
The Key

The subject of the sanctuary was the key that unlocked the mystery for those who expected Jesus to come in 1844. They learned that their compassionate High Priest had entered the most holy apartment of the heavenly sanctuary to cleanse it. He began the work of judgment. He began the work of blotting out the sins or the names of all who claim to follow Him. “The hour of God’s judgment is come.”

Jesus is now comparing our lives with His law, the Ten Commandments, and then, He will blot out either:

- Our sins, or,
- Our names.

The cleansing of the sanctuary in heaven and the judgment is the work of Christ now, in the most holy place of the sanctuary. The judgment is of those who claim to know Christ. In this judgment, God will blot out one of two things from the record books. He will blot out either the (a) sins, or the (b) names of all who have ever claimed to serve Christ.

Think about it for a moment. Have you ever been accused of a crime and had to go to court? The innocent that are accused and found innocent are greatly relieved. They go home with a clean record. The guilty, on the

other hand, who are found guilty and sentenced to prison or death usually are sad they got caught and punished. Your case will soon be brought before the God of the universe. Your record will be investigated. It will be determined whether you have let Jesus pay for your sins or whether you have chosen, by neglect or outright rejection, to pay the penalty yourself, which is death.

God will either remove your name from the book of life or will remove your sins from the book of life. It is your choice. You may choose to ask Christ right now to forgive your sins. His promise is, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Isaiah 1:18; 1 John 1:9, KJV. Take this step now! It is called the new birth. Continue to follow Him day by day wherever He leads. Take up the cross of Christ, Christian soldier, and follow your Master. The way of the cross leads home.

Both of the Following Verses Refer to the Judgment

"Unto 2300 days then shall the sanctuary be cleansed."

Daniel 8:14, KJV.

"Fear God, and give glory to Him;
for the hour of his judgment is come."

Revelation 14:7, KJV.

In 1844, Jesus came to the Ancient of Days (not to earth) to begin the second division of His plan of salvation. He then began the work of judging His people and of cleansing the new-covenant sanctuary in heaven.

"I saw in the night visions. I looked and saw the Son of man. He came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of Days." Daniel 7:13, KJV.

"The Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple." Malachi 3:1, NKJV.

No one was looking for Christ to come to "His temple." They were looking for Him to come to Planet Earth. It was this coming that took place in 1844 and not His coming "in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that

know not God, and that obey not the gospel.” Christ will return to Planet Earth *after* the judgment. The judgment must occur *first*.

Prepare Now!

“Who can endure the day of His coming? Who can stand when He appears?” Malachi 3:2.

People will be living on the earth when Christ finishes His work as our priest in the sanctuary above. They will stand in the sight of a holy God without a priest. Their robes (characters) must be spotless.

Christ’s blood must cleanse their characters from sin. Through the grace of God and their own diligent effort, they must be conquerors in the battle with evil. God will remove the sins of confessing believers from the sanctuary. They will overcome sin. The followers of Christ will then be ready for His appearing.

These Four Comings of Christ All Describe the Same Event

1. The *coming* of Christ as our High Priest to the most holy place, for the cleansing of the sanctuary. Daniel 8:14.
2. The *coming* of Christ to the Ancient of Days. Daniel 7:13.
3. The *coming* of the Lord to His temple. Malachi 3:1.
4. The *coming* of the bridegroom to the marriage in the parable of the ten virgins. Matthew 25:1-13.

All four of these refer to the work Christ is doing today:
His work of judgment!

In the summer and autumn of 1844, God used people to announce, “Behold, the Bridegroom comes; they that were ready went in with him to the marriage. And the door was shut.” The coming of the bridegroom, here brought to view, takes place before the marriage. The marriage represents Christ’s reception of His kingdom, “the bride, the Lamb’s wife.” “Come here, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.” “He carried me away in the spirit, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.” Matthew 25:10; Revelation 21:9, 10, NKJV.

The “wedding” is the symbol God uses to describe the change in Christ’s work from High Priest to King. It is the coronation of Christ as “King of kings and Lord of lords” and of His rule of, and from, the capital city of the

universe, New Jerusalem. Jesus is the Groom. New Jerusalem is the bride, and the virgin guests at the marriage supper represent the church.

In Revelation, the people were guests at the marriage supper. Revelation 19:9. If guests, they cannot also be the bride. By faith we are to go with Him to the marriage. Nevertheless, physically, we are to “wait for” Him to “return from the wedding.”

“Look. The Bridegroom comes.” The Bridegroom came, not to the earth, as the people expected, but to the Ancient of Days in heaven, to the marriage, the reception of His kingdom. “They that were ready went in with Him to the marriage: and the door was shut.” Now His people are to “wait for their Lord, when He will return from the wedding.” Luke 12:36, KJV.

What is the difference between the wise and foolish virgins?

The wise virgins learn and accept the second part of the plan of salvation, the judgment—and the foolish do not!

God’s Sanctuary, the Shelter in the Time of Storm

Wise virgins (wise Christians) are those who enter the second apartment of God’s sanctuary, “by faith,” to the marriage. “In the time of trouble He will hide me in His tabernacle [sanctuary].” Psalm 27:5, NKJV. Foolish Christians (foolish virgins), without the Holy Spirit, the oil, do not follow Jesus into the most holy apartment. They do not understand His work in the sanctuary.

Those that had oil, symbolic of the Holy Spirit, in their containers with their lamps went into the marriage. God pours out the true Holy Spirit only on those who follow Christ into the most holy apartment of the heavenly sanctuary.

Before the wedding the king, Christ, comes in to see the guests. He looks to see if all are wearing the wedding clothes. Those who are not wearing the character of Christ, the spotless robe of His character washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb, are thrown out. The door of mercy is shut. Matthew 22:11; Revelation 7:14.

Only those who understand both divisions of the plan of salvation and enter (by faith) into the second division of His work in the most holy apartment will be safe. They will be safely shut in, and the world will be shut out. “They that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.”

The door used previously to reach God was no longer open. To those would-be guests, the door was shut. Now we should gather about the sanc-

tuary and in the most solemn manner humble our souls before God. We must know what duties God requires of us.

In Noah's day the saved were safely shut into the ark. The world was shut out. Noah and his family were safe inside the ark. Today we can only find safety by following Christ, by faith, in His closing work in the second apartment of the heavenly sanctuary. We must, by faith, be shut into the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, as Noah was shut into the ark.

A storm is coming, relentless in its fury. Those who follow Christ, by faith, into the most holy place will be close to Jesus. They are close to Jesus and His throne—the ark of the covenant containing the Ten Commandments. They go through the coming storm, the coming crisis, successfully because, by faith, they are close to Jesus in the most holy place. They have found “the shelter in the time of storm.”

Are there any lessons we should learn by comparing the most holy apartment of the heavenly sanctuary with Noah's Ark? The boat known as Noah's Ark was a place of safety in the time of storm. A storm is coming, relentless in its fury. We need a place of safety. The most holy apartment of the heavenly sanctuary is just such a place of safety. It is where God is and from whence His mighty angels come. We enter the most holy part of the heavenly sanctuary by faith. Jesus shuts us in and the world out. We see Jesus and God the Father in the work of comparing our lives with His holy law, and we ask Him to write His law in our hearts. His promise is, “Ask and it will be given you.” Matthew 7:7.

God sent a warning message from heaven to the world in Noah's day, and their salvation depended on the manner in which they treated that message. They rejected the warning, and they died in the Flood. Jesus warned the religious people of His day: “Your house is left to you desolate.” Matthew 23:38. They “received not the love of the truth that they might be saved.” “For this cause God will 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, KJV.

Three Biblical Warnings

1. Noah warned the people of his day of a coming flood. Everybody on earth died except for the eight who obeyed God's warning and got aboard the ark. Popularity did not win. Obeying and loving God did. It pays to listen when God gives a warning

2. Jesus warned the people of His day of the imminent destruction of Jerusalem. Jerusalem was destroyed in A.D 70. “In the siege and the slaughter that followed, more than a million of the people perished; the survivors were carried away as captives, sold as slaves, dragged to Rome to grace the conqueror’s triumph, thrown to wild beasts in the amphitheaters, or scattered as homeless wanderers throughout the earth.” Christians obeyed Christ’s warning and fled Jerusalem when they saw the signs He foretold, and not one Christian died in this great battle. It pays to listen when God gives His warning. See Matthew 24:15, 16 and *The Great Controversy*, pages 17 to 38.

Millions Will Soon Die in the Coming Crisis

3. Today we must warn people everywhere of the soon coming plagues of Revelation chapter 16 and Daniel 12:1, so they can find safety. Our only safety is in listening to Jesus Christ and following His instruction.

- It paid to listen to God’s warning in Noah’s day. Those who listened and obeyed God, Noah’s family, survived the Flood. The majority did not listen. Only eight people listened to and obeyed God’s warning. Only eight people got on the ark. If you wanted to be popular in Noah’s day, you made jokes about “that silly old lunatic Noah.” Noah and his family dared to believe God’s warning, even though it was the unpopular thing to do.
- It paid to listen to, remember, and obey Christ’s warning concerning the destruction of Jerusalem. Roman armies destroyed Jerusalem about 39 years after Christ was crucified. Christians remembered Christ’s warning to them and though over one million people lost their lives in the destruction of Jerusalem, not one Christian was killed. Matthew 24:15-20.
- It will pay to listen to God’s warning today. Do you think spiritual conditions are better in our world today than they were in Noah’s day? There was so much sin that God washed the world clean in Noah’s day. The popular majority did not believe and were all killed in the Flood. Jesus says, “As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.” Matthew 24:37-39. God will use the seven last plagues to cleanse the earth of sin. Don’t wait. Get right with God today!