy place of the earthly sanctuary, the people were required to afflict their souls before God, and confess their sins, that they might be atoned for and blotted out. Will any less be required of us in this antitypical day of atonement, when Christ in the sanctuary above is pleading in behalf of His people, and the final, irrevocable decision is to be pronounced upon every case?" –*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 125.

SABBATH

7. What will the Lord do for all who listen to His voice and open their hearts' doors? What supreme desire of the Saviour will be fulfilled?

Hebrews 3:7, 8 *Wherefore as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, ⁸Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness.*

Exodus 29:45 *And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God.*

Revelation 3:20-22 *Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. ²¹To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. ²²He that hath an ear; let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*

"The Saviour says, 'Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.' Revelation 3:20. He is not repulsed by scorn or turned aside by threatening, but continually seeks the lost ones, saying, 'How shall I give thee up?' Hosea 11:8. Although His love is driven back by the stubborn heart, He returns to plead with greater force, 'Behold, I stand at the door, and knock.' The winning power of His love compels souls to come in. And to Christ they say, 'Thy gentleness hath made me great.' Psalm 18:35." –*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 235.

"Today, in the spirit and power of Elias and of John the Baptist, messengers of God's appointment are calling the attention of a judgment-bound world to the solemn events soon to take place in connection with the closing hours of probation and the appearance of Christ Jesus as King of kings and Lord of Lords. Soon every man is to be judged for the deeds done in the body. The hour of God's judgment has come, and upon the members of His church on earth rests the solemn responsibility of giving warning to those who are standing as it were on the very brink of eternal ruin. To every human being in the wide world who will give heed must be made plain the principles at stake in the great controversy being waged, principles upon which hang the destinies of all mankind." –*Prophets and Kings*, p. 716.

TO WHICH GROUP WILL WE BELONG?

"We must no longer remain upon the enchanted ground. We are fast approaching the close of our probation. Let every soul inquire, How do I stand before God? We know not how soon our names may be taken into the lips of Christ, and our cases be finally decided. What, oh, what will these decisions be! Shall we be counted with the righteous, or shall we be numbered with the wicked?" –*Selected Messages*, book 1, pp. 125, 126.

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Please read the Missionary Report from Solomon Islands on page 105.

We Will See His Face

“And they shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.” Revelation 22:4, 5.

“The church is God’s fortress, His city of refuge, which He holds in a revolted world. Any betrayal of the church is treachery to Him who has bought mankind with the blood of His only-begotten Son. From the beginning, faithful souls have constituted the church on earth. In every age the Lord has had His watchmen, who have borne a faithful testimony to the generation in which they lived. These sentinels gave the message of warning; and when they were called to lay off their armor, others took up the work. God brought these witnesses into covenant relation with Himself, uniting the church on earth with the church in heaven. He has sent forth His angels to minister to His church, and the gates of hell have not been able to prevail against His people” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 281.

SUNDAY

GOD’S GREATEST LONGING

1. **As a father yearns for his family, what great desire did the Lord repeatedly express to His people?**

Leviticus 26:11, 12 *And I set my tabernacle among you: and my soul shall not abhor you. ¹²And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people.*

Exodus 25:8 *And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.*

Psalms 132:13, 14 *For the Lord hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation. ¹⁴This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it.*

“Great blessings were promised to Israel on condition of obedience to the Lord’s directions. ‘I will give you rain in due season,’ He declared, ‘and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely. And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid: and I will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land.... I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be My people.’ Leviticus 26:4-12.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 535.

MONDAY

2. **Unfortunately, what did the people say when they could hear God’s voice directly and witness His presence and amazing miracles?**

Exodus 20:18, 19 *And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off. ¹⁹And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.*

“The proclamation of the law of ten commandments was a wonderful exhibition of the glory and majesty of God. How did this manifestation of power affect the people? They were afraid. As they saw ‘the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking,’ they ‘removed, and stood afar off. And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.’ Exodus 20:18, 19. They desired Moses to be their mediator. They did not understand that Christ was their appointed Mediator, and that, deprived of His mediation, they would certainly have been consumed.” —*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 238.

3. What did Jesus say about the span of time between His ascension and His second coming?

John 12:26 *If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.*

Matthew 28:20, last part ... *And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

“This is well, but if more efforts were given to sending forth the living missionary to preach the truth, many more souls would be aroused and won to the truth. While Jesus ministers in the true sanctuary above, He is through His Holy Spirit working through His earthly messengers. These agencies will accomplish more than the printed page, if they will go forth in the Spirit and power of Christ. Christ will work through His chosen ministers, filling them with His Spirit, and thus fulfilling to them the assurance, ‘Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.’ Matthew 28:20.” —*Counsels on Health*, p. 545.

4. After spending more than three years with them, what great desire did Jesus express before parting from His disciples?

John 14:2, 3; 17:24 *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also ^{17:24}Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.*

“Before the ransomed throng is the Holy City. Jesus opens wide the pearly gates, and the nations that have kept the truth enter in. There they behold the Paradise of God, the home of Adam in his innocence. Then that voice, richer than any music that ever fell on mortal ear, is heard, saying: ‘Your conflict is ended.’ ‘Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’

“Now is fulfilled the Saviour’s prayer for His disciples: ‘I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am.’ ‘Faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy’ (Jude 24), Christ presents to the Father the purchase of His blood, declaring: ‘Here am I, and the children whom Thou hast given Me.’ ‘Those that Thou gavest Me I have kept.’ Oh, the wonders of redeeming love! the rapture of that hour when the infinite Father, looking upon the ransomed, shall behold His image, sin’s discord banished, its blight removed, and the human once more in harmony with the divine!” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 646.

THE DESIRE TO SEE HIM

5. What did the apostle John, who saw Jesus glorified at least twice, say about seeing Him again?

1 John 3:2 *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

“Glorious will be the reward bestowed when the faithful workers gather about the throne of God and of the Lamb. When John in his mortal state beheld the glory of God, he fell as one dead; he was not able to endure the sight. But when the children of God shall have put on immortality, they will ‘see Him as He is.’ 1 John 3:2. They will stand before the throne, accepted in the Beloved. All their sins have been blotted out, all their transgressions borne away. Now they can look upon the undimmed glory of the throne of God. They have been partakers with Christ in His sufferings,

they have been workers together with Him in the plan of redemption, and they are partakers with Him in the joy of seeing souls saved in the kingdom of God, there to praise God through all eternity.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 285.

FRIDAY

6. In view of the wonderful reunion with His people, what did Jesus repeat at the end of the holy Scriptures?

Revelation 22:7, 12, 20 *Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book....¹² And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be....²⁰ He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

“To those who are tired of a life of sinfulness, but who know not where to turn to obtain relief, present the compassionate Saviour, full of love and tenderness, longing to receive those who come to Him with broken hearts and contrite spirits. Take them by the hand, lift them up, speak to them words of hope and courage. Help them to grasp the hand of Him who has said, ‘Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me.’” *Isaiah 27:5.* —*Counsels on Health*, p. 539.

SABBATH

7. When will there finally be no more distance or obstacles between God’s servants and the heavenly throne?

Revelation 22:4, 5, 3; 7:14, last part-17, first part *And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.³ And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever....³ And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:....^{7,14} These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.¹³ Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple:....¹⁶ They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.¹⁷ For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters:....*

1 Corinthians 13:12 *For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*

“Whatever crosses they have been called to bear, whatever losses they have sustained, whatever persecution they have suffered, even to the loss of their temporal life, the children of God are amply recompensed. ‘They shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads.’ *Revelation 22:4.*” —*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 180.

While men are dwelling on earth

“By the king’s examination of the guests at the feast is represented a work of judgment. The guests at the gospel feast are those who profess to serve God, those whose names are written in the book of life. But not all who profess to be Christians are true disciples. Before the final reward is given, it must be decided who are fitted to share the inheritance of the righteous. This decision must be made prior to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven; for when He comes, His reward is with Him, ‘to give every man according as his work shall be.’ *Revelation 22:12.* Before His coming, then, the character of every man’s work will have been determined, and to every one of Christ’s followers the reward will have been apportioned according to his deeds.

“It is while men are still dwelling upon the earth that the work of investigative judgment takes place in the courts of heaven. The lives of all His professed followers pass in review before God. All are examined according to the record of the books of heaven, and according to his deeds the destiny of each is forever fixed.” —*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 310.

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Missionary Report from the Solomon Islands

To be read on Sabbath, December 31, 2022

*The Special Sabbath School Offering
will be gathered on Sabbath, January 7, 2023*

“Who hath wrought and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? I the Lord, the first, and with the last; I am He. The isles saw it, and feared; the ends of the earth were afraid, drew near, and came. They helped every one his neighbour; and every one said to his brother, Be of good courage.” Isaiah 41:4-6.

Greetings to all of our dearly beloved brethren around the world. The brothers and sisters of the Oceania Division and the Oceania Union are grateful to be able to take part in the support of the Lord’s work in the Solomon Islands. There are 653,000 people living on six major and more than 900 smaller islands located to the east of Papua New Guinea and northwest of Vanuatu. The land area covers 28,400 square kilometers (17,646 miles). Forming a scattered archipelago of mountainous islands and low-lying coral atolls, the Solomon Islands stretch about 900 miles in the southeasterly direction from the Shortlands Islands to the Santa Cruz Islands. The six major islands are Choiseul, Guadalcanal, Malaita, Makira, New Georgia, and Santa Isabel.

About 95% of the population is Christian. The main religions are Church of Melanesia (Anglican) 29%, Roman Catholic 19%, South Seas Evangelical Church 17%, United Church (Methodist) 11%, and Seventh-day Adventist Church 10%. And more recently there are also representatives of the Baha’i religion, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Assembly of God, and Baptist Church.

I recall that, as a young boy and as a member of the International Missionary Society, Seventh-day Adventist Church, Reform Movement (IMS), in an atheistic, communist country, I came across a book about the Solomon Islands. At that time, the thought came to my mind that one day I would be a missionary in the Solomon Islands. For me this seemed impossible, but God made it possible.

Toward the end of 2018, I visited the Solomon Islands for the first time with Elder Sanaila Kenivale. We visited an SDA Reform Movement group (*51 movement) during their service and had the opportunity to explain briefly the difference between them and the IMS. In the afternoon of the same day, we visited an SDA Church and were invited to speak at that meeting; the church members received us with a good spirit. This helped to build a good understanding between us. God blessed, and we were able to establish a group at that time with a few members from the *51 movement.

The years 2020 and 2021 proved to be a blessing, for Elder Frank Tabai, an SDA minister, following a lot of study and conversations, made the decision to join the IMS with his family and other members of the SDA Church, who also made the decision to be baptized and join the IMS. There is a good number of members now, and the church is registered with the government.

At present, the members in Honiara, the capital city of the Solomon Islands, meet in rented school buildings, since we do not have land on which to build. Elder Tabai, the church leader, lives in a rented place. The missionary work is progressing very well, extending to Malaita and the Russell Islands, as well as others. Honiara is located on the coast; but those members who are inland live in a hilly, mountainous area, so it is difficult and expensive for them to travel by taxi to attend the church on the Sabbath.

The message from heaven is now becoming known, and people from other parts of the Solomon Islands are waiting for us to visit them. These trips are expensive, and the people are very poor. In one area, we have made contact with the church leader and a group of believers who are interested in joining the church. These people are so poor that they cannot afford to buy clothes and are naked!

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we appeal to you to help in the advancement of the work in the Solomon Islands, for the Lord’s glory. Your prayers and your financial support will be a blessing and are very greatly appreciated.

—Anton Salavyov
Oceania Division Leader



HELP from *the Sanctuary*

“The solemn service of the sanctuary typified the grand truths that were to be revealed through successive generations.

The cloud of incense ascending with the prayers of Israel represents His righteousness that alone can make the sinner’s prayer acceptable to God; the bleeding victim on the altar of sacrifice testified of a Redeemer to come; and from the holy of holies the visible token of the divine Presence shone forth. Thus through age after age of darkness and apostasy faith was kept alive in the hearts of men until the time came for the advent of the promised Messiah.”

—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 367.

