

## What does the BIBLE say?

As you read this study, I encourage you to study the corresponding scriptures for yourself so you can develop a personal, confident understanding of biblical truth. Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Study like the Bereans, who listened to Paul but did not take his word for it. They studied the scriptures for themselves so they would know for sure.

Acts 17:11 “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” I ask that you do the same with this study. Please pray before you begin.

### **The Longest Time Prophecy 2300**

Today, we will study the longest time prophecy in the Bible that reaches closest to our day. Let's review what we studied last week. (Review the 70 weeks; this is the first 490 days of the 2300-day prophecy.)

We observed that the 490 prophetic days concluded in A.D. 34. Previously, we discussed that this prophecy is part of the larger 2300-day prophecy. If the initial 490 days/years lead to A.D. 34, then the remaining 1810 years extend to A.D. 1844 ( $1810 + 34 = 1844$ ). What does the 2300-day prophecy say would occur in 1844? That is our focus today. Let's start by reviewing the 2300-day prophecy once more.

See Dan. 8:14. According to the prophecy, the cleansing of the sanctuary began in 1844. But what does this mean? Let's answer this question today.

Let's begin by examining what the sanctuary was. Turn with me to Exodus 25:8-9. God instructed Moses to construct a sanctuary so He could live among His people. He provided Moses with an exact pattern for its construction.

What pattern did God give Moses for the sanctuary? Let's refer to Hebrews 8:1, 2, 5. The real sanctuary was in heaven. God revealed this to Moses in a vision and instructed him to create a scale model of the heavenly sanctuary. Moses' version became known as the earthly sanctuary, while the original remains in heaven.

**Let's see what the sanctuary looked like. It consisted of three parts: the courtyard, the Holy Place, and the Most Holy Place.**

**The courtyard housed the altar of burnt offering, where Jews sacrificed animals. This represents Jesus' death on the Cross, paying the penalty for our sins so we wouldn't face eternal death.**

**The laver, a large basin filled with water, was positioned after the altar. Before entering the Holy Place, the priest washed his hands and feet, symbolizing that the Spirit of God cleanses us of sin.**

**The Holy Place was the initial chamber of the sanctuary, as described in Heb. 9:2. It housed the candlestick, the table of showbread, and the altar of incense.**

**A thick curtain separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. We will read what was inside in the following verses; see Heb. 9:3-5. The golden censer was a portable incense holder used by the high priest when entering the Most Holy Place. The ark of the covenant was a gold-covered box that contained the Ten Commandments. The Mercy Seat, made of gold, covered the Ten Commandments.**

**Let's pause to reflect on what the sanctuary teaches. Refer to Heb. 9:11-14. God provided the earthly sanctuary to Israel as a symbol to help them understand what Jesus would accomplish in the plan of salvation. The courtyard symbolizes Jesus' work on earth as our Savior, while the Holy and Most Holy Places depict His work in heaven for our salvation, as stated in Heb. 9:24.**

**How did the earthly sanctuary illustrate the plan of salvation? Refer to Lev. 4:29. In ancient Israel, when a person sinned, they would bring an offering like a lamb to the courtyard. The sinner would confess their sins over the lamb, then personally slit its throat and kill it. Jesus is the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). It was our sins that led to His death.**

**The sanctuary teaches us that we need a Savior who can pay the death penalty for sin so we can have life. Just as the lamb had to be without blemish, our Savior must be perfect and sinless to pay the penalty for our sins. The good news is that Jesus is the spotless and sinless Lamb of God who willingly sacrificed His life for us (1 Peter 1:19).**

**What happened next with the sin offering? See Lev. 4:30, 31. The priest took the animal's blood and sprinkled it on the four corners of the altar, where the horns were. Then he burned the animal or its fat on the altar of burnt offering. This symbolized how sin affects**

**the earth. Whenever we sin, it doesn't just hurt us. It sends a ripple effect of sorrow from one person and generation to another. The burnt offering represents Jesus' death on Calvary.**

**The next step involved the priest washing in the laver before collecting some of the blood to enter the Holy Place. He then sprinkled the blood on the four horns of the altar of incense, as described in Lev. 4:6, 7. This demonstrates that our sin impacts not only those on earth but also heaven. Consider this: it is because of sin that Jesus had to leave heaven. Angels are constantly serving us because of our sinfulness. The full extent of how sin has affected life in heaven is beyond our understanding.**

**To explore this further, consider Jeremiah 17:1. The blood on the horns represented a written record of sin and our confession in heaven. Next, we will examine how God keeps a record of everyone's life in heaven, as described in Revelation 20:12. All of these actions were part of the daily service, during which sinners would bring offerings, confess sins, sacrifice animals, and transfer their blood into the Holy Place.**

**There was a very special day in the yearly religious calendar known as the Day of Atonement, or the cleansing of the sanctuary. This annual observance is detailed in Hebrews 9:7. It occurred only once each year, and during this time, the priest was prohibited from entering the Most Holy Place except on this single day. This special event was called the cleansing of the sanctuary, as referenced in Daniel 8:14: "Unto two thousand and three hundred days, then shall the sanctuary be cleansed."**

**Let's examine the cleansing of the sanctuary and its significance today. Refer to Lev. 16:15-19. In verse 16, note that the blood was taken into the Most Holy Place and sprinkled on the mercy seat covering the ark. This act was performed to "make atonement... because of the UNCLEANNES of the children of Israel and because of their transgressions in ALL their sins." Subsequently, the blood was also sprinkled on the altar of incense in the Holy Place (verse 18). Verse 19 explains that this sprinkling aimed to CLEANSE the altar from Israel's uncleanness. This process is the same as the cleansing of the sanctuary mentioned in Daniel 8.**

**The reason the altars needed to be ceremonially cleansed was because of "all their sins" (verse 16) committed during the year. Every day of the year, sinners had committed and confessed sin. These sins were represented as being written in heaven by the blood sprinkled on the horns of the altar. On the Day of Atonement, all these sins were erased. They were finally put away, once and for all, by the cleansing of the sanctuary.**

**Now, go with me to Leviticus 23:27-32. The Day of Atonement was very solemn. No work was done. The people examined their hearts to make sure the sins they had confessed all year had truly been repented of and forsaken. God commanded that anyone who refused to participate be put to death (verses 29-30). The Jews considered this the judgment day. Even to this day, they celebrate the Day of Atonement as the day when they must answer to God for the sins committed during the year.**

**Listen to this quote from a Jewish book...Rosh Hashanah marks the day of judgment when the scrolls of fate are opened before the Lord. In these scrolls, each person's deeds from the past year are recorded. God reviews these entries and delivers judgment. Yom Kippur, the final day of this period of grace, is a time for confession and repentance. As the sun sets, the scroll of fate is closed, sealing the destinies of all people for the year ahead. The annual judgment concludes at sundown with the blast of a horn” (Herman Wouk, This is My God, p. 85, 86).**

**Let's return to the text we're studying: Dan. 8:14. The phrase about the cleansing of the sanctuary and the judgment day represents the judgment occurring in the last days. We have already identified the dates associated with this prophecy and determined that the 2300-day prophecy points to 1844. In that year, Jesus started the period of judgment for the Earth. It is the final major specific date given to us in prophecy.**

**Some people fear the Judgment and the end times, but there's no need to fear if we have committed our lives to Jesus. The sanctuary clearly illustrates this point. A sinner does not have to bear the punishment for their past sins because Jesus has already paid the price. Isn't this wonderful news? God is capable of removing our guilt and granting us peace of mind, all as a gift we receive by asking for forgiveness, repenting of our sins, and asking Him to enter our lives. Have you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior? If not, please take a moment to pray, ask Jesus to come into your heart and life, and ask Him to be your Lord and Savior.**

**As you prayerfully consider this topic, I want you to know that we are here to help answer any questions you might have. If you have questions, please get in touch with us at <https://freechristianbooks.us>.**