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## The Great Cosmic Controversy

“How God Clears His Name from all False Charges”

by Pastor Stephen Bohr

### Lesson #1: The Great Cosmic Controversy

#### The Seventh-day Adventist World View

In this series we are going to study the World view of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, a view that centers around two great biblical ideas:

- The great cosmic and universal conflict between good and evil is the problem
- The sanctuary service illustrates the steps that God takes to solve the universal problem of sin

There are several Biblical doctrines that the Seventh-day Adventist Church shares in in common with other denominations such as baptism by immersion, the vicarious sacrifice of Christ on the cross, the resurrection, and even distinctive doctrines such as the state of the dead, the Sabbath and healthful living.

But there is one theological concept that is exclusively Seventh-day Adventist, the doctrine of the sanctuary, particularly the work of Christ in the Most Holy place. You see, the sanctuary is not a one of the many doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church; it is its World View. It is the concept that glues together all of the doctrines of the Church in a beautiful system of truth. Each of the doctrines of the Church are merely parts of a whole. In other words, the sanctuary brings all of the doctrines together in a cohesive and beautiful mosaic.

Ellen White has wisely stated:

*“The correct understanding of the ministration in the heavenly sanctuary, is the foundation of our faith.” Letter 208, 1906*

*“The scripture which above all others had been both the foundation and the central pillar of the advent faith was the declaration: “Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.” Daniel 8:14.” GC, p. 409*

The sanctuary is not merely one of the building blocks of Seventh-day Adventist theology. It is the foundation that sustains the entire building!

In this series we will **follow Jesus** to the sanctuary **camp**, the **altar** of sacrifice, the **laver**, the **holy place**, the **most holy place** and finally **back to the court** for the scapegoat ceremony on the day of atonement. We shall find that each of these functions of Jesus is **a step in the solution** to the problem of evil.

## **A Broader Concept**

**Virtually all** Christian churches teach that the purpose of the plan of salvation was to **save mankind**, but only the Seventh-day Adventist Church fully understands that there is a **deeper and broader** meaning and purpose.

In that magnificent book, **Patriarchs and Prophets** we find the following astounding statement regarding the purpose of the plan of salvation:

*"But the plan of redemption had a yet **broader and deeper purpose** than the salvation of man. It was not for this alone that Christ came to the earth; it was not **merely** that the inhabitants of this little world might regard the law of God as it should be regarded; but it was **to vindicate the character of God before the universe**. To this result of His great sacrifice—its influence upon the intelligences of **other worlds**, as well as **upon man**—the Saviour **looked forward** when **just before His Crucifixion** He said: "Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw **all [the word 'men' is not there]** unto Me." John 12:31, 32. The act of Christ in dying for the salvation of man would **not only** make heaven accessible to men, but before **all the universe** it would **justify God and His Son** in their dealing with the rebellion of Satan. It would establish the perpetuity of the law of God and **would reveal** the nature and the results of sin." *PP*, pp. 68, 69*

## **A Universal Problem**

The great controversy between good and evil is **not confined** to this **atom** of a world. The problem is **cosmic and universal**. That is to say, the **entire universe** is involved. The conflict did **not begin on this earth** but in the heaven of heavens, in the **very presence of God**.

A **limited concept** of the **problem** will automatically lead to a **limited concept** of the **solution**.

The plan of salvation has the ultimate purpose of **vaccinating the universe** against the possibility of evil ever rising its ugly head again. That is to say, God **has permitted** what has happened during the last six thousand years because He wants to **guarantee the eternal security** of the universe.

God does not implement **quick solutions** that **temporarily** solve the problem. Us humans usually want quick solutions to problems. If we have a headache, instead of solving the root of the problem, we take a Tylenol to alleviate the pain. But God **takes His time** in solving the problem of evil so that when the problem comes to its end there will be **no loose ends**. The problem will have been solved **eternally and universally!**

## **The Earthly Most Holy Place**

**Hebrews 8:5** On **Mt. Sinai** God showed Moses a scale model of the heavenly sanctuary and told him to build an earthly copy of the **scale model**. Thus the earthly sanctuary was a

**miniature copy** or **shadow** of the heavenly sanctuary. The **original and true** sanctuary is in **heaven**. After describing the services of the earthly sanctuary the book of Hebrews stated:

*“... who serve the **copy and shadow** of the **heavenly things**, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, “See that you make all things according to the **pattern** shown you on the mountain.”*

**Exodus 25:19, 20:** In the **most holy place** of the earthly sanctuary was the **Ark of the Covenant** and on **each side** of the Ark there was a covering cherub. Between the two cherubs was the **Mercy Seat**, a symbol of **God’s throne**.

*“Make one cherub at one end, and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim **at the two ends** of it of one piece with the mercy seat. **20** And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, **covering** the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall **face one another**; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat.”*

Thus God dwelt between the cherubim:

**Psalm 80:1:** Thus God is depicted as **dwelling between** the cherubim:

*“Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock; You who dwell **between the cherubim**, shine forth!”*

**Deuteronomy 10:5:** **Inside** the Ark of the Covenant, **beneath the Mercy Seat** were the tables of the Law, the **Ten Commandments** which are the **foundation** of God’s government:

*“Then I turned and came down from the mountain, and **put the tablets in the ark** which I had made; and there they are, just as the LORD commanded me.”*

## **The Heavenly Universe**

**Job 38:4-7:** God **created millions of angels**—ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands. **Many Christians today** believe that angels are the spirits of the departed but this is impossible. The **angels** were created **before** human beings and therefore they **cannot be the departed spirits** of the dead. God asked Job a series of questions about creation:

*“Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, When the **morning stars** sang together, and all the **sons of God** shouted for joy?”*

The morning **stars symbolize angels** (Revelation 1:20; 12:4). The book of **Job** identifies the **sons of God** as the representatives of the worlds that never sinned. Thus before anyone existed on planet earth, the **heavenly universe was full** of holy and obedient beings.

## **The Heavenly Covering Cherub**

The Bible tells us that one angel stood **above all angels** and was absolutely **beautiful and wise**:

**Ezekiel 28:12:**

*“You were the seal of perfection, **full of wisdom** and **perfect in beauty**.”*

**Ezekiel 28:14:** In heaven was the original **Ark of the Covenant** (Revelation 11:19) and inside the Ark were the **original tables** of the **Ten Commandments**. At **each end** of the Ark was a living covering cherub. Lucifer, the son of the morning, as he was called was **one of those covering cherubs** in the very presence of God:

*"You were the anointed **cherub who covers**; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones."*

## **Lucifer's Jealousy**

It was in the **very presence of God** that evil first raised its **ugly head**. The Bible tells us that Lucifer was perfect in all his ways until he chose to rebel against his creator.

The story of the rebellion is a sad and astounding one! Seated at the **right hand of the Father's throne** was Jesus with whom the Father **shared all of the mysteries** of the universe, including the plan for creating this world.

When the Father **revealed to His Son the plan to create Adam and Eve**, for some **unexplainable reason**, Lucifer was filled with **jealousy and envy** against Jesus.

This is how **Ellen White** described the origin of the controversy:

*"Satan was once an honored angel in heaven, next to Christ. His countenance, like those of the other angels, was mild and expressive of happiness. His forehead was high and broad, showing great intelligence. His form was perfect; his bearing noble and majestic. But when **God said to His Son**, "Let us make man in our image," Satan was **jealous of Jesus**. He **wished to be consulted** concerning the formation of man, and because he was not, he was **filled with envy, jealousy, and hatred**. He desired to receive the **highest honors in heaven next to God**." EW, p. 145*

## **Lucifer's Plan to Overthrow God**

**Isaiah 14:12-14:** Because the **Father favored the Son**, Lucifer made up his mind that he would **overthrow God from His throne** and take His place:

*"For you have said in your heart: **I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.**"*

## **Recruiting Fellow Conspirators by Deceitful Lies**

**John 8:44:** Lucifer knew that **alone he could accomplish nothing** so he decided plant his spirit in the minds of the angels in order to recruit **sympathizers**. In order to accomplish his purpose he had **smear and tarnish** the reputation of **God and His government**. Of course, he had to use **deceitful arguments** because God is **holy, just and good** and His government is **perfect**. To the Jews of His day Jesus said:

*"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is **no truth in him**. When he **speaks a lie**, he speaks from his own resources, for he is **a liar and the father of it**."*

**Ezekiel 28:16:** Ezekiel 28 is describing Lucifer in terms of the ancient **city of Tyre**, one of the foremost commercial ports in the ancient world:

*"By the abundance of your **trading** you became filled with violence within and **you sinned** therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God; and I destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones."*

**Ezekiel 22:9:** What was **Lucifer trading** in heaven? Even today we use **commercial language** to describe those who **refuse to believe** what we tell them. We use the expression: "I am not buying it". One of the **figurative meanings** to the word sell is 'trying to get someone to believe your story'

*"In you are men who **slander** to cause bloodshed; in you are those who eat on the mountains; in your midst they commit lewdness."*

**Leviticus 19:16:** Uses the same root of the word 'trading'

*"You shall not go about as a **talebearer** among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD."*

## **An Attack Against the Law**

Some Christians believe that the law of God had its **origin at Mt. Sinai** when God gave Israel the Ten Commandments but this is not so. We are told in **Ezekiel 28:16** that Lucifer **sinned in heaven:**

*"By the abundance of your **trading** you became filled with violence within and **you sinned** therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God; and I destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones."*

**1 John 3:4, 8:** If Lucifer sinned we need to know **what sin is**. The Bible defines sin as **transgression of the Law**, so the Law must have existed before the Ten Commandments were written to Israel:

*"Whoever commits **sin** also commits lawlessness, and sin is **lawlessness**. . . He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has **sinned from the beginning**."*

**Revelation 11:19:** In fact, in the heavenly sanctuary there is an Ark of the Covenant and within the Ark are the Ten commandments:

*"Then the temple of God was opened **in heaven**, and the **ark of His covenant** was seen **in His temple**. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail."*

## **Satan's Arguments against God**

- I want you to **remember these arguments** because in a few minutes we will see that they were the same arguments that Satan used to deceive Eve in the **Garden of Eden**.
- God is a **respector of persons**; he **plays favorites**. He only **consulted His Son** about the creation of the world and **not Lucifer**. Shouldn't Lucifer have the **same privileges** as Jesus did? Lucifer argued to the angels: "The Father gives **Jesus special treatment** that He does not give us."
- God **keeps secrets** from us that it is **our right to know**. Why is the Son the only one who can enter the **deep counsels** of God? Are we not as intelligent as He?

- The **law** of God's government is **restrictive of our liberties**. It **takes away our freedom** and is a **yoke of bondage**. If you should place me on the throne, I would **abolish the law** and everyone would have **true freedom**:

*"He began to insinuate doubts concerning the **laws that governed** heavenly beings, intimating that though laws might be necessary for the **inhabitants of the worlds**, angels, being **more exalted**, needed no such restraint, for their own wisdom was a sufficient guide. They were not beings that could bring dishonor to God; all their thoughts were holy; it was no more possible for them than for God Himself to err. The exaltation of the Son of God as equal with the Father was represented as an **injustice to Lucifer**, who, it was claimed, **was also entitled** to reverence and honor. If this prince of angels could but attain to his true, exalted position, **great good** would accrue to the entire host of heaven; for it was his object to secure **freedom for all**." PP, p. 37*

*"He reiterated his claim that angels **needed no control**, but should be left to follow their **own will**, which would ever guide them right. He denounced the divine statutes as a **restriction of their liberty** and declared that it was his purpose to secure the **abolition of law**; that, freed from this **restraint**, the hosts of heaven might enter **upon a more exalted, more glorious** state of existence [**he would say the same thing to Eve**]." GC, p. 499*

- **God is selfish**. All He wants is for His creatures **to do as He says**. He wants them to render Him service **as slaves** but He does not want so much as to **lift a finger** to serve.
- **God is absolute justice**. If you don't obey God's law, His **justice will require destruction**. There is **no room for mercy and grace**. If you disobey, death is absolutely certain.

## **Why Wasn't Satan Destroyed Immediately?**

It was necessary to give Lucifer **time to develop** the principles of the style of government that he wanted to establish. Only in this way could **Satan's arguments be fully and finally** answered. Satan's plans must **grow to maturity** and the entire universe must see the **fruit of his ideas**. If God **had destroyed Lucifer** immediately:

- [1] **Doubts would have remained** in the minds of the heavenly universe about the character of God.
- [2] The heavenly being would have **served God out of fear** and not out of love.
- [3] The possibility of **another rebellion** would not have been eradicated.

## **A Military Cue**

### **Revelation 12:7-9:**

Satan and his sympathizers **declared war against God**. The **battle was** between Jesus, the Commander of the loyal angels and the commander of the rebellious ones.

*"And war broke out **in heaven**: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and **his angels** fought, <sup>8</sup> but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any*

longer. <sup>9</sup> So the great dragon was cast out, that **serpent of old**, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and **his angels** were cast out with him.”

Lucifer was able to **win over one third** of the angels of heaven with his lies about God. In order to win over such a significant number, his lies must have been **extremely deceptive and persuasive**. Even the **angels that remained faithful** to God must have wondered if Lucifer’s insinuations were true. It therefore became necessary for God **clear up all** the misconceptions about His character before the entire universe.

Satan and his angels lost the battle and were **forcibly expelled** from heaven.

## **The War Spreads to the Earth**

God told Adam and Eve through Adam that they **could eat of all of the trees** of the Garden **save one**. In this **one command** were contained the **principles** of **all of the Ten Commandments**.

**Genesis 3:1-6**: Satan used the **same arguments** with Eve as he had used with the angels in heaven. The **very same person** who warred against Jesus in heaven now **declared war against him on earth**.

Satan’s intention was to **smear God’s character of love, justice, goodness and truth**. He was intent on **tarnishing** or **smearing** God’s character so that the **newly created pair** would rebel against Him:

*“Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. **And he said to the woman [a counterfeit miracle]**, “Has God **indeed [really]** said, ‘You shall not eat of **every** tree of the garden?’ **[misquote to begin a conversation]**” <sup>2</sup> And the **woman said** to the serpent **[correcting the inaccurate statement]**, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;<sup>3</sup> but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, **God has said**, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you **touch it [Eve adds to God’s word]**, lest you die.” <sup>4</sup> Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will **not surely die [plants the question to create cognitive dissonance: ‘then why did God tell us that we would?’]**. <sup>5</sup> For **God knows [God keeps secrets]** that in the day you eat of it your **eyes will be opened [not physical eyesight because she could see. God wants blind service]**, and you will be **like God [God does not want any rivals around. He is selfish]**, **knowing good and evil [attack against the law: ‘you don’t need to depend on God to define good and evil.]**.”*

**Satan’s argument** proceeded as follows:

- Satan **insinuated to Eve**:

*“God lied to you when he said that you would die if you ate the fruit”*

- Satan thus **planted a question** about God’s integrity in the mind of Eve:

*“Why, then, did God lie to us? What ulterior motive could He have? If we are not going to die, why did God tell us that we would?”*

- Satan argued that **God keeps secrets**. He was basically saying:

*“God knows something that He does not want you to know!”*

- At this point the **mind of Eve is screaming:**

*“What does God know that He does not want us to know?”*

- **Satan is hinting:**

*“At some point in the past the one who forbade you from eating of the tree ate from and He became God.”*

- **Satan reasoned:**

*“God knows that if you eat the fruit of the tree you will be just as much God as He is and He wants no rivals. He is selfish. His prohibition does not stem from love for you but selfish ambition. God wants no rivals around.”*

- **Further:**

*“You don’t need to depend on God to have the ability to distinguish between good and evil. If you eat from the tree you will know this on your own without having to depend on God’s definition.”*

## **The Universe Engaged with the Earth**

The events on earth are a **real life drama** that is being carefully **witnessed by the entire universe:**

### **1 Corinthians 4:9, NIV:**

*“For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on **display [apodeiknumi: ‘demonstrate, expose to view, exhibit’]** at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a **spectacle [theatron]** to the **whole universe [kosmos]**, to **angels** as well as to **men.**”*

### **1 Peter 1:12:** Angels desire to **look into the mystery**

*“To them **[the Old Testament Prophets]** it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us **[those who live in the age of fulfillment]** they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which **angels desire to look into.**”*

### **Colossians 1:19, 20:**

*“For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, **20** and by Him to **reconcile all things** to Himself, **by Him**, whether things **on earth** or things **in heaven**, having **made peace** through the blood of His **cross.**”*

### **Luke 15:10:** Joy in heaven over **one sinner that repents**

*“Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the **presence of the angels** of God over one sinner who repents.”*

**Luke 12:8:** He will **confess our name** before the angels

*"Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess **before the angels** of God. <sup>9</sup> But he who denies Me before men will be denied **before the angels** of God."*

**Revelation 3:5:** Jesus will **confess our name**

*"He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will **confess his name** before **My Father** and before **His angels**."*

**Ephesians 3:8-11**

*"To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to **make all see** what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; <sup>10</sup> to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God **might be made known** by the church to the **principalities and powers in the heavenly places**, <sup>11</sup> according to the eternal purpose which **He accomplished** in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

**Psalm 51:1-4 con Romans 3:4:** When David confessed his sin, he proclaimed that **God was just**

*"Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. <sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. <sup>3</sup> For I **acknowledge my transgressions**, and my sin is always before me. <sup>4</sup> Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil **in Your sight**—that You may be found **just when You speak**, and **blameless when You judge**."*

*". . . let God be true but every **man a liar**. As it is written: "That You may be justified in Your words, and may overcome when **You are judged**."*

**The book of Job:** Satan has **accused God** of **favoritism**, of **buying the loyalty** of His creatures. God allows the conflict to transpire in order to show **the contrast** between Satan's character and His. In this way, God **exonerates Himself from all guilt**.

**1 John 1:8-10**

*"If we say that we have no sin, we **[1] deceive ourselves**, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is **faithful and just** to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we say that we have not sinned, **[2] we make Him a liar**, and His word is not in us."*



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“How God Clears His Name from all False Charges”

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### Lesson #2: God’s Judgment Process

#### The Universe Engaged with the Earth

The events on earth are a real life drama that is being carefully witnessed by the entire universe:

#### 1 Corinthians 4:9, NIV:

*“For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display [apodeiknumi: ‘demonstrate, expose to view, exhibit’] at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle [theatron] to the whole universe [kosmos], to angels as well as to men.”*

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*“Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. <sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. <sup>3</sup> For I **acknowledge my transgressions**, and my sin is always before me. <sup>4</sup> Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil **in Your sight**—that You may be found **just when You speak**, and **blameless when You judge**.”*

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## **Groups Involved in the Great Controversy**

### **The Accused: God**

#### **Heavenly beings that remained faithful to God:**

- The **angels**
- The inhabitants of the **worlds** that never sinned

#### **Earthly beings that were faithful to God:**

- The **righteous who died** before Jesus comes
- The righteous **who are alive** when Jesus comes

## Heavenly beings that were **unfaithful**:

- Satan and his angels

## Earthly beings that were **unfaithful**:

- Human beings who are lost

The purpose of the judgment is to **persuade each and every one** of these groups that He has acted in harmony with His character of **love and justice**. Only when all groups have been persuaded will the controversy **come to an end**.

## **Three Stages of the Judgment Process**

God **removes doubts** about his character and government in **three stages**. With the exception of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, **all Christian churches** teach that the judgment is an **event**. But Seventh-day Adventists teach that the judgment is a **process** that began in **1844** and ends **after the millennium** when Satan, his angels and the wicked are destroyed. The three stages of the judgment will **persuade three different groups** about the justice and love of God.

When **all three stages of the judgment are over**, God will have been **exonerated or vindicated** before the entire universe. **All of Satan's specious arguments** will have been soundly answered and sin will never raise its ugly head again.

## **Three Steps of the Judgment Process**

**Each of the three stages** of the judgment consists of **three successive steps**, the very same steps that democratic governments follow today:

- Judgment **investigation**
- Judgment **sentence**
- Judgment **execution** of the sentence

## **Three Steps for the Righteous before the Second Coming**

**Purpose**: The purpose of the first step (investigation) of the judgment **before the second coming** is to reveal to the **heavenly universe who is worthy** to be taken to heaven when Jesus comes.

## **#1 Investigation:**

**Daniel 7:9, 10, 13, 14**: The judgment begins **after 1798**

*"I watched till thrones were put in place, and the **Ancient of Days** was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; <sup>10</sup>A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him, a thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened. **13** "I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, **coming with the clouds** of heaven! He came **to the Ancient of Days**, and they brought Him near before Him. <sup>14</sup> Then to Him **was given dominion** and glory*

and **a kingdom**, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting which shall not pass away, and **His kingdom** the one which shall not be destroyed.”

**Revelation 14:6, 7: Investigation before** the second coming

“Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the **hour of His judgment has come**; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”

## #2 Sentence:

**Revelation 22:11: Sentence** at the close of probation

“He who is unjust, let him be unjust **still**; he who is filthy, let him be filthy **still**; he who is righteous, let him be righteous **still**; he who is holy, let him be holy **still**.”

## #3 Execution:

**Revelation 22:12:** Sentence **reward** when Jesus comes again (see also John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17)

“And behold, I am coming quickly, and **My reward is with Me**, to give to every one according to his work. **13** I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.”

## Three Steps for the Wicked and Satan and his Angels during the Millennium

**Purpose:** The purpose of the **first step** (investigation) of the millennial judgment is to **reveal to the saved** why the unrighteous were **left behind** on earth.

## Two Stages to Punishment

**Isaiah 24:21-23:** This passage clearly indicates that the punishment of the wicked and Satan and his angels is **divided into two stages**, one **before** the millennium and the other **after**. In between will be the investigation:

“It shall come to pass in that day that the LORD will punish on high the **host of exalted ones**, and on the earth the **kings of the earth**. **22** They will be gathered together, as **prisoners** are gathered in the pit, and will be **shut up in the prison**; after **many days** they will be punished. **23** **Then** the moon will be disgraced and the sun ashamed; for the LORD of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem and before His elders, gloriously.”

## #1, 2: Investigation and Sentencing:

**Revelation 20:4: Investigation and sentencing** of the wicked in heaven during the Millennium

*“And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and **judgment was committed to them**. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God [**they were crying out in the fifth seal—the blood cries out for justice—the story of Cain and Abel**], who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they **lived** and **reigned** with Christ for a thousand years.”*

## #1, 2: Investigation and Sentencing:

**Revelation 20:11, 12: Investigation and sentencing** of the wicked during the Millennium

*“Then I saw a **great white throne** and Him who sat on it, from whose face the **earth and the heaven fled away** [same event as Revelation 6:14-17]. And there was found **no place** [‘place’ is the key word] for **them** [heaven and earth]<sup>12</sup> And **I saw the dead** [they are dead], small and great, **standing before God**, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the **dead were judged** [they were dead] according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.”*

**Revelation 6:14, 17:** Description of the **second coming** of Jesus will be picked up in **Revelation 20:11, 12:**

*“Then the **sky receded as a scroll** when it is rolled up, and **every mountain and island** was moved out of its **place**.<sup>15</sup> And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,<sup>16</sup> and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of **Him who sits on the throne** and from the wrath of the Lamb!<sup>17</sup> For the **great day of His wrath** has come, and who is able to stand?”*

## #1, 2: Investigation and Sentence:

**1 Corinthians 6:1-3: Investigation and sentencing** of Satan, his angels and the wicked

*“Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints?<sup>2</sup> Do you not know that the saints will **judge the world**? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters?<sup>3</sup> Do you not know that we shall **judge angels**? How much more, things that pertain to this life?”*

## Three Steps for Satan and the Wicked after the Millennium

**Purpose:** The purpose of the first step (investigation) of the post-millennial judgment is to give Satan, his angels and the unrighteous **their day in court**. They will not be destroyed until they **see their cases** and openly exonerate God from all guilt.

### #1, 2: Investigation and Sentence

**Revelation 20:13: Investigation and sentencing** after the Millennium

*“The sea **gave up** the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades **delivered up** the dead who were in them. And **they were judged**, each one according to his works.”*

**Isaiah 26:19:**

*“Your **dead shall live**; together with my dead body **they shall arise**. Awake and sing, you who **dwell in dust**; for your dew is like the dew of herbs, and the earth shall **cast out the dead**.”*

### #3: Execution of the Sentence

**Revelation 20:14, 15: Execution** of the judgment sentence

*“Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the **second death**.<sup>15</sup> And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”*

**Revelation 21:8: Execution** of the sentence after the Millennium was based on what **was found written in the books**:

*“But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the **second death**.”*

### Who does the Judgment Benefit?

- **After** the millennium: **Satan, his angels and the wicked**
- **Before** the second coming: The **heavenly beings**
- **During** the millennium: The **righteous**

### All Charges Cleared in the Judgment

- It will be revealed that the **law of God** requires **absolute perfection** and **Jesus offered the law absolute righteousness** in place of the redeemed
- It will be revealed that the law of God **truly does require the death** of those who do not offer it absolute sinless perfection.
- It will be proved that God was **true to His word** when Jesus bore upon Himself the sins of the whole world and **died**, thus **satisfying the just demands** of the law
- It will be clearly seen that God is **no respecter of persons**. He did not even **spare His own Son** but gave Him up for us (Romans 8:32). Jesus, who was God in the flesh, **mingled** with the **destitute of society** clearly showing that God is no respecter of persons. **He associated with** harlots, publicans, lepers, blind, deaf, mutes, paralytics,

Samaritans, gentiles, women, children and He even allowed Mary Magdalene to touch Him.

- It will be shown that God is **not selfish**. He gave Jesus to us, to retain forever His human nature.
- Jesus demonstrated that it is **possible to keep God's law** in our nature (Romans 8:3). He was tempted in all things such as we are but without sin (Hebrews 4:15).
- In Jesus the Father revealed that he is not only willing that He be served but is **ready to serve**. Jesus did not come to be served but to serve. He even condescended to wash the feet of His own disciples.
- God **revealed Himself** to man in the person of His Son. God does **not keep secrets**. He is a God who reveals Himself. (Daniel 2:11; John 1:14; 14:10ff)
- It is clearly demonstrated **what kind of government Lucifer** would have established if he had taken over the throne.

### **Introduction to the Next Study**

In order to save man, God had to act in harmony with the principles of His character. **Two foundational principles** are:

- The law of God requires absolute **sinless perfection**
- If perfection is not offered the law, **the sentence is death**

In solving the sin problem, God must **act in harmony with His principles**. If the law requires perfection, then perfection must be offered to the law. And if the transgression of the law requires death then death must be offered. If God does not fulfill his word, then He is a liar and his justice is not satisfied.

All human beings are sinners and they **cannot offer perfection** to the law. Thus, all human beings are on **death row**. How could God solve this twofold problem?



## The Great Cosmic Controversy

“How God Clears His Name from all False Charges”

by Pastor Stephen Bohr

### Lesson #3: The Immaculate Lamb

#### Six Functions of Jesus in Solving the Sin Problem

##### #1: Camp:

Lived an unblemished life as priest and Lamb

##### #2: Court Altar:

As an unblemished priest He offered Himself as the Victim

##### #3: Court Laver:

He resurrected in order to apply to repentant individuals the benefits of His earthly work

##### #4: Holy place:

Becomes the High Priest to serve as Advocate, Mediator, Intercessor for those who claim His benefits

##### #5: Most Holy Place:

Continues serving as an intercessory High Priest assumes the additional function of Judge

##### #6: Court: The sequence of events:

- The last living saint will have been judged
- The words of Revelation 22:11 are proclaimed
- Jesus will remove all the sins of the saints from the sanctuary
- The ultimate responsibility will be placed on the head of the scapegoat as the originator, instigator and perpetuator of sin.
- According to Leviticus 16:7 the scapegoat ceremony takes place in the court, at the entrance to the sanctuary tent
- Jesus returns to the Most Holy Place and removes His priestly garments
- Jesus puts on His kingly garments
- Jesus leaves heaven with the angels to the earth as King of kings and Lord of lords (in Hebrews He is the High Priest and in Revelation 19 He is King of kings)

## Provision and Application

The **first three functions** of Jesus (in the **camp** and in the **court**) have to do with a **provision** made for **every single** human being who has ever lived. That is to say, the benefits of His perfect **life in the camp** and His **death and resurrection in the court** are available to **every person** who has ever lived in the history of planet earth. This is what **Ellen White** calls ‘the **benefits** of His atonement.’ In the sense of provision, the atonement **was complete**. But Jesus went to heaven to apply the benefits of His atonement to repentant individuals.

The **last three functions** have to do with **application** of the provision to **individuals who claim** the provision.

### **Early Writings, p. 259:**

*“The rending of the veil of the temple [at the cross] showed that the Jewish sacrifices and ordinances would no longer be received. The **great Sacrifice** had been **offered** and had been **accepted**, and the Holy Spirit which descended on the day of Pentecost **carried the minds** of the disciples from the earthly sanctuary to the heavenly, where Jesus had entered **by His own blood**, to shed upon **His disciples [not all humans]** the **benefits** of His atonement [**His perfect life and death for sin**]. But the Jews were left in **total darkness**. They lost all the light which they might have had upon the plan of salvation, and still trusted in their useless **sacrifices and offerings**. The heavenly sanctuary had taken the place of the earthly, yet they had **no knowledge of the change** therefore they could not be **benefited** by the mediation of Christ in the holy place. *EW, p. 259*”*

### **Satan’s False Accusations Against God**

- God is a **respector of persons**; he **plays favorites**
- God is a **keeper of secrets**
- The **law** of God’s government is **restrictive of our liberties** and **cannot be kept**
- **God is selfish**. All He wants is for His creatures **to do as He says**. He wants them to render Him service **as slaves** but He does not want so much as to **lift a finger** to serve.

## The Human Predicament

**After man sinned**, Satan came up with a **new argument** that seemed to place a **contradiction** in God’s character. His argument went something like this:

*“Your law requires absolute **sinless righteousness**. You yourself stated that if the righteous requirement of the law is not met, the **result is death**. **Man has not met** the righteous requirements of the law and therefore He **must die**. If you don’t keep your word, your **justice and truth** is compromised. But if your justice destroys man, then your **love is compromised**. How can a God of love destroy His creatures?”*

How would God answer this **seeming conflict** between God’s justice and His love?

**#1: Jesus created all humans and therefore He is responsible for the existence of all:**

**John 1:1-3:**

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> **All things were made through Him**, and without Him nothing was made that was made."*

**#2: The law requires absolute sinless perfection**

**#3: The transgression of the law is sin:**

**1 John 3:4:**

*"Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is **lawlessness** [transgression of the law]."*

**No one** on planet earth **can offer** the law the perfection that **it requires**

**#4: No one can offer the Law sinless perfection because all are sinners**

**Romans 3:10, 23:**

*"As it is written: "There is **none righteous**, no, **not one**. . . for **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God. . ."*

**#5: When we sin the law requires the sentence of death and therefore every single human being, in themselves, is under the sentence of death**

**Romans 5:12, 6:23:**

*"Therefore, just as through one-man sin entered the world, and **death through sin**, and thus death spread to all men, because **all sinned**."*

*"For the **wages of sin** is death. . ."*

**#6: Only a next of kin could redeem a person's inheritance and free those who had sold themselves into slavery**

**Leviticus 25:25, 47-49:**

*"If one of your **brethren** becomes poor, and has sold some of his possession, and if his **redeeming relative** comes to redeem it, then he may redeem what **his brother** sold."*

*"Now if a sojourner or stranger close to you becomes rich, and one of your **brethren** who dwells by him becomes poor, and **sells himself** to the stranger or sojourner close to you, or to a member of the stranger's family, <sup>48</sup> after he is sold he may be redeemed again. **One of his brothers** may redeem him; <sup>49</sup> or his uncle or his uncle's son may redeem him; or anyone who is **near of kin** to him in his family may redeem him; or if he is able he may redeem himself."*

**Jesus Becomes our Next of Kin**

**The Problem:** There was **no next of kin** that had not sold his possession and himself into slavery.

**#7: Before His incarnation Jesus was not a member of the human family so He could not fulfill the law of redemption. God cannot be tempted and God cannot die so Jesus could not come as God to the earth.**

**Why** was it necessary for Jesus to take human flesh and become **next of kin**? Simply because God cannot be **tempted** and God **cannot die**!!

### **James 1:13**

*"Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone."*

### **1 Timothy 6:15-16**

*"He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, **16** who **alone has immortality**, dwelling in **unapproachable light**, whom **no man has seen** or **can see**, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen."*

So Jesus had to become a man so that He could be **tempted** and live a perfect life and **die for our sins**!

## **Father and Son of Abraham and David**

**Matthew 1:1**: Jesus is the son of **David** and the Son of **Abraham**

*"The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of **David**, the Son of **Abraham**. . ."*

**Revelation 22:16; Juan 8:58**: But Jesus is **also the father** of David and Abraham

*"Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before **Abraham** was, I AM."*

*"I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the **Root and the Offspring of David**, the Bright and Morning Star."*

### **Function #1: Sanctuary Camp: A Lamb without Blemish**

**John 1:14**: **Sin was committed** by those who lived in the sanctuary encampment. The apostle John explained that Jesus 'tabernacled' in our midst. Jesus **came to our camp** as a man and faced **all the temptations** that we face and overcame at every step.

*"And the Word became 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."*

In the camp Jesus lived a life of **perfect harmony** with the law of God. He lived His life **for everyone** who has ever lived on planet earth. In order to save us He had to be a blameless **Priest** and **Lamb**. He also proved that the **law could be kept** in sinful human flesh and developed **a model life** that He could **impart** to repentant sinners

### **Leviticus 22:20-22: Victim with no blemish**

*"Whatever **has a defect**, you shall not offer, for it shall not be acceptable on your behalf. **21** And whoever offers a sacrifice of a peace offering to the LORD, to fulfill his vow, or a freewill offering from the cattle or the sheep, it must be perfect to be accepted; there shall be **no defect in it**. **22** Those that are blind or broken or maimed, or have an ulcer or eczema or scabs, you shall not offer to the LORD, nor make an offering by fire of them on the altar to the LORD."*

### **Leviticus 21:17-21: Priest without blemish**

*"Speak to Aaron, saying: 'No man of your descendants in succeeding generations, who has any **defect**, may approach to offer the bread of his God. **18** For any man who has a **defect** shall not approach: a man blind or lame, who has a marred face or any limb too long, **19** a man who has a broken foot or broken hand, **20** or is a hunchback or a dwarf, or a man who has a **defect** in his eye, or eczema or scab, or is a eunuch. **21** No man of the descendants of Aaron the priest, who has a **defect**, shall come near to offer the offerings made by fire to the LORD . He has a **defect**; he shall not come near to offer the bread of his God."*

### **Exodus 12:5: The Passover **lamb** had to be **without blemish****

*"Your lamb shall be **without blemish**, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats."*

### **I Peter 1:18-20: The **victim** had to be without blemish**

*"... knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, **19** but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb **without blemish and without spot**. **20** He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you. . ."*

### **I John 3:5: The **victim** was **without blemish****

*"And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him **there is no sin**."*

### **Hebrews 4:15: The **priest without blemish****

*"For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in **all points tempted** as we are, yet **without sin**."*

Every act of obedience added a thread to the robe of righteousness and when Jesus said 'it is finished' on the cross, the robe of righteousness was finished and available for the asking.

### **Hebrews 7:25, 26: **The priest without blemish****

*"Therefore He is also **able to save** to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. **26** **For** such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is **holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners**, and has become higher than the heavens."*

## **One Problem Solved, Another Remained**

Satan argued:

*"The law requires [1] absolute sinless perfection, no one on earth can offer the law the perfection that it requires and [2] therefore everyone is under the sentence of death."*

Jesus answered Satan's **first accusation** by coming to this earth, becoming our **next of kin** and living the life that we should **live in our place**. In this way He **wove a robe of perfect righteousness** which is freely available for **all who come** to Him repentant and with faith. There was **now a perfect life** that could satisfy the just demands of the law in place of every human being.

But there remained a **serious problem**: The law not only requires perfect righteousness but it also **demands the death** of those who **do not offer** it what it requires. So after living a perfect life, Jesus suffered the **death that all** of His creatures deserve thus satisfying the just penalty of the law. This will be our next study.

## The Great Cosmic Controversy

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### Lesson #4: The Slain Lamb

#### Review:

- Jesus came **to vindicate** the character of God before the universe
- Jesus **created us all** and therefore He is **responsible** for our existence
- The law of God requires **absolute sinless perfection**
- If we don't offer the law sinless perfection, **we must die**
- God has to be **faithful to His word** and require perfection and death. If God does not require these then He would be **a liar**
- There is **no one on planet earth** that can offer the law perfection and therefore everyone is under the **sentence of death**
- **Satan made it appear that there was a conflict between the justice and mercy of God**
- The human race **needed someone** to live **the life** and **suffer the death** that the law requires
- But the redeemer had to be a **next of kin** of those who needed redemption (because God **cannot be tempted** and He **cannot die**). Every single human being **sold their inheritance** and **their freedom** so there was no one within the human race to redeem that which was lost
- Jesus **pitched His tent** in our midst and lived the life and suffered the death that the law requires. He lived a **perfect life** and in this way wove a **robe of perfect righteousness** available for everyone who claims it their own.

It was **not sufficient** that Jesus come to live a **perfect, righteous, life in our place**. He also had to **suffer the death** that we should suffer. So, after living in our camp, Jesus **moved to the court** of the sanctuary to **die and resurrect** at the **altar** of sacrifice and the **laver**.

#### Function #2: The Court

Satan placed God in what appeared to be an **unsolvable dilemma**—between a rock and a hard place. Basically he said:

*“You told man that ‘the wages of sin is death’. If you don’t execute the sentence you are a liar and if you do you do not love.”*

God **had the answer** to the dilemma. After living an absolutely perfect life **for all**, the sins that **have ever** been committed, **are being** committed or **will be** committed were imputed or credited to the account of Jesus and He died the death that we should die. Thus God showed His justice because sin was punished and His love because the Godhead assumed the punishment in place of man.

## **Substitutionary Sacrifice of the Lamb**

### **Exodus 12:5, 6**

*“Your lamb shall be [1] **without blemish**, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall [2] **kill it** at twilight.”*

**Leviticus 17:11:** It is **God who gives** the blood on the altar, not the sinner

*“For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and **I have given it to you** upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.”*

**I John 2:2:** Jesus died for the **sins of everyone** who has ever lived

*“And He Himself is the **propitiation** for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the **whole world**.”*

### **2 Corinthians 5:21**

*“For He [the Father] made Him who **knew no sin [work in the camp]** to be sin for us [work in the court], that we might become the **righteousness of God in Him**.”*

### **Isaiah 53:3-6**

*“He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. <sup>4</sup> Surely He has borne **our** griefs and carried **our** sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.<sup>5</sup> But He was wounded for **our** transgressions, He was bruised for **our** iniquities; the chastisement for **our** peace was upon Him, and by His stripes **we** are healed. <sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has **laid on Him** the iniquity of **us all**.”*

### **Galatians 3:13:**

*“Christ has **redeemed us** from the curse of the law, having become a **curse for us** (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.”*

One night on my way home, I was driving 60 mph in a 40 mph zone. It wasn't long before a patrol car drove up behind me with its lights flashing. The officer came to the window and asked if I knew why he had stopped me. I replied that I was pretty sure it was because I was speeding. I told him that I was **genuinely sorry** and that I knew I **deserved the ticket**. To my surprise, he simply gave me a warning and said: “I really believe that you are sorry that

you disobeyed the law so I'm going to let you off the hook this time. Just remember that lives are put in danger by speeding in this residential area."

Needless to say, I was **elated!** But then I got to thinking. Did the officer do the right thing? Was his **forgiveness really grace?** Actually, it wasn't. As an officer of the law, **his obligation** is to punish transgressions of the law, not to forgive them. I broke the law and he was **obliged to enforce it.** Someone might object: "But you were sorry." True, but it makes **no difference.** The violation of the law required payment and payment was not made; he did not do his job. How then could the officer have **forgiven me and still upheld the requirements of the law?**

He could have told me:

*"I can't let you go without the law getting its just due. You broke the law and the law demands payment. But I'll tell you what I am going to do. I'm going to write the ticket, but I'll go down to the courthouse and pay it for you. In this way I will honor the law and yet forgive you."*

### **I Peter 2:23, 24**

*"... who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; <sup>24</sup> who Himself **bore our sins** in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—**by whose stripes you were healed.**"*

**Romans 5:6, 8:** Died for the **ungodly** and while we were **still sinners**

*"For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died **for the ungodly.** <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were **still sinners,** Christ died **for us.**"*

**I Corinthians 15:3:** Christ died for our sins **according to the Scriptures**

*"For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ **died for our sins** according to the Scriptures."*

## **Jesus was the Priest Who Officiated His Own Sacrifice**

### **Hebrews 7:26, 27**

*"For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; <sup>27</sup> who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when **He offered up Himself.**"*

*"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." *DA*, p. 753*

*"All heaven was gazing with profound interest upon the scene. The glorious Redeemer of a lost world was **suffering the penalty** of man's transgression of the Father's law. He was about to ransom His people with His own blood. He was **paying the just claims** of God's holy law. This was the means through which an end was to be finally made of sin and Satan, and **his host to be vanquished.**" *2T*, p. 208*

## The Last Three Cries of Jesus

The **last three cries** of Jesus on the cross were **directed to His Father**:

#1: **Anguish** because He felt that **sin had separated** Him from His Father:

**Isaiah 59:2**

*"But your iniquities have **separated** you from your God; and your sins have **hidden His face** from you, so that He will **not hear**."*

**Matthew 27:46:**

*"My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?"*

#2: He **completed the conditions** necessary for salvation

**John 19:30:**

*"It is finished"*

*"When upon the cross He cried out, "It is finished," He addressed the Father. The compact had been fully carried out. Now He declares: Father, it is finished. I have done Thy will, O My God. I have completed the work of redemption. If Thy justice is satisfied, "I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am." John 19:30; 17:24." DA, p. 834*

#3: He dies in **the assurance** that His Father would call Him from the grave

**Luke 23:46:**

*"Father, into your hands I commend My Spirit"*

Christ **had completed the provision** for salvation, the **benefits** of a **perfect life** and **death for sin** were available for **every sinner** that has ever lived

## The Laver

**Exodus 40:7:**

*"And you shall set the laver **between** the tabernacle of meeting and the altar, and put water in it."*

The sanctuary illustrates **the steps** in the plan of salvation in **chronological order**. Jesus first lives His **perfect life in the camp**, then He **pays for sin at the altar** in the court, and then ascends to heaven to serve **in the holy place**. The laver stood **between the court and the holy place** and thus it must represent a function of Jesus **after His death** on the cross and **before his ascension** to the holy place.

The laver contained water so that the priest could **wash himself before entering** his service in the holy place. The priest had **stained himself** with blood when he offered the sacrifice and needed to cleanse himself **from every vestige of death** before serving in the holy place.

**Titus 3:5:** The word 'regeneration' is **palinguenesia** which literally means 'to live again' or 'rebirth'.

Significantly, In **John 3**, Jesus referred to baptism of the water and of the Spirit as being born again.

Jesus is not only the **blameless priest and victim** but is also the **priest who ever lives** to intercede for us. Obviously He could not intercede **if He was dead**.

*“But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, <sup>5</sup> not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the **washing of regeneration** and **renewing** of the Holy Spirit.”*

**Matthew 19:28-29**: This is the **only other time** when the Greek word ‘regeneration’ is used in the New Testament and it refers to the ‘age to come’ which is marked by the **resurrection of the dead**:

*“So Jesus said to them, “Assuredly I say to you, that in the **regeneration**, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”*

Notably, the parallel passages in **Mark and Luke** do not use the word ‘regeneration’ but rather substitute ‘**the age to come**’ (Mark 10:30; Luke 18:30). The question is: What is the **dividing point** between this age and the age to come? **Luke 20:34-36** says that it is the resurrection.

#### **Luke 20:34-36**

*“Jesus answered and said to them, “The sons of **this age** marry and are given in marriage. <sup>35</sup> But those who are counted worthy to attain **that age**, and **the resurrection from the dead**, neither marry nor are given in marriage; <sup>36</sup> **nor can they die anymore**, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being **sons of the resurrection**.”*

In **John 12:24** Jesus used the illustration of **a seed** that falls into the earth. The seed dies and then sprouts to **new life** totally different than before.

*“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and **dies**, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces **much grain**.”*

The sacrifices were offered by **common priests**. Jesus, as a common priest **sacrificed Himself** and **lived again** in order to go the holy place as the high priest to **intercede** for sinners.

#### **John 10:17, 18**

*“Therefore My Father loves Me, because **I lay down My life** that **I may take it again**.<sup>18</sup> No one takes it from Me, but **I lay it down of Myself**. I have power to lay it down, and **I have power to take it again**. This command I have received from My Father.”*

The key is in the last part of **verse 18** where we are told that the Father had given authorization to Jesus to lay down His life and take it up again.

*“He who died for the sins of the world was to remain in the tomb for the allotted time. He was in that stony prison house as a **prisoner of divine justice**, and he was responsible to the **Judge of the universe**. He was bearing the sins of the world, and **his Father only** could release him.”*  
*YI May 2, 1901*

*"The angel laid hold of the great stone at the mouth of the tomb, and rolled it away, as if it had been but a pebble. Then with a voice that caused the **earth to tremble**, he cried: "Jesus, Thou Son of God, come forth. **Thy Father calls Thee!**" Then He who had earned the power over death and the grave came forth from the tomb. Above the rent sepulcher He proclaimed, "I am the resurrection, and the life." *The Story of Jesus*, p. 155*

The **Jewish feasts** parallel the sanctuary. The **Passover** represents the death of Jesus, the Feast of **Unleavened Bread** represents his burial, the Feast of **First Fruits** represents His resurrection and the Feast of **Pentecost** symbolized His installation as high priest in the holy place of the heavenly sanctuary.

### **Romans 6:9, 10:**

*"Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, <sup>9</sup> knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, **dies no more. Death no longer** has dominion over Him."*

In the Jewish ritual **death defiled**. Jesus had to **dispose of the defilement** of death in order to serve as our High Priest in heaven. When Jesus resurrected, He **left every vestige of death** in the grave; death would **never have dominion** over Him again.

**Romans 4:25:** He was delivered for our **offenses** and raised for our **justification**

*' . . . who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was **raised because of our justification.**'*

*"Pardon and justification are **one and the same thing.**" *Faith and Works*, p. 103*

**1 Corinthians 15:13-18:** It is Christ's resurrection that **makes possible the forgiveness** of sins; therefore, sins were **not forgiven at the cross.**

*"But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then **Christ is not risen.** <sup>14</sup> And **if Christ is not risen**, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. <sup>15</sup> Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead do not rise, then **Christ is not risen.** <sup>17</sup> And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are **still in your sins!**"*

Without the **next stage** of Christ's ministrations there could be no forgiveness of sins. Jesus was raised to be able to intercede for those who claim His life and death!!

## **Arguments Answered**

- God is **no respecter of persons**. He did not spare **His Own Son** whom Satan had accused God of favoring
- God was **proved true and just** because He **punished sin with death** just as He had said
- God showed His **love for sinner** in that He assumed, in the person of His Son, the punishment that sinners deserved
- It is **possible to keep** the law of God in fallen sinful Flesh
- God showed that He is willing **to serve** and not to be served

## **Problem Solved?**

After Jesus **lived His perfect life**, and **died for sin** there were **still things that needed to be clarified** in the minds of the **heavenly universe**. There was a work that Jesus needed to perform in the **holy and most holy places** of the heavenly sanctuary that would **further clarify** the issues involved in the great conflict between good and evil.

*“Yet Satan was not then destroyed. The angels **did not even then understand** all that was involved in the great controversy. The principles at stake were to be **more fully revealed**. And for the sake of man, Satan's existence must be continued. **Man as well as angels** must see the **contrast** between the Prince of light and the prince of darkness. He **must choose** whom he will serve.” DA, p. 761*



## The Great Cosmic Controversy

“How God Clears His Name from all False Charges”

by Pastor Stephen Bohr

### Lesson #5: We Have an Advocate

#### Function #4: The Holy Place

After Jesus had lived His perfectly [1] **righteous life** in the sanctuary camp and [2] **died and [3] resurrected** in the sanctuary court, He ascended [4] **to the holy place** in the heavenly sanctuary. **Why** did He go there? To prepare a place for us to join Him!

#### John 14:1-3

*“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> And if I go and **prepare a place** for you, I will come again and receive you to **Myself**; that where I am, there **you may be also.**”*

The next step in the ministry of Jesus has to do with man’s choice. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus had nothing to do with man’s choice. It was God’s choice, by His free grace and mercy to send Jesus to live a perfect life, to die for sinners and to resurrect. Man did not request this; it was God’s choice and initiative. We may call this the **objective** side of the atonement. Notice how Ellen White links man’s choice with the next stage of Christ’s ministry in the Holy Place:

#### After the cross:

*“Yet Satan was not then destroyed. The angels **did not even then understand** all that was involved in the great controversy. The principles at stake were to be **more fully revealed**. And for the sake of man, Satan’s existence must be continued. **Man as well as angels** must see the contrast between the Prince of light and the prince of darkness. He **must choose** whom he will serve.” *DA*, p. 761*

#### **Was the Atonement Finished at the Cross?**

This is the **first question** we would like to answer.

**Ellen White** seemed to talk out of **both sides of her mouth** when she addressed the matter of when the salvific **atonement was completed**. In some statements she affirms that the work of redemption was **finished at the cross** while in others she states that Jesus **went to heaven to complete** that work. But the contradiction is only **in the minds** of those who are

**careless students** and do not read her statements within their **legitimate context**. Let's notice two of the **seemingly contradictory** statements.

### **Finished at the cross:**

*"When upon the cross He cried out, "It is finished," He addressed the Father. The compact had been **fully carried out**. Now He declares: Father, **it is finished**. I have done Thy will, O My God. **I have completed the work of redemption**. If Thy justice is satisfied, "I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am." John 19:30; 17:24." DA 834*

### **Not Finished at the cross:**

*"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." GC, p. 489*

It might be **legitimately asked**: If the **work of saving sinners** was finished at the cross, **why does Jesus carry on a work in heaven?**

### **Complete Provision but not Application**

**Another question** will help us answer the first one: **Did Jesus forgive** the sins of individuals when He died on the cross? Surprisingly, when I ask this question in Adventist churches the answer is usually a **resounding yes!** But the 'yes' answer is **dangerously wrong!!**

By His righteous **life** and His **death** for sin Jesus has made **sufficient provision** to forgive the sins of **every single person** who has ever lived.

But the **provision** must be **personally claimed**. As we shall see in **this lesson**, when a sinner [1] **repents**, [2] **confesses** his sin, [3] **trusts** in Jesus, and is [4] **baptized**, Jesus places His perfect life and death for sin on that **sinner's account** and God looks upon the sinner **as if he had never sinned**. To use the expression of the apostle Paul, the sinner is '**accepted in the beloved**'.

When Jesus went to the holy place in heaven, He began His work **as intercessor** on behalf of those who by **repentance, confession and faith** claim the benefits of Christ's earthly work. This is an **individual choice**.

According to the apostle **Paul, David and Abraham** were justified by faith in the Old Testament (Romans 4:1-8). But in actuality, the **blood of bulls and goats** cannot take away sin (Hebrews 10:4). David and Abraham **repented** of their sins, **confessed** them and **trusted** in the Messiah who was to **come**. Their **sins were forgiven when they repented, confessed and trusted**. Even **Moses was taken to heaven** based on the promise that Jesus would come **in the future** to live and die for him. This was the reason for the contention between Michael and Satan on **Mt. Nebo**.

## The Bank of the Universe

**John 3:16** Salvation is for **all** but **only believers** are benefited:

*“For God so loved **the world** that He gave His only begotten Son [inclusive of all], that **whoever believes** [exclusive of those who refuse to believe] in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*

Perhaps an **illustration** will help us understand the relationship between the **finished work of Christ on earth** and His **unfinished work in heaven**.

The **owner of a bank** who has limitless resources, is filled with **sorrow** and **grief** as he beholds the inhabitants of the earth loaded down and **stressed out** with debt. So out of **mercy** for them he sets up a **special account** in his bank with **sufficient capital** to pay **all the debts** of **every single person** on planet earth. There is sufficient capital to pay for **mortgages, credit cards, educational loans, department stores, auto loans, and all the rest!** The owner of the bank is under **no obligation** to do this. He takes the initiative out of **pure grace!**

But what good would this do if **no one knew** that the capital is available? So the bank owner uses every means at his disposal to announce far and wide **the good news** about the availability of the fund. He uses **word of mouth, television, radio, internet, billboards, telephone, twitter, Facebook, What’s Up** and **every other** means to share the **good news!!** He announces:

*“There is **no reason** whatsoever for anyone to remain in debt. There is **sufficient capital** in the bank account to pay **all debts** of **all human beings!**”*

But there is **a catch**. The debtors must be [1] **truly sorry** that they incurred the debt, [2] **confess** that they were wrong in living beyond their means, [3] **trust** that the bank owner will keep his word and provide the capital to cancel the debt, [4] **personally come** to the bank to make the withdrawal and [5] sign the **official papers** cancelling the debt. The capital is there, but anyone **chooses not to come** to the bank to claim the **provision**, will **remain in debt**.

The work that Jesus performed in the **camp and the court** is for **everyone**. It is the capital that Jesus deposited in the bank of heaven. There is **sufficient capital** to cancel the debt of every single individual on planet earth. He lived a **perfect life for all** and suffered **death for all**. The capital, or **benefits**, so to speak is in the bank for the **asking**.

In contrast to His work on earth, the work that Jesus carries on in the **holy and most holy** places of the heavenly sanctuary is **individual and personal**. Only those who **repent, come, confess, trust** and are baptized will have their spiritual debt cancelled.

## Resurrection Makes Forgiveness Possible

**1 Corinthians 15:13-18**: It is Christ’s resurrection that **makes possible the forgiveness** of sins; therefore, sins were **not forgiven at the cross**.

*“But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then **Christ is not risen**.<sup>14</sup> And **if Christ is not risen**, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.<sup>15</sup> Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not*

raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. **16** For if the dead do not rise, then **Christ is not risen.**  
**17** And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are **still in your sins!**”

**Romans 4:25:** He was delivered for our **offenses** and raised for our **justification**

‘ . . . who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was **raised because of our justification.**”

“Pardon and justification are **one and the same thing.**” Faith and Works, p. 103

## **Jesus the Advocate for those who Believe**

What has Jesus been doing in heaven **since His ascension**? When I ask this question the answer is many times **fuzzy!**

**I Timothy 2:5, 6:** Jesus is the **Mediator** and the mediator [1] **must be man.** As we have studied, the redeemer had to be a **next of kin!**

“For there is one God and one **Mediator** between God and men, the **Man [had to be a man to live in our place]** Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who **gave** Himself a ransom **for all,** to be testified in due time.”

**I John 2:1:** Jesus is the **Advocate** and the Advocate must not only be **a man** but a [2] **perfectly righteous man:**

“My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an **Advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ **the righteous.**”

**Hebrews 7:25:** Jesus is the **intercessor** or intermediary but He **does not intercede for everyone:**

“Therefore He is also able to **save** to the uttermost those who come to God **through Him,** since He always lives to make intercession **for them.**”

**John 14:6:** No one comes to the Father except **through Jesus:**

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. **No one comes to the Father** except through Me.”

**John 1:51** (Genesis 28:12): Jesus is **the Ladder** that bridges heaven and earth. The **top** of the Ladder represents His divinity and the **bottom** His humanity. Only **God who is also man** can link heaven and earth. This **disqualifies any and every human** being from being a mediator between God and man:

“And He said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending **upon the Son of Man.**”

**Romans 8:32-34:**

“He who **did not spare His Own Son,** but delivered Him up **for us all,** how shall He not with Him also freely **give us** all things? <sup>33</sup> Who shall bring a charge against God’s **elect?** It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also **makes intercession for us [the elect].**”

## **When is a Sinner Forgiven? Repentance, Confession, Faith, Baptism**

**Acts 2:38:** On the **Day of Pentecost**, Peter preached a **powerful sermon** about the life, death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Jesus. When he **finished his sermon**, those present asked **what they needed to do** in light of what Peter preached. Peter told them to **[1] repent and be [2] baptized** for the **[3] remission** of sins and they would receive **[4] the gift** of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is given at baptism so that believers will **tell others about the bank!!**

*"Then Peter said to them, "**Repent**, and let every one of you be **baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ **for the remission** of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*

**Acts 5:31:** Jesus went to heaven to **give repentance and forgiveness**

*"Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to **give** repentance to Israel and **forgiveness** of sins."*

**John 1:7, 9:** Forgiveness comes when we **confess** our sins

*"But **if we walk in the light [notice the condition]** as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son **cleanses us [not the sanctuary]** from all sin. <sup>9</sup> **If [another condition]** we **confess** our sins, He is **faithful and just** [because he paid what we owed] to **forgive us** our sins and to **cleanse us [not the sanctuary]** from all unrighteousness."*

**Acts 10:43:** We must **trust** in Jesus

*"To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever **believes in Him** will receive **remission of sins**."*

**Mark 16:16:** Forgiveness comes when we **trust** in Jesus and are **baptized**

*"He who **believes** and is **baptized** will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."*

### **Conditions: Prodigal Son, Adam and Eve, David**

In order to tap into the capital, the sinner must **[1] repent** (given by God), **[2] confess**, **[3] trust** in the merits of Jesus y **[4] be baptized**. And in order to experience this four step process the sinner must behold Jesus in His **absolute perfection** (in the camp) and His **terrible death** (in the court) which will lead him to **hate sin** and **love Jesus**.

The example of the **prodigal son**:

- **He repented** when he reflected upon the **goodness of his father**
- He **confessed his sin** when he arrived at his **father's house**
- He **trusted in the goodness** of his father to **forgive** and make him a **servant** but the Father restored him **as his son**
- NO doubt he was **washed before** the robe was put on him (in the light of **Zechariah 3: The filthy garments are removed** before the clean robe is put on)
- He received **forgiveness** and as evidence his father placed **his best robe** upon him

*"Pardon and justification are one and the same thing." (Faith and Works, p. 103)*

- He was **restored to the family** as a full fledged **son**
- **Obedience to the father** would now be rendered as a **loving son** rather than a **hired servant**

**True repentance** is **sorrow** for **the sin itself**. When Adam and Eve first sinned, they were **not sorry** for the consequences. This is shown by their immediate tendency to **blame someone else** for their actions. But when Adam had to offer the **first sacrifice**, Adam and Eve were sorry for the sin itself because they understood what it would **cost their creator**.

According to David's **penitential Psalm (Psalm 51)**, he followed the **four step** process after he committed the horrendous sins of **adultery and murder**:

- He **repented**
- He **confessed** his sin
- He **trusted** in the mercy of God
- He pleaded for **washing or cleansing** [baptism].

Many times, when I was going to be **punished by my parents** for bad behavior, I was sorry, not for the bad behavior but for **the punishment** that would come as a result of the bad behavior.

## **Ellen White on the Holy Place Ministry**

In the **daily intercessory service** Jesus applies the benefits of his atonement to **individuals**:

*"Pardon and justification are **one and the same thing**. **Through faith [notice the condition]**, the **believer [notice who benefits]** passes from the position of a rebel, a child of sin and Satan, to **the position** of a loyal subject of Christ Jesus, not because of an inherent goodness, but because Christ receives him as His **child by adoption**. The sinner receives the **forgiveness of his sins**, because these sins are borne by his **Substitute and Surety**. The Lord speaks to His Heavenly Father, saying: "This is My child, I relieve him from the condemnation of death, giving him **My life insurance policy**--eternal life--because I have **taken his place** and have suffered **for his sins**. He is even My beloved son." Thus man, **pardoned**, and clothed with the beautiful garments of Christ's righteousness, stands **faultless before God**." *FW, p. 103**

*"The rending of the veil of the temple showed that the Jewish sacrifices and ordinances would no longer be received. The great Sacrifice had been **offered and had been accepted [offered on Calvary and accepted when He ascended to His Father]**, and the Holy Spirit which descended on the day of Pentecost carried the minds of the disciples from the earthly sanctuary to the heavenly, where Jesus had entered by His own blood, to shed **upon His disciples [not everyone]** the **benefits** of His atonement [**His perfect life and death**]. But the Jews were left in total darkness. They lost all the light which they might have had upon the plan of salvation, and still trusted in their useless sacrifices and offerings. The heavenly sanctuary had taken the place of the earthly, yet they had no knowledge of the change. Therefore they could not be **benefited by the mediation** of Christ in the holy place." *EW, pp. 259, 260**

The **sinner was forgiven** and his **sin entered** the sanctuary through the blood and as a result the **sanctuary was defiled** and therefore **needed to be cleansed**. The sinner was clean but the sanctuary was defiled.

## **Satan's Cheap Counterfeit**

Satan well knew that the **once-for-all sacrifice** of Christ was the only hope for the sinner. He also knew that Jesus **went to heaven** to apply the benefits of His atonement to repentant sinners. Thus, shortly after Jesus went to heaven, Satan established a system on earth that **counterfeited** the functions of Jesus:

- The book of **Hebrews** teaches that Jesus offered a once-for-all sacrifice on the cross that never needed to be repeated. In contrast, the Roman Catholic Church instituted a **counterfeit hope** by eating a **wafer**. Moses **striking the rock twice** shows the seriousness of teaching that Jesus must die more than once.
- The Bible clearly teaches that we have **only one Advocate**, one **intercessor**, one **mediator**, Jesus Christ. Only one who is [1] man, a [2] righteous man, and [3] God can **bridge the gap** between heaven and earth [**Pontifex Maximus**]. In contrast, the Roman Catholic Church teaches that confession of sin must be **made to a sinful priest** and that the priest **can absolve** the sinner of his sin.
- The Bible teaches that baptism must be of people **who understand** what they are doing and by immersion. In contrast, the Roman Catholic Church teaches the baptism of **infants** by **sprinkling** (A baby cannot repent, confess sin or trust in Jesus)

Explain the **profound meaning of baptism** of adults by immersion and the relationship it has to justification or forgiveness.

## **Introduction to the Next Study**

In **Leviticus 1-15** the words for sin (sin, transgression, uncleanness, sin) are almost always in the singular because the perspective is the forgiveness of the **individual sinner** who confesses his sin. But in **Leviticus 16** the very same words are in plural because the mass of sins that entered the sanctuary throughout the year needed to be cleansed.

*“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.” GC 421, 422*



## The Great Cosmic Controversy

“How God Clears His Name from all False Charges”

by Pastor Stephen Bohr

### Lesson #6: The Most Holy Place Message - Part 1

#### The Camp and the Court

Provision of a perfect life and death for sin for every single sinner who has ever lived. This was not by man’s request and required no choice on the part of man. It was by the initiative of God!

#### Daily Service in the Holy Place:

In the Holy Place, Christ pours out the benefits of His earthly work to individuals who respond by repenting and trusting in Him.

In the daily service:

[1] The repentant sinner placed his hand on the head of the victim

[2] Confessed his sin

[3] Slew the animal

[4] The sinner was forgiven or cleansed.

[5] Then the priest took the blood with the stain of sin into the sanctuary and it was defiled

[7] The sanctuary needed to be cleansed.

#### 1 John 1:7, 9

*“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive [not blot out] us [not the sanctuary] our sins and to cleanse us [not the sanctuary] from all unrighteousness.”*

When a person repents, confesses sins and trusts in Jesus, his sins are forgiven and his name is written in the book of life. At this stage the sincerity of the profession is not evaluated. God accepts the profession of faith and forgives the sin. But the judgment will reveal is the repentance and confession is genuine or not and whether the sinner is entitled to the benefits.

*“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**." GC, p. 421 **(statement completed below in Most Holy Place)**

In the daily service the sins moved from **east to west** (toward the Most Holy Place) but on the Day of Atonement they moved from **west to east** (toward the camp). In **Leviticus 1-15** the words that describe sin are almost always in the singular (sin, transgression, uncleanness) but in **Leviticus 16** these same words are in the plural.

**Acts 2:38; 3:19-21**: The **difference** between the word **afesis** and **jexaleipo**.

*"Repent therefore and be converted, **that** your sins may be **blotted out**, **so that** times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,<sup>20</sup> and **that He may** send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before,<sup>21</sup> whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began."*

**Most Holy Place:**

*(Quotation continued from above) "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** [when He went to heaven He went to pour out those 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." GC, pp. 421, 422*

When Jesus began His work **as judge**, His work as **intercessor continued**. He **still intercedes** for those who **claim the benefits** of His atonement while He also performs a work of judgment.

*"When in the typical service the high priest left the holy on the Day of Atonement, he went in before God to present the blood of the sin offering in behalf of all Israel who truly repented of their sins. So Christ had only completed **one part** of His work as our intercessor, to enter upon **another portion** of the work, and **He still pleaded His blood** before the Father in behalf of sinners." GC, p. 428*

## **How can the Most Holy Co-exist with Sin?**

How can something so **pure and holy** as the Most Holy Place be defiled by sin? Can **holiness and sin co-exist in the same place?**

The answer is yes as long as sin does not belong to the sanctuary but is rather **imputed there**. The parallel that helps us understand this is found in **2 Corinthians 5:21** and **Hebrews 7:26, 27** where we are told that Jesus **knew no sin** (he was holy and pure) and yet sin was **imputed to Him**.

This is also taught by the **serpent that Moses** raised in the wilderness. The serpent is a symbol of sin and evil. Jesus bore sin or evil **by imputation** that whoever looks can live!! (**John 3:14-16**).

The Most Holy Place **contains the record** of sin but these sins **do not belong** to the sanctuary—they are **imputed** to the sanctuary. The sanctuary **assumed the guilt** of sin until a judgment was performed to **demonstrate** who is **ultimately responsible** for the origin and perpetuation of sin.

**Daniel 8:14:** The **heavenly sanctuary** needs to be **cleansed**.

*“And he said to me, “For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be **cleansed**.”*

**Hebrews 9:23**

*“Therefore it was necessary that **the copies** of the things in the heavens **should be purified** with these, but the **heavenly things** themselves with **better sacrifices** than these.”*

## **Why an Investigation of the Righteous?**

Before the sanctuary can be cleansed from the record of sins that entered there, it is necessary to **examine the life** of each person to see if they **truly repented** and had a **living faith** in Jesus. Once this is finished, then **all the sins will be removed** from the sanctuary and placed on the **head of the scapegoat**.

**But why is it necessary** for God to investigate the lives of those who claimed to accept Jesus if **God knows everything**?

The purpose of this stage of the judgment is **not to inform God** but rather to reveal to the **heavenly beings** whom Jesus has a **right to take to heaven**.

**Satan says:**

*“If everyone is a sinner, why does God save some and condemn others? On what basis does He save David, an adulterer and murderer? How can God save Saul of Tarsus, who murdered many members of the church?”*

The purpose of the judgment is **to persuade the heavenly beings** that God acted justly in **every single case**. You see, there are **true believers** and **counterfeit ones**. The judgment will clearly reveal who **truly repented** of sin and who had only **crocodile tears**. The **works of the person will reveal** if the person had a living connection with Jesus.

- **Matthew 6:2, 5:** There are **hypocrites** that claim to serve God but they are **counterfeit believers**:

*2 “Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the **hypocrites** do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they **have their reward**.”<sup>5</sup> “And when you pray, you shall not be like the **hypocrites**. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they **have their reward**.”<sup>16</sup> “Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the **hypocrites**, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they **have their reward**.”*

- In the church there is **wheat** but also **tares**

- The **gospel net** gathers into the church both good and bad fish
- In the church there are wise and foolish **virgins**
- In the **bridal chamber** there are guests who accepted the invitation to the wedding but don't have the garment provided by the groom
- In the church are those who **profess the name of Jesus** but are not true believers. They even cast out demons, prophesy, and perform miracles in the name of Jesus. They say: "**Lord, Lord**" but Jesus commands them to depart from Him
- There are even **some ministers** that disguise themselves as **ministers of righteousness** but are instruments of Satan
- There are Christians who have the **form of godliness** but lack the power of true piety

## Judgment in Three Steps

The heavenly judgment transpires much as the judgments that take place in democratic countries on earth. The judgment in heaven follows three successive steps:

- **Investigation** (Revelation 14:6, 7)
- **Sentence** (Revelation 22:11)
- **Reward** (Revelation 22:12)

## Who will be Judged?

**2 Corinthians 5:10**: He is writing to the members of the **Corinthian churches**

*"For we **must all** appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether **good or bad**."*

### **1 Peter 4:17**

*"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 [**the wicked**]?"*

**Only the cases** of those who have **claimed Jesus** as their savior will be examined at this stage of the judgment. Why? Jesus must **reveal to the heavenly universe** who He has a right to take to heaven at **His second coming**. There is **no urgency** to examine the cases of the lost because they will be judged **during and after** the millennium.

The **only sins that are cleansed** from the sanctuary are those that **entered there thorough the blood** in the daily service.

*"In the **typical service** only those who had come before God with **confession and repentance**, and whose sins, through the blood of the sin offering, were transferred to the sanctuary, **had a part** in the service of the Day of Atonement. So in the great day of final atonement and **investigative judgment** **the only cases considered** are those of the **professed people of God**. The judgment of the wicked is a **distinct and separate work**, and takes place at a **later period**. "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?" 1 Peter 4:17." *GC*, p. 480*

## When did the Judgment Begin?

**Acts 17:30, 31:** The judgment was still in the **future in Paul's day**

*"Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because He has **appointed a day [the day of atonement]** on which He **will judge** the world in righteousness **by the Man** whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."*

**Daniel 7:9, 10, 13, 14:** The judgment begins **after 1798**. Notice the sequence:

- Lion
- Bear
- Leopard
- Dragon
- 10 horns
- Little Horn (1260 years)
- Judgment
- Kingdom

*"I watched till thrones were put in place, and the **Ancient of Days** was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; <sup>10</sup> A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him, a thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The **court was seated**, and the **books** were opened. <sup>13</sup> "I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, **coming with the clouds** of heaven! He came **to the Ancient of Days**, and they brought Him near before Him. <sup>14</sup> Then to Him **was given dominion** and glory and **a kingdom**, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and **His kingdom** the one which shall not be destroyed."*

**Revelation 13:2:** Same order as in Daniel 7

*"Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. <sup>2</sup> Now the beast which I saw was like a **leopard**, his feet were like the feet of a **bear**, and his mouth like the mouth of a **lion**. The **dragon [with ten horns]** gave him **[the beast]** his power, his throne, and great authority."*

**Revelation 14:6, 7:** **After** the beasts are mentioned in **chapter 13**, you have, in the very next chapter, an announcement that the hour of God's judgment has come and then the **third angel warns** against the very powers of Revelation 13: The beast, his image, his mark and his number

*"Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the **hour of His judgment has come**; and **worship Him** who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."*

**Leviticus 23:27:** Provides the **very month and day** for the beginning of the judgment (the **tenth** day of the **seventh** month)

*“Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the LORD.*

**Daniel 8:14:** Provides us with **the year** when the judgment begins

*“And he said to me, “For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be **cleansed**.”*

The timing for the beginning of the judgment must be understood within the context of **Revelation 3:7, 8** and **Revelation 11:19** which are in the context of the **sixth church** and the **sixth trumpet**. The door that is opened under the sixth church and the sixth trumpet cannot be the door to the court or the holy Place because Jesus entered those under the period of the apostolic church:

*“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, “These things says He who is holy, He who is true, “He who has the **key of David**, He who **opens** and no one **shuts**, and **shuts** and no one **opens**”:<sup>8</sup> “I know your works. See, I have set before you **an open door**, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.”*

*“Then the temple of God was opened **in heaven**, and the **ark of His covenant** was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.”*

## **Where does the Judgment take Place?**

**Daniel 7:13, 14:** The judgment transpires **in heaven**

*“I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came **to the Ancient of Days**, and they brought Him near before Him. <sup>14</sup> Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.”*

**Matthew 22:11, 12:** The examination of the **garments takes place in heaven**

*“But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did **not have on a wedding garment**.<sup>12</sup> So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless.*

## **What Evidence is Examined in the Judgment?**

It is **not the faith** of individuals that is examined in the judgment **but rather their works**. We are **saved by grace** through faith but we will be **judged by works**. Is this not a **contradiction**? Absolutely not! Works do not save us but they do reveal if we have a saving relationship with Jesus.

Faith is the **invisible side** of works and works are the **visible side** of faith. Some Adventist scholars are **dualists** when it comes to righteousness by faith and **monists** when it comes to the state of the dead. But James links the state of the dead with righteousness by faith:

## **James 2:14-17, 20-26**

*“What does it profit, my brethren, if someone **says** he has faith but does not have works? **Can faith save him?** <sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? <sup>17</sup> Thus also faith **by itself**, if it does not have works, **is dead.** <sup>20</sup> But do you want to know, O foolish man, that **faith without works is dead?** <sup>21</sup> Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? <sup>22</sup> Do you see that faith was working **together** with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? <sup>23</sup> And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” And he was called the friend of God. <sup>24</sup> You see then that a man is **justified by works, and not by faith only.** <sup>25</sup> Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also **justified by works** when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? <sup>26</sup> For as the **body without the spirit** is dead, so **faith without works** is dead also.”*

## **Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14**

*“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all. <sup>14</sup> For God **will bring every work into judgment**, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.”*

The **sincerity of a person’s** repentance is not examined in the daily service. God **accepts the confession** of the sinner and on the **Day of Atonement** it is determined whether the repentance, confession and faith were **sincere or not**—and the works reveal if the person had true faith or not!!

## **Forgiveness Revoked**

The **works or course of the life reveal** whether repentance was genuine as can be seen in the parable of the **two debtors**. For this reason the Bible tells us that salvation is by grace through faith but judgment will be according to works.

## **Matthew 18:23-35**

*“Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain **king [God the Father]** who wanted to **settle accounts [the judgment]** with his servants **[he was in the service of the master]**. <sup>24</sup> And when he had begun to settle accounts, **one was brought** to him who owed him **ten thousand talents [a debt that could not be paid]**. <sup>25</sup> But as he was **not able to pay**, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that **payment be made [this is what he deserved]**. <sup>26</sup> The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and **I will pay you all.**’ <sup>27</sup> Then the master of that servant was moved with **compassion [grace and mercy: unmerited favor]**, **released** him, and **forgave [clearly, he was forgiven]** him the debt. <sup>28</sup> “But that servant went out and found one of his **fellow servants [his neighbor]** who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ <sup>29</sup> So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ <sup>30</sup> And **he would not [he who received forgiveness was not willing to give it]**, but went and threw*

him into prison till he should pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> So when his **fellow servants [the angels]** saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and **told their master** all that had been done. <sup>32</sup> Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! **I forgave you all that debt** because you begged me. <sup>33</sup> Should you not **also have had compassion** on your fellow servant, just as I had **pity on you?**' <sup>34</sup> And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. <sup>35</sup> "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, **does not forgive** his brother his trespasses."

### **Ezekiel 33:13-16**

"When I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, but he trusts in his own righteousness and **commits iniquity, none of his righteous works shall be remembered**; but because of the iniquity that he has committed, he shall die. <sup>14</sup> Again, when I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' if he **turns from his sin and does what is lawful and right**, <sup>15</sup> if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has stolen, and walks in the statutes of life without committing iniquity, he **shall surely live**; he shall not die. <sup>16</sup> None of his sins which he has committed **shall be remembered against him**; he has done what is lawful and right; he shall surely live."

## The Great Cosmic Controversy

“How God Clears His Name from all False Charges”

by Pastor Stephen Bohr

### Lesson #7: Deciphering the Judgment Process Part 2

#### How the Process Works

The judgment process began with those who **first lived** upon the earth and continues **chronologically** with **each succeeding** generation. **Thus Adam** was the first to be judged in **1844**:

*“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**.” *GC*, p. 483*

**John 5:28-29**: The dead are **in their graves** until the resurrection at the **second coming** and therefore **Adam** was **in the grave in 1844**:

*“Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are **in the graves** will hear His voice <sup>29</sup> and **come forth**—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the **resurrection** of condemnation.”*

The **crucial question** at this point is this: If Adam was dead and **in the grave in 1844**, **how** could he be the **first to appear** before the judgment seat of Christ in **that year**?

**Ellen White** provides a simple explanation:

*“The righteous dead will not be raised until after the judgment at which they are accounted worthy of “the resurrection of life.” Hence they **will not be present in person** at the tribunal when **their records** are examined and their cases decided.” *GC*, p. 482*

#### The Content of the Books

When the Bible refers heavenly **books** (in plural), it is speaking about the **life record** that God keeps of each person’s life. When the Bible refers to the heavenly **book** it is speaking about the **heavenly log** where names are kept in the **chronological order** in which they **claimed Christ** at their Savior.

In the Bible the **books (plural)** contain an **exact written transcript** of **the life of Adam**. In other words, they contain a **complete biography** including **actions, motives, words, feelings, emotions, secrets** and **thoughts**.

The **Book of Remembrance** contains our **good deeds** (Malachi 3:16; Nehemiah 13:14; Psalm 56:8):

*"In the book of God's remembrance every deed of righteousness is immortalized. There every temptation resisted, every evil overcome, every word of tender pity expressed, is faithfully chronicled. And every act of sacrifice, every suffering and sorrow endured for Christ's sake, is recorded." GC, p. 481*

### **2 Corinthians 5:10: Actions**

*"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the **things done in the body**, according to what he has done, whether **good or bad**."*

### **Matthew 12:36-37: Words**

*"But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they **will give account** of it in the Day of Judgment. For by your **words** you will be justified, and by your **words** you will be condemned."*

### **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14: Works and secret things**

*"Fear God and keep His Commandments, for this is man's all. <sup>14</sup> For God will bring **every work** into judgment, including every **secret thing**, whether **good or evil**."*

**1 Corinthians 4:5**: God will **unseal the secrets** of the hearts

*"Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the **hidden things** of darkness and **reveal the counsels of the hearts**."*

### **Daniel 7:9-10**

*"I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; <sup>10</sup> A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The **court was seated**, and the **books were opened**."*

### **Revelation 20:12-13**

*"And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and **books** were opened. And **another book** [Notice there is a distinction between 'books' and a 'book'. In a few moments we will speak about the contents of this book] was opened, which is the **Book of Life**. And the dead were judged according to their **works**, by the **things which were written in the books**."*

Jesus is **personally** in **heaven** but on **earth** His life is written in **books** (66 of them). Jesus is the Word of God in person but He is also the written Word of God. We **are personally on earth** but in **heaven we are in books**.

The heavenly books contain a complete biography of Adam: Every **act, every word, every motive, every thought, every emotion, even every opportunity to do good** which we did not take advantage of. There is a complete record of our lives **inside and out!** God has **another me** in heaven.

## The Photography Illustration

Ellen White understood this when she wrote:

*"As the artist takes on the polished glass a true picture of the human face, so the angels of God daily place upon the books of heaven an **exact representation** of the **character of every human being**." In Heavenly Places, p. 360*

The Bible authors described the records of life's history with the word "**books**". Ellen G. White used the idea of **photography**. Notice how she used the word daguerreotype:

*"Remember, your **character** is being **daguerreotyped** [photographed] by the great Master Artist in the record books of heaven, **as minutely** as the face is reproduced upon the polished plate of the artist." Testimonies on Sexual Behavior Adultery and Divorce, p. 62.*

If God called a **prophet today**, I am persuaded that he/she would speak in terms of **video cameras**, and **hard drives**. God speaks to the prophet in the language of his time.

## The Contents of the Book (Singular)

*"The book of life contains **the names** of all who have ever entered the service of God." GC, p. 480*

### Philippians 4:3

*"And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose **names** are in the **Book** of Life."*

### Revelation 3:5

*"He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his **name** from the **Book** of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels."*

### Revelation 13:8

*"All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose **names** have not been written in the **Book of Life** of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."*

### Exodus 32:31-33

*"Then Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! <sup>32</sup> Yet now, if You will forgive their sin--but if not, I pray, blot **me out of Your book** which You have written.""*

### Daniel 12:1

*"At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, **every one who is found written in the book**."*

The 'spirit' is **more than just the breath**. It is the breath along with the **personal identity** of the individual. That is to say, as we write our life story our 'spirit' is '**personalized**'. Would it be too much to say that God keeps an **electronic record** of our lives in heaven?

## What is the Spirit?

### Luke 8:52-56: The daughter of Jairus

*“Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, “Do not weep; **she is not dead, but sleeping.**”<sup>53</sup> And they ridiculed Him, knowing that **she was dead.**”<sup>54</sup> But He put them all outside,<sup>[1]</sup> took her by the hand and called, saying, “Little girl, arise.”<sup>55</sup> Then **her spirit** returned, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given **something to eat.**”*

### Acts 7:57-60: Stephen

*“Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; <sup>58</sup> and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, “Lord Jesus, receive **my spirit.**”<sup>60</sup> Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not charge them with this sin.” And when he had said this, he **fell asleep.**”*

### Luke 23:46: Jesus

*“And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, “Father, ‘into Your hands I commit **My spirit.**”’ Having said this, He **breathed His last.**”*

## Ellen White on the Spirit

Ellen White explains the meaning of the ‘spirit’:

*“Our **personal identity** is **preserved** in the resurrection, though not the **same particles of matter** or material substance as went into the grave. The wondrous works of God are a mystery to man. **The spirit, the character of man, is returned to God, there to be preserved.** In the resurrection every man will have **his own character.** God in His own time will call forth the dead, giving again the **breath of life**, and bidding the dry bones live. The same form will come forth, but it will be free from disease and every defect. It lives again bearing the **same individuality of features**, so that friend will recognize friend. There is no law of God in nature which shows that God gives back the same **identical particles** of matter which composed the body before death. God shall give the righteous dead a body that will please Him.” Maranatha, p. 301*

## Same Identity but Finer Material

*“Paul illustrates this subject by the kernel of grain sown in the field. The planted kernel **decays**, but there comes forth a **new kernel.** The natural substance in the grain that decays is **never raised as before**, but God giveth it a body as it hath pleased Him. A **much finer material** will compose the human body, for it is a new creation, a new birth. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.” Maranatha, p. 301*

## A Practical Example

Imagine someone who owns a **video camera**. He records some **family scenes** and then **turns off** the camera. The owner of the camera puts it away where it remains for the **next ten years**. After ten years he takes out the camera and **records another family event**. On the tape there is **no time interval** between the two events that he recorded. **Our entire life** is like a video production. God records our **actions, thoughts, words, feelings, emotions,**

**intentions and motivations.** When we die, the video camera is **turned off**. When we resurrect the camera **picks up at the precise point** where it left of. One the tape there is no time interval.

### **Job 19:25-27**

*“For I know that **my** Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; <sup>26</sup> and after **my** skin is destroyed, this I know, that in **my** flesh I shall see God, <sup>27</sup> whom **I shall see for myself** and **my eyes** shall behold, and **not another**. How my heart yearns within me!”*

## **The People on the Day of Atonement**

Sometimes we **emphasize so much** what the **High Priest** did in the Most Holy Place on the Day of Atonement that **we forget** the importance of the **people’s response**. But it is vitally important to take into account what the congregation did on the Day of Atonement while the high priest was cleansing the sanctuary.

*“While the investigative judgment is going forward **in heaven**, while the sins of penitent believers are being removed from the sanctuary, there is to be a special work of purification, of putting away of sin, **among God’s people upon earth**.” GC, p. 425*

**Leviticus 23:27-32:** Notice what the people did outside the sanctuary while the high priest cleansed the inside

*“Also the **tenth day** of this **seventh month** shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a **holy convocation** for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. <sup>28</sup> And you shall do **no work** on that same day, for it is the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the LORD your God. <sup>29</sup> For any person who is **not afflicted in soul** on that same day shall be cut off from his people. <sup>30</sup> And any person **who does any work** on that same day, that person I will destroy from among his people. <sup>31</sup> You shall do **no manner of work**; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. <sup>32</sup> It shall be to you a sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall **afflict your souls**; on the ninth day of the month at evening, from evening to evening, you shall celebrate your sabbath.”*

In **summary**, the **congregation** had a role to play on the Day of Atonement while the High Priest was cleansing the sanctuary:

- Announced by the sound of the **trumpets**
- While the high priest was **purifying the sanctuary**, the people were gathered outside **afflicting their souls** (Leviticus 16:29, 30, 23:27)
- The congregation **fasted** (Isaiah 58; Joel 2:11ff)

*“The true fasting which should be recommended to all, is abstinence from every stimulating kind of food, and the proper use of wholesome simple food, which God has provided in abundance.” MM, p. 283*

### **Isaiah 58:6-7:**

*“Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke? <sup>7</sup> Is it not to*

*share your bread with the hungry, and that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; when you see the naked, that you cover him, and not hide yourself from your own flesh?"*

- The congregation was to **abstain from work** because their minds needed to be focused on the work of Christ (**Leviticus 16:29, 30; 23:28**)
- As the high priest blotted out the sins of the people **from the sanctuary** the people were to **blot out sin from their soul** temple through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Leviticus 23 explains that those who did not afflict their souls were to be **cut off** from the congregation and destroyed (**Leviticus 23:28-30**). The loud cry of Revelation 18:1-5 refers to two groups at the end: Those in Babylon and those who come out.

## **Victory over Sin**

**Revelation 6:14-17** describes the second coming of Christ. **Verse 17** ends with a question:

*"For the great day of His wrath has come and who shall be able to stand?"*

The **answer** to this question is in **Revelation 7:1-8** and **Revelation 14:1-5**. Only those who are sealed with the **seal of God** and have the **sterling character qualities** of the 144,000 will be able to stand when Jesus comes.

- The **follow the Lamb** wherever He goes
- They were **not defiled** with women
- There was **no deceit** in their mouths
- They are **without fault** before the throne of God

But Revelation 6:17 is **not the only place** where the question is asked and answered. There are several **other texts** as well and in each case, the question is answered with a description of the **sterling character** of the faithful. After describing the second coming of Christ in **Joel 2:1-10**, the question is asked:

### **Joel 2:11**

*"The LORD gives voice before **His army**, for **His camp** is very great; for strong is the One who executes His word. For the day of the LORD is **great and very terrible, who can endure it?**"*

The answer is given in verses 12-17 in terms of the **Day of Atonement**:

- Announced by the sound of **the trumpets**
- They were required to **gather around** the sanctuary to **follow the work** of the high priest
- **Returning** to God with all their hearts with **fasting, weeping** and **mourning**
- **Rending the heart** and not the garments
- Blowing the **trumpet** in Zion
- Call an **assembly** and a **fast**
- **Sanctify** the assembly
- The **ministers** are to **weep** between the porch and the altar

## Psalm 15

"LORD, **who** may abide in Your tabernacle [**the sanctuary**]? **Who** may dwell in Your holy hill [**Zion**]? <sup>2</sup> He who **walks** uprightly, and **works** righteousness, and **speaks** the truth in his heart; <sup>3</sup> he who **does not** backbite with his tongue, **nor does** evil to his neighbor, **nor does** he take up a reproach against his friend; <sup>4</sup> In whose eyes a vile person is despised, but he **honors** those who fear the LORD; he who **swears** to his own hurt and does not change [**does not break his promises**]; <sup>5</sup> he who does not put out his **money at usury**, nor does he take a **bribe** against the innocent. He who **does** these things shall **never be moved** [**who shall be able to stand?**]"

## Isaiah 33:14-16

"The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness has seized the hypocrites: "**Who** among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? **Who** among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?" <sup>15</sup> He who **walks righteously** and **speaks** uprightly, he who **despises the gain** of oppressions, who gestures with his hands, **refusing bribes**, who stops his **ears** from **hearing** of bloodshed, and shuts his **eyes** from seeing evil: <sup>16</sup> He will dwell on high; his **place of defense** will be the fortress of rocks; **bread** will be given him, his **water** will be sure."

## Psalm 24:3-6

"**Who** may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or **who** may stand in His holy place? <sup>4</sup> He who has **clean hands** and a **pure heart**: who has not lifted up his soul to an **idol**, nor **sworn** deceitfully. <sup>5</sup> He shall receive blessing from the LORD, and **righteousness from the God** of his salvation. <sup>6</sup> This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him, who seek Your face."

"Now, while our great High Priest is making the atonement for us, we should **seek to become perfect** in Christ. **Not even by a thought** could our Saviour be brought to yield to the power of temptation. Satan finds in human hearts some point where he can gain a foothold; some sinful desire is cherished, by means of which his temptations assert their power. But Christ declared of Himself: "The prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in Me." John 14:30. Satan could **find nothing in the Son of God** that would enable him to gain the victory. He had kept His Father's commandments, and there was no sin in Him that Satan could use to his advantage. **This is the condition in which those must be found who shall stand in the time of trouble.**" GC, p. 623

"Those who are living upon the earth when the intercession of Christ shall cease in the sanctuary above are to stand in the sight of a holy God **without a mediator**. Their robes must be **spotless**; their **characters must be purified from sin** by the blood of sprinkling. Through the **grace of God** and their **own diligent effort** they must be **conquerors in the battle with evil**. While the investigative judgment is going forward in heaven, while the sins of penitent believers are being **removed from the sanctuary**, there is to be a special work of purification, of **putting away of sin**, among **God's people upon earth**. This work is more clearly presented in the messages of Revelation 14. When this work shall have been accomplished, the followers of Christ **will be ready** for His appearing." GC, p. 425

## How can the life be cleansed from sin?

### Ephesians 5:25-27

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might **sanctify and cleanse her** with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having **spot or wrinkle** or any such thing, but that she should be **holy and without blemish**."

### Psalm 119:9-11

"How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. <sup>10</sup> With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! <sup>11</sup> Your **word I have hidden in my heart**, that I might not sin against You."

Hebrews 12:1-3: We are to behold the cross in order to gain the victory

"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by **so great a cloud of witnesses**, let us **lay aside** every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us **run with endurance** the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> **looking unto Jesus**, the author and finisher [**beginning and end**] of our **faith**, who for the joy that was set before Him **endured the cross**, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

### 2 Corinthians 3:18

"But we all, with unveiled face, **beholding** as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, **are being transformed** into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."

## Distinctive Truths

The **distinctive truths** of the Seventh-day Adventist Church are revealed in the **Most Holy Place**:

- The **Law**: The foundation of **God's throne** in the Most Holy Place (Deuteronomy 10:1-5)

*"Many and earnest were the efforts made to overthrow their faith. None could fail to see that if the earthly sanctuary was a figure or pattern of the heavenly, the law deposited in the ark on earth was an exact transcript of the law in the ark in heaven; and that an acceptance of the truth concerning the heavenly sanctuary involved an acknowledgment of the claims of God's law and the obligation of the Sabbath of the fourth commandment. Here was the secret of the bitter and determined opposition to the harmonious exposition of the Scriptures that revealed the ministration of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary. Men sought to close the door which God had opened, and to open the door which He had closed. But "He that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth," had declared: "Behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it." Revelation 3:7, 8."*  
*GC, p. 435*

- The **Sabbath**: The Fourth Commandment of God's Holy Law (Deuteronomy 10:1-5)
- The Sabbath as a **test** (Exodus 16:4)

*“And I saw that if God had changed the Sabbath from the seventh to the first day, He would have changed the writing of the Sabbath commandment, written on the tables of stone, which are now in the ark in the most holy place of the temple in heaven; and it would read thus: The first day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God. But I saw that it read the same as when written on the tables of stone by the finger of God, and delivered to Moses on Sinai, “But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God.” I saw that the holy Sabbath is, and will be, the separating wall between the true Israel of God and unbelievers; and that the Sabbath is the great question to unite the hearts of God’s dear, waiting saints.” CET, p. 93*

- The importance of a **healthful diet** (Numbers 11)
- The pre-Advent investigative **judgment** (Leviticus 16; Revelation 11:19)
- The **state of the dead**: If the judgment began at a certain point of time in 1844 then no one was judged and went to heaven or to hell at death! (Revelation 14:6, 7)
- The **unique High Priesthood** of Jesus (Numbers 17:1-10) . It is significant that this event took place immediately after Korah, Dathan and Abirum wanted to change the order of the priesthood that God had established.
- But **only those who enter the Most Holy Place** with Jesus are able to understand the importance of these truths. These are the truths that are most misunderstood and even **despised by the Christian world**.

When will the **judgment of the living** begin? We don’t exactly know but we do know that it is related to the **outpouring of the latter rain**, the Sunday law and the **Loud Cry**. This trial will lead everyone to make a **final decision** in favor or against the Lord. When **every single case** has been examined and Christ’s **kingdom is made up, probation will close** and Jesus will **cease His intercessory** work in the Most Holy Place and the **time of trouble** will begin. This will be our next subject of study. **What** will happen **after probation closes? Why does God allow** His people to pass through the time of trouble such as never was? **Why** not take them **right to heaven** when probation closes? God must have a purpose!!

## Review of the Lesson

- **Who was cleansed** in the daily service?
- How is it possible for a **Most Holy Place** in heaven to be **defiled by sin**?
- Why is there a need for an investigation if **God knows** the end from the beginning?
- What are the **three steps** of the judgment
- **Where** does the judgment transpire before the second coming?
- **When** did the judgment begin?
- Which is the **only group that will be judged** before the second coming of Jesus?
- What **evidence** is examined in the judgment?
- In **what order** are cases examined?
- Who was **first to be judged**?
- **Where was Adam in 1844** when he appeared before God’s judgment seat?
- How could **Adam** appear before Christ’s judgment seat in 1844 **if he was dead**?
- What evidence is examined in the judgment?

- What is contained in the heavenly **books**?
- What is contained in the heavenly **book**?
- What is the **spirit that returns** to God?
- Which will be the **final group to be judged**? How will we know when this state of the judgment is about to begin?
- What **should the living be doing** while Jesus is cleansing the sanctuary in heaven?

## The Great Cosmic Controversy

“How God Clears His Name from all False Charges”

by Pastor Stephen Bohr

### Lesson #8: Living Without an Intercessor

#### Judgment Completes Christ’s Kingdom

**Daniel 7:9, 10, 13, 14:** The judgment begins after 1798 and the purpose is for Jesus to make up His kingdom. His kingdom is not primarily territorial but rather the people are His kingdom:

*“I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; <sup>10</sup>A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him, a thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened. <sup>13</sup>“I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. <sup>14</sup> Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.”*

When the investigative judgment concludes all cases have been decided and the kingdom of Jesus is complete. Every single follower of Jesus has been found worthy of eternal life and the sentence is pronounced in favor of the saints of the Most High.

*“When the work of investigation shall be ended, when the cases of those who in all ages have professed to be followers of Christ have been examined and decided, then, and not till then, probation will close, and the door of mercy will be shut.” GC, p. 428*

But the subjects of the kingdom have not yet received their reward. Between the sentence and the reward there will be a period of time known as the great tribulation or the time of Jacob’s trouble.

## The Close of Probation

### Function #5: Jesus ceases His intercession in the Most Holy Place

**Daniel 12:4:** When the book is shut or sealed a message cannot go out of it.

*"But you, Daniel, **shut up** the words, and **seal** the book **until** the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and **knowledge shall increase**."*

#### **Revelation 22:10-12**

*"And he said to me, "**Do not seal** the words of the prophecy of this book, for the **time is at hand**.<sup>11</sup> **[the sentence]** He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous<sup>[e]</sup> still; he who is holy, let him be holy still. "**[the reward]** And behold, I am coming quickly, and My **reward is with Me**, to give to every one according to his work."*

**Revelation 15:5-8:** This transpires **after the messages** of Revelation **14**

*"After these things I looked, and behold, **the temple of the tabernacle** of the testimony in heaven **was opened**.<sup>6</sup> And **out of** the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues, clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands.<sup>7</sup> Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls **full of the wrath of God** who lives forever and ever.<sup>8</sup> The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and **no one was able to enter** the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed."*

**Daniel 12:1:** The **king of the north** (little horn, beast, man of sin, abomination of desolation, harlot) goes out with the intention of **slaying God's people**. Explain wht **taking over the kingdom** is according to Daniel 7.

*"At that time Michael shall **stand up**, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a **time of trouble**, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be **delivered**, every one who is found **written in the book**."*

#### **Daniel 11:2, 3**

*"And now I will tell you the truth: Behold, three more kings will **arise [stand up]** in Persia, and the fourth shall be far richer than them all; by his strength, through his riches, he shall stir up all against the realm of Greece.<sup>3</sup> Then a mighty king shall **arise [stand up]**, who shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will."*

#### **Genesis 7:16** with **Matthew 24:37-39**

*"So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the **LORD shut him in**."*

*"But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.<sup>38</sup> For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, **until** the day that Noah entered the ark,<sup>39</sup> and did not know **until** the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."*

## The Time of Trouble

Satan complains that he has **never been allowed** to implement his style of government without **interference or restrictions** on the part of God. He claims that if **God had allowed him** to test the saints to the utmost they would have **forsaken their allegiance** to God. So God will allow Satan to **test them to the utmost**.

**Daniel 12:1:** The **king of the north** goes out with the intention of **slaying God's people**. A time of **trouble** will ensue but God's people will be **delivered**, those who are written in the book. Their **names were retained** in the book when their cases came up in the judgment.

*"At that time Michael shall **stand up**, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a **time of trouble**, such as **never was** since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be **delivered**, every one who is found **written in the book**."*

### **Matthew 24:21-22**

*"For then there will be **great tribulation**, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. <sup>22</sup> And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened."*

Satan will be allowed to **afflict** God's faithful people to the **utmost** but will not be allowed to **take their lives**. The subjects of Christ's kingdom will **lose everything—possessions, houses, lands, health, family and friends**. They will need **absolute assurance** that their **sins have been forgiven** because Satan will tempt them to think that their sins are too great to have been forgiven. For the **first time** in history Satan will be allowed to implement, **without restrictions**, the style of government that he wanted to establish in the universe.

They will go through an experience similar to **Job**. They will have to live by **naked faith** in the promises of God **not depending** on their thoughts, emotions or feelings. The **universe** will see that God's people serve the Lord out of **pure love** and **nothing else**. The story of **Daniel 3 and 6** illustrate this. **God's people** will go through their **Gethsemane and the cross**.

*"The forces of the powers of darkness will unite with human agents who have given themselves unto the control of Satan, and **the same scenes that were exhibited at the trial, rejection and crucifixion of Christ will be revived**. Through yielding to satanic influences men will be merged into fiends, and those who were created in the image of God, who were formed to honor and glorify their Creator, will become the habitation of dragons, and Satan will see in an apostate race his masterpiece of evil--men who reflect his own image." *Review and Herald*, April 14, 1896*

## The Scapegoat Azazel

**Leviticus 16:7:** **After cleansing** the sanctuary, the high priest went to the **entrance** of the tabernacle of meeting where the **scapegoat was waiting**:

*"He shall take the two goats and present them before the LORD **at the door** of the tabernacle of meeting."*

The Azazel ceremony was the **last that was performed** by the high priest on the Day of Atonement. Immediately after this ceremony the high priest would **return to the Most Holy Place and change his garments**. The **only sins** that were placed on the scapegoat were those that **had entered the sanctuary** through the blood during the daily service.

It is important to remember that the **sacrificial aspect** of the Day of Atonement took place at the cross. The **greatest assurance** to the sinner was having the sins in the sanctuary covered by the blood.

Is **Azazel** then **our savior**?

- The two goats are clearly **opposites or contrary** (**Leviticus 16:8-10**). If one is for the Lord then the other one cannot also be for the Lord.
- In **Jewish tradition** (the **book of Enoch**) Azazel is a **malignant being** that is the archenemy of God.
- When the sins were placed on the head of the scapegoat everything had **already been cleansed** by the shed blood of the Lord's goat (**Leviticus 16:8, 9, 20**).
- The blood of the scapegoat **was not shed** and without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin (**Hebrews 9:22**).
- Azazel was cast out to the **wilderness** where there were **no inhabitants** (**Leviticus 16:22**). This certainly did not happen to Jesus but will happen to the devil during the Millennium (**Revelation 20**).

## **Did Jesus Suffer the Second Death?**

Sometimes **I ask** my Protestant friends: *"Which death is the wages of sin, the first or the second?"*

**They answer**: *"The second death."*

**I then ask**:

*"What is second death?"*

**The answer** comes back:

*"Second death is eternal separation from God."*

Then **I ask** another question:

*"Did Jesus suffer the second death?"*

**The answer** comes back quickly:

*"Yes He did."*

Then **I ask** my final question:

*"If Jesus suffered the second death why isn't He eternally separated from God?"*

**The answer** is usually silence!

At the **end of the millennium** it is Satan, his angels and the wicked that will suffer second death (Revelation 20:14, 15). Satan will suffer for his own sins and all those that were committed by the righteous and the wicked will suffer second death for their own sins.

**Hebrews 9:27, 28:** When Jesus returns to the earth He will be **without sin** because He will have transferred it to Azazel.

*“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,<sup>28</sup> so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, **apart from sin**, for salvation.”*

## **Change of Garments**

**Hebrews 8:1, 2** Jesus is described as the **High Priest**

*“Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: **We have such a High Priest**, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,<sup>2</sup> a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.”*

**Revelation 19:11-15** When Jesus returns He is garbed as **King:**

*“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.<sup>12</sup> His eyes were like a flame of fire, and **on His head were many crowns**. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.<sup>13</sup> He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.<sup>14</sup> And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.<sup>15</sup> Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.<sup>16</sup> And He has **on His robe** and on His thigh a name written: **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.**”*

## **Ellen White Puts it all Together**

Ellen White describes the **sequence of events:**

*“Every case had been decided for life or death. While Jesus had been ministering in the sanctuary, the judgment had been going on for the righteous dead, and then for the righteous living. **Christ had received His kingdom [Daniel 7:13, 14]**, having made the atonement for His people and blotted out their sins. The **subjects of the kingdom were made up**. The marriage of the Lamb was consummated. And the kingdom, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, was given to Jesus and the heirs of salvation, and Jesus was to reign as **King of kings and Lord of lords [Revelation 19:11-16]**.”*

*As Jesus moved out of the most holy place, I heard the tinkling of the bells upon His garment; and as He left, a cloud of darkness covered the inhabitants of the earth. There was **then no mediator [Revelation 22:11]** between guilty man and an offended God. While Jesus had been standing between God and guilty man, a restraint was upon the people; but when He stepped out from between man and the Father, the **restraint was removed** and Satan had **entire***

**control** of the **finally impenitent**. It was impossible for the plagues to be poured out while Jesus officiated in the sanctuary; but as His work there is finished, and His intercession closes, there is **nothing to stay the wrath of God**, and it breaks with fury upon the shelterless head of the guilty sinner, who has slighted salvation and hated reproof. In that fearful time, after the close of Jesus' mediation, the saints were living in the sight of a holy God **without an intercessor**. **Every case was decided**, every jewel numbered. Jesus tarried a moment in the **outer apartment** of the heavenly sanctuary, and the sins which had been confessed while He was in the most holy place were placed upon Satan, the originator of sin, who must suffer **their punishment**. Then I saw Jesus **lay off His priestly attire** and clothe Himself with His **most kingly robes**. Upon His head were many crowns, a crown within a crown. Surrounded by the angelic host, He left heaven." *EW*, pp. 280 281

## The Reward

### **John 13:36, 37; 14:1-3**

"Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, where are You going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you shall **follow Me afterward**." <sup>37</sup> Peter said to Him, "Lord, why can I not **follow You now**? I will lay down my life for Your sake."

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again** and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

Jesus made **two promises** to his followers that at first sight **appear to be contradictory**:

- First, He promised to take His people to heaven (**John 14:1-3**)
- Second, He promised that they would inherit the earth (**Matthew 5:5**)

How can Jesus fulfill **both promises**?

Those who teach a **pre-tribulation rapture** teach that when Jesus comes for the second coming He will reign with His people **on earth** for a thousand years so somehow they have to explain how Jesus can fulfill the promise that He would take His people to heaven. Their solution is to teach that **seven years before** the second coming, Jesus will take His people **to heaven** and after the seven years He will bring them **back to earth** for the millennium.

But there is **another explanation** that makes more sense because it is biblical.

- Jesus will come for the second time and take **His people to heaven for a thousand years** thus fulfilling the **first promise**
- After the millennium Jesus will return **with His people** to the earth, judge and destroy Satan and the ungodly and to set up **His everlasting kingdom** and the saints will **inherit the earth**.

## **Revelation 22:12**

*“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My **reward is with Me**, to give to every one according to his work.*

## **2 Timothy 4:6-8**

*“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. <sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup>Finally, there is laid up for me the **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me **on that Day**, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”*

## **Matthew 16:27**

*“For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and **then** He will reward each according to his works.”*

**1 Thessalonians 4:15-17**: The dead and the living receive their rewards at the same time so the dead could not have gone to heaven before the second coming

*“For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive and remain shall be **caught up together with them in the clouds** to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”*



## The Great Cosmic Controversy

“How God Clears His Name from all False Charges”

by Pastor Stephen Bohr

### Lesson #9: The Faithful Generation

#### Introduction

In our **last study** together we talked about the **close of probation** and the **cessation** of Christ’s ministry as High Priest in the Most Holy Place. We also touched upon the **time of trouble** for God’s people that will ensue **when probation closes**. In this study we will look at several **snapshots or glimpses** of issues relating to the time of trouble.

**Someone might say:** How can you **link all these ‘tribulation passages’**? The answer is that the Bible is its **own interpreter** and all of these passages have a common **central theme:** the time of **trouble and deliverance** for God’s people. It would be **illegitimate to connect** passages if they did not have a common theme.

#### Common Denominators

Each one of these passages has the following elements:

- A **faithful remnant**
- An **enemy** that is adversarial to the remnant
- Time of **trouble** for the remnant because of the enemies
- A **delay** in God’s response to deliver the remnant from their enemies
- The **faith** of the remnant is **severely tested**
- The remnant is **delivered**

#### Daniel 12:1

**Daniel 11:44** describes the **king of the north** coming with the intention of destroying and annihilating the remnant. The king of the north symbolizes the **Roman Catholic papacy**. The same power is described as the **clay** (Daniel 2), the **little horn** (Daniel 7, 8), the **beast** (Revelation 13:1-10), the **man of sin** (2 Thessalonians 2), the **abomination of desolation** (Matthew 24:15), the **antichrist** (1 John 2), and the **harlot** (Revelation 17)

**Daniel 12:1:** The **key word** that we want to dwell on is **‘delivered’** This key word is used in only **two other chapters** of Daniel, chapters 3 and 6 so these chapters must be related. We will take a look at **four expressions** in Daniel 12:1:

*"At that time Michael shall [1] **stand up**, the great prince who **stands watch** over the sons of your people; and there shall be a [2] **time of trouble**, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time and at that time your people [3] **shall be delivered**, every one who is found [4] **written in the book**."*

**Note:** The expression 'stand up' is only one word in Hebrew, *hamad*. The word is used in Daniel 11:2, 3 to describe a king who **stands up to reign**. The standing up of Michael must mean that Jesus **begins to reign** at the **close of probation** because the investigative judgment has revealed who is a subject of His kingdom. When probation closes, Christ's kingdom has been **made up and is complete**. He can now reign over His people because their number is complete. It will be noticed that the purpose of Jesus standing up is to stand watch over His people, to protect them from their enemies.

**Daniel 11:2, 3:** What is meant by '**standing up**'

*"And now I will tell you the truth: Behold, three more kings will **arise [stand up]** in Persia, and the fourth shall be far richer than them all; by his strength, through his riches, he shall stir up all against the realm of Greece. <sup>3</sup> Then a mighty king shall **arise [stand up]**, who shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will."*

**Note:** After the close of probation the **worst time of trouble** in history will ensue. God's people will **still be on earth** during this period and their faith will be **severely tested**. None of them will perish but **God will delay** in delivering them.

**Genesis 7:16** with **Matthew 24:37-39:** **Time of trouble** after the **closing of the door**

*"So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the **LORD shut him in**."*

**Note:** The **times of Noah** help us understand the meaning of Daniel 12:1. Probation closed for the antediluvian world when the **door of the ark** was shut by God. The **saved were inside** and the **lost were outside**. But the destruction did **not come immediately**. Seven days passed between the closing of the door and the cataclysm. During this period the wicked became **ever more daring** in their violence against Noah and his family and their faith was **severely tested**. The deliverance of Noah and his family did not come immediately, **there was a delay:**

*"For seven days after Noah and his family entered the ark, there appeared no sign of the coming storm. During this period their **faith was tested**. It was a time of triumph to the world without. The **apparent delay** confirmed them in the belief that Noah's message was a delusion, and that the Flood would never come. Notwithstanding the solemn scenes which they had witnessed--the beasts and birds entering the ark, and the angel of God closing the door--they still continued their sport and revelry, even making a jest of these signal manifestations of God's power. They gathered in crowds about the ark, **deriding its inmates with a daring violence** which they had never ventured upon before." *PP*, pp. 98, 99*

*"But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. <sup>38</sup> For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, **until** the day that Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and did not know **until** the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."*

Note: What happened in the day of Noah is a type of what will happen to God's people at the end of time.

- A **faithful remnant**: The righteous
- **Enemies** that are adversarial to the remnant: Those who worship the beast, his image and receive the mark
- A time of **trouble** for the remnant for not worshiping the beast, his image or receiving his mark
- A **delay** in God's response to deliver the remnant from their enemies
- The **faith** of the remnant will be **severely tested** (Revelation 13:10: 14:12)
- The remnant will be **delivered**

## **Jacob's Struggle with the Angel**

The story of Jacob in **Genesis 32**:

- Jacob's brother [the antidikon] was coming with **400 men armed to the teeth** with the intention of destroying Jacob and his family
- Jacob and his family were totally **defenseless**
- Jacob feared that his brother would **destroy him and his family**
- He wanted assurance that the sin he committed **20 years earlier** was forgiven
- **Jacob alone** poured out his heart to God in **prayer** for deliverance:

*"**I am not worthy** of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies. <sup>11</sup> **Deliver** me, I pray, from the **hand of my brother**, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, lest he come and **attack me** and the mother with the children."*

- He wrestled with **the Angel of the Covenant**. There can be no doubt that this **Angel was God** because Jacob claimed that he had **seen God face to face** and called the place '**Peniel**', 'face of God'
- Jacob refused to let Jesus go until He **blessed him**
- After blessing Him Jesus **changed his name**
- Jacob was **delivered** from the **wrath** of his brother

### **Genesis 32:24-31**:

*"Then Jacob was **left alone**; and a **Man wrestled** with him until the breaking of day. <sup>25</sup> Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as **He wrestled with him**. <sup>26</sup> And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said: "I will not let You go unless **You bless me!**" <sup>27</sup> So He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob." <sup>28</sup> And He said: "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but **Israel**; for you have **struggled with God** and with men, and have **prevailed**." <sup>29</sup> Then Jacob asked, saying, "Tell me Your name, I pray." And He said: "Why is it that you ask about My name?" And He blessed him there. <sup>30</sup> So Jacob called the name of the place **Peniel**: "For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved."*

## The Time of Jacob's Trouble

**Jeremiah 30:7:** The children of Israel as a nation, experienced the anguish of their forefather when they were taken into Babylonian **captivity**:

*"For thus says the LORD: 'We have heard a voice of **trembling, of fear**, and not of peace. <sup>6</sup> Ask now, and see, whether a man is ever **in labor** with child? So why do I see every man with his **hands on his loins** like a woman in labor, and all **faces turned pale**? <sup>7</sup> Alas! For that day is **great**, so that none is like it; and it is **the time of Jacob's trouble**, but he shall be **saved** out of it. <sup>8</sup> 'For it shall come to pass in that day,' says the LORD of hosts, 'that I will **break his yoke** from your neck, and will **burst your bonds**; foreigners shall no more **enslave them**. <sup>9</sup> But they shall serve the LORD their God, and **David their king**, whom I will raise up for them."*

*"Jacob's experience during that night of **wrestling and anguish** represents the trial through which the people of God must pass just **before Christ's second coming**. The prophet Jeremiah, in holy vision looking down to this time, said, "We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. . . All faces are turned into paleness. Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even **the time of Jacob's trouble**; but he shall be saved out of it" (Jeremiah 30:5-7" *PP*, p. 201*

*"I saw that the four angels would hold the four winds until Jesus' work was done in the sanctuary, and then will come the seven last plagues. These plagues enraged the **wicked against the righteous**; they thought that we had brought the judgments of God upon them, and that if they could rid the earth of us, the plagues would then be stayed. A decree went forth **to slay the saints**, which caused them to **cry day and night for deliverance**. This was the **time of Jacob's trouble**. [See Genesis 32.] Then all the saints **cried out with anguish of spirit**, and were **delivered** by the voice of God. The one hundred and forty-four thousand **triumphed**. Their faces were lighted up with the glory of God." *Christian Experience and Teaching*, p. 100*

- A **faithful remnant**: The righteous
- **Enemies** that are adversarial to the remnant: Those who worship the beast, his image and receive the mark
- A time of **trouble** for the remnant for not worshipping the beast, his image or receiving his mark
- A **delay** in God's response to deliver the remnant from their enemies
- The **faith** of the remnant will be **severely tested** (Revelation 13:10: 14:12)
- The remnant will be **delivered**

## The Great Tribulation in Matthew 24

### Matthew 24:21, 22, 29-31

**The tribulation:** Ellen White applies this **great tribulation** to **two periods**. In other words, the great tribulation has two stages with a period of **respite in between**. The papacy persecuted in the past for 1260 years—the worst in terms of **length**—and a great earthquake (1755) and signs in the sun (1780), moon (1780) and stars (1833) announced the coming end of that period. At the end of the 1260 years the papacy received a deadly wound and for the last 200 years, persecution has ceased. But Revelation 13:3 states that the deadly wound will be healed and the papacy will persecute again. This period of persecution

will be shorter but **more intense** and will also be announced by a great earthquake and signs in the sun, moon and stars. Thus, Matthew 24:21, 22 has a two-fold application, to the past and to the future.

*“For then there will be **great tribulation**, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, **nor ever shall be**.<sup>22</sup> And unless those days were **shortened**, no flesh would be saved; but for the **elect's sake** those days will be shortened.”*

### **The Deliverance:**

*<sup>29</sup> **“Immediately after the tribulation** of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>30</sup> Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup> And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they **will gather together His elect from the four winds**, from one end of heaven to the other.”*

### **The widow of Luke 18:1-8**

This parable illustrates the great tribulation of **Matthew 24** because the word ‘elect’ is used in both.

Though the parable has a **general application** in all times, it applies **specially** to events that occur immediately before the second coming. We know this because it parable is **sandwiched between** references to the second coming. Immediately before the parable, Jesus was speaking about the days of **Noah** and the days of **Lot** and at the conclusion of the parable Jesus asked the question: “When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith in the earth?”

The parable revolves around four ideas:

- The **judge**
- The **widow**
- The **adversary**
- The **delay**

*“Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and **not lose heart**,<sup>2</sup> saying: “There was in a certain city a **judge [representing God]** who did not fear God nor regard man **[he was secular]**.<sup>3</sup> Now there was a **widow [the church destituted of all human support]** in that city; and she **came [kept coming]** to him, saying, ‘Get justice for me from my **adversary [Satan who had cleaned her out]**.’<sup>4</sup> And he would **not for a while [there was a delay]**; but afterward he said within himself, ‘Though I do not fear God nor regard man,<sup>5</sup> yet because this widow **troubles me** I will avenge her, lest by her **continual coming** she **weary me [God will also delay, but in contrast to the judge, for a different reason]**.”<sup>6</sup> Then the Lord said, “Hear what the unjust judge said.<sup>7</sup> And shall **God [the judge]** not **avenge** His own **elect [the widow]** who cry out **day and night** to Him **[continual coming]**, though He **bears long** with them? **[though He delays to answer them]**<sup>8</sup> I tell you that He will **avenge** them speedily **[will deliver them from the antidikon—Satan]**. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man **comes**, will He really find faith on the earth?”*

Ellen White applies this parable to the time of trouble:

*"The people of God must drink of the cup and be baptized with the baptism. The **very delay, so painful to them**, is the **best answer** to their petitions. As they endeavor to wait **trustingly** for the Lord to work they are led to **exercise faith**, hope, and **patience**, which have been too little exercised during their religious experience. Yet for the **elect's sake** the time of trouble **will be shortened [Matthew 24:21, 22]**. "Shall not God avenge His own elect, which cry day and night unto Him? . . . I tell you that He will avenge them speedily." Luke 18:7, 8. The end will come **more quickly than men expect**. The wheat will be gathered and bound in sheaves for the garner of God; the tares will be bound as fagots for the fires of destruction." GC, p. 630*

## **The First Amendment**

Now we must digress for a moment and review the **first amendment** to the Constitution of the United States. In a few moments you will see how this relates to the subject of the time of trouble.

As is well known, the beast that comes from the earth represents the United States and its two horns represent civil and religious liberty which are the founding principles of the nation.

*'Among the Christian exiles who first fled to America and sought an asylum from **royal oppression** and **priestly intolerance** were many who determined to establish a government upon the broad foundation of **civil** and **religious** liberty. Their views found place in the Declaration of Independence, which sets forth the great truth that "all men are created equal" and endowed with the inalienable right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." And the **Constitution** guarantees to the people the right of self-government, providing that representatives elected by the popular vote shall enact and administer the laws. **Freedom of religious faith** was also granted; every man being permitted to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience. **Republicanism [civil liberty]** and Protestantism [**religious liberty**] became the **fundamental principles** of the nation. These principles are the **secret of its power and prosperity**." GC, p. 441*

The first amendment to the Constitution contains the **two foundational principles** upon which the United States was built:

*"Congress shall make no law respecting an [1] **establishment of religion**, or prohibiting [2] **the free exercise thereof**; or [3] abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."*

The first two clauses of the First Amendment bar congress from making any Law that establishes religion or forbids its free exercise. Thus it would be unconstitutional for congress to write a law that **establishes** Sunday observance or forbids the **free exercise** of observing the Sabbath.

The third clause of the First Amendment guarantees **civil liberties** among which are freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly.

Sadly, Scripture tells us that the United States will repudiate these principles and return power to the papacy by writing and enforcing unconstitutional laws. We are told that the beast from the earth will not fight against the beast from the sea but rather will help it recover the power that it lost at the end of the 1260 years:

- The land beast speaks like a **dragon**
- It will exercise **all the authority** of the **first beast**
- It will do its baleful work **in the presence** (on behalf of) the **first beast**
- It will command all the earth dwellers to **worship** the **first beast**
- It will make an **image** of the **first beast**
- It will enforce the **mark** of the **first beast**

This will bring about a crisis of gargantuan proportions upon God's people. All of the elements of the time of trouble passages will be present in the final crisis:

- A **faithful remnant**: The 144,000
- **Enemies** that are adversarial to the remnant: Those who worship the beast, his image and receive the mark
- A time of **trouble** for the remnant for not worshipping the beast, his image or receiving his mark
- A **delay** in God's response to deliver the remnant from their enemies
- The **faith** of the remnant will be **severely tested** (Revelation 13:10: 14:12)
- The remnant will finally be **delivered**

There are two stories in the book of Daniel that illustrate the crisis that God's people will go through: Daniel chapters 3 and 6.

### **The Crisis of Daniel 3**

- The **link** between Daniel 3 and Revelation 13 is obvious. In both we see the **beast**, an **image**, a **number**, a **command** by the **civil power to worship**, a **death decree** against those who fail to worship and **deliverance** by Jesus Christ in person for those who **remain faithful**
- Whereas the story of Daniel 3 is **literal and local** (literal image, literal bowing down, literal valley, literal Israel, literal furnace) its end time application is **symbolic** and **global** and applies to spiritual Israelites, the 144,000
- The central issue in Daniel 3 has to do with the first table of the Law. Will God's remnant practice false worship to a false god (first commandment), and bow before an idol (second commandment), thus dishonoring their creator (fourth commandment), or will they remain faithful to the true God.
- The story illustrates that when a civil ruler **establishes religion**, the result is always persecution and the **loss of civil rights**, the greatest of which is the right to life

### **The key word in Daniel 3 is 'deliver'**

#### **Daniel 3:15**: The **king's challenge**

*"But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And **who is the god who will deliver** you from my hands?"*

#### **Daniel 3:16-18**: The **Hebrew worthies** answer with absolute loyalty to God and trust in

His ability to deliver them:

*"Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. <sup>17</sup> If that is the case, **our God whom we serve is able to deliver** us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. <sup>18</sup> **But if not**, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."*

**Daniel 3:25, 28:** Jesus, the **Covenant Angel, intervenes to deliver** the Hebrew worthies:

*<sup>25</sup> "Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the **Son of God**. . . Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent **His Angel [this is Michael who will deliver His people at the end—Daniel 12:1]** and **delivered** His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God!"*

**Daniel 3:29:** The **king extols God's ability to deliver**

*"Therefore I make a decree **illegitimate** that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who **can deliver** like this."*

**Hebrews 11:33, 34:** It was **by faith** that the Hebrew worthies overcame:

*"And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: <sup>33</sup> who **through faith** subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, **stopped the mouths of lions**, <sup>34</sup> **quenched the violence of fire**. . ."*

## **The Crisis in Daniel 6**

### **In Daniel 6 the key word is once again 'deliver'**

- In this chapter the issue once again involves **worship and God's law**
- But this time the civil ruler forbids the **free exercise of religion**

**Daniel 6:5:** The conflict is **over the law**

*<sup>5</sup> Then these men said, "We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him concerning the **law of his God**."*

**Daniel 6:7-9:** By a royal decree, the king forbade the **free exercise of religion**

*<sup>7</sup> All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counselors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever **petitions any god or man** for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. <sup>9</sup> Therefore King Darius signed the written decree.*

**Daniel 6:10:** Daniel **continued to worship** the same he always had. He was not **politically**

**correct.** He did not say: "Religion is a **personal thing** and I don't want to offend them so I will close the windows!"

*10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his **windows open** toward Jerusalem, he **knelt down on his knees** three times that day, and prayed and **gave thanks** before his God, as was **his custom** since early days."*

**Daniel 6:14-23:** The key word is '**deliver**'

*14 And the king, when he heard these words, was greatly displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to **deliver** him; and he labored till the going down of the sun to **deliver** him. 16 So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Your God, whom you **serve continually**, He will **deliver** you." 19 Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions. 20 And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom **you serve continually**, been **able to deliver** you from the lions?" 21 Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! 22 My God sent **His angel** and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found **innocent** before **Him**; and also, O king, I have done **no wrong before you**." 23 Now the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he **believed in his God**. 25 Then King Darius wrote: To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: peace be multiplied to you. 26 I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men **must tremble and fear** before the God of Daniel for He is the living God, and steadfast forever; His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed, and His dominion shall endure to the end. 27 He **delivers** and **rescues**, and He works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, who has **delivered** Daniel from the power of the lions."*

## **The Book of Esther**

The book of Esther vividly portrays the time of trouble that God's people will go through:

*"Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people **scattered and dispersed** among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom; their **laws are different** from all other people's, and they **do not keep the king's laws**, therefore it is **not fitting** for the king to let them remain. 9 If it pleases the king, let a decree be written that **they be destroyed**."*

- A **faithful remnant**: Mordecai and the Jews
- An **enemy**: Haman and his evil wife Zeresh
- Time of **trouble** (vividly described in Esther 4:1-3)
- A **delay** in delivering the people
- **The faith** of God's people was **severely tested**
- The remnant is **delivered**

## **The Experience of Jesus**

The end time events of Jesus follow the same pattern as the tribulation passages.

- A **faithful remnant**: Jesus

- The **enemies**: Satan and the Jewish leadership
- Time of **trouble** (vividly described in Hebrew 5:7, 8)
- There was a **delay** in the deliverance of Jesus. The cup was not removed and on the cross he felt forsaken by His Own Father. He lost all his earthly support, even His clothes.
- **The faith** of Jesus was **severely tested**
- Jesus was **delivered** when He was called by His Father from the grave.

Jesus did not rely on His **feelings and emotions** but rather depended on the **promises** of His Father. This is why He **commended His spirit** to His Father.

**Hebrews 5:7** describes the **perseverant faith** of Jesus and His vehement cries to His Father:

*“ . . . who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up **prayers and supplications**, with **vehement cries and tears** to Him who was able to save Him from death, and **was heard** because of His godly fear.”*

He was **heard** but there **was a delay**. **Why** did the Father delay in answering the pleas of His Son?

**Hebrews 5:8:**

*“ . . . though He was a Son, yet He **learned obedience** by the things which He **suffered**.”*

Ellen White explained how Jesus overcame in His time of trouble:

*“Amid the **awful darkness, apparently forsaken of God**, Christ had drained the last dregs in the cup of human woe. In those **dreadful hours** He had relied upon the **evidence of His Father's acceptance heretofore [up to this point]** given Him. **He was acquainted** with the character of His Father; **He understood** His justice, His mercy, and His great love. **By faith** He rested in Him whom it had ever been His joy to obey. And as **in submission** He committed Himself to God, the **sense of the loss** of His Father's favor was withdrawn. **By faith, Christ was victor.**” DA, p. 756*

## **This is the ‘faith of Jesus’ in the third angel’s message**

### **The Faithful and Loyal Generation**

**Ellen White** explains that God’s **people** will **repeat** the experience of Jesus and they will need the ‘faith of Jesus’

*“The forces of the powers of darkness will unite with human agents who have given themselves unto the control of Satan, and **the same scenes that were exhibited at the trial, rejection and crucifixion of Christ will be revived**. Through yielding to satanic influences men will be merged into fiends, and those who were created in the image of God, who were formed to honor and glorify their Creator, will become the habitation of dragons, and Satan will see in an apostate race his masterpiece of evil--men who reflect his own image.” *Review and Herald*, April 14, 1896*

The question that Jesus asked in **Luke 18:8** will at the end be answered with a resounding **‘yes’**:

**Revelation 13:10:** When God's people are about to face the crisis of **Revelation 13:11-18:**

*"He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the **patience** and the **faith** of the saints."*

**Revelation 14:12:** **Immediately after** speaking about the beast, his image and his mark

*"Here is the **patience** of the saints; here are those who keep the **commandments** of God and the **faith** of Jesus."*

### **The Why: The Story of Job**

- The **heavenly jury** was watching: The **sons of God**
- Satan exclaimed: "You have **not given me full access** to them. Let me **test them** and I will **prove** that they serve you for the **loaves and fishes**."
- Job exclaimed: *"Though he **slays me**, yet will I **trust** in Him"*
- He further asserted: *"I know that my **Redeemer lives**"*
- Job knew the reason for his trials: *"He will **try me** and I will come **forth as gold**."*
- Job did not let go even though he had **lost all earthly support**: possessions, servants, children, health, wife, friends and it even appeared that **God had forsaken him**.

The same common denominators:

- A **faithful remnant**: Job
- The **enemy**: Satan
- Time of **trouble** (chapters 3-38)
- There was a **delay** in the deliverance of Job. Though he had nothing to lean on he did not let go of the hand of God
- **The faith** of Job was **severely tested** but he came out with flying colors
- Job was **delivered** and received a double portion of what he had before his trial

God will allow his remnant people to go through the tribulation for **two reasons**. The first is for **their benefit** and the other is for the **benefit of the universe**.

- Their dross of earthliness will be consumed in the fires of affliction and they will come forth like pure gold:

#### **Job 23:10:**

*"When he [God] has tried me, I shall come forth as gold."*

#### **Isaiah 48:10:**

*"Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction."*

- The heavenly universe will be able to see the type of government that Satan intended to establish in the universe and they will understand that the remnant are worthy to be taken home because of their loyalty and faithfulness.

## **God Calls us to Faithfulness**

**Luke 16:10**: We must learn to be faithful in the smallest matters

**Daniel 3**: Our minds must be made up ahead of time

**Jeremiah 12:5**: If we cannot run with men, who can we expect to run with the horses?

## The Great Cosmic Controversy

“How God Clears His Name from all False Charges”

by Pastor Stephen Bohr

### Lesson #10: The Controversy Ended

In this lesson we will study the events that will transpire during and after Revelation’s millenium.

#### The Second Coming

Revelation 19:11-21 The event that immediately precedes the beginning of the millennium is the second coming of Jesus.

Three things will occur at the second coming:

- **First:** The earth will be reduced to a desolate wilderness:

#### Jeremiah 4:23-27

*“I beheld the earth, and indeed it was without form, and void; and the heavens, they had no light. <sup>24</sup> I beheld the mountains, and indeed they trembled, and all the hills moved back and forth. <sup>25</sup> I beheld, and indeed there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens had fled. <sup>26</sup> I beheld, and indeed the fruitful land was a wilderness, and all its cities were broken down at the presence of the LORD, by His fierce anger. <sup>27</sup> For thus says the LORD: “The whole land shall be desolate; yet I will not make a full end.”*

- **Second:** All the wicked will die at Christ’s second coming and therefore there will be no inhabitants left (Revelation 19:21; Isaiah 24:21-23)
- **Third:** Satan (and his angels) will be bound to planet earth for a thousand years to contemplate his work of ruin and to meditate upon his destiny after the thousand years.

*“Even the wicked are now placed beyond the power of Satan, and alone with his evil angels he remains to realize the effect of the curse which sin has brought. . . For a thousand years, Satan will wander to and fro in the desolate earth to behold the results of his rebellion against the law of God. During this time his sufferings are intense. Since his fall his life of unceasing activity has banished reflection; but he is now deprived of his power and left to contemplate the part which he has acted since*

*first he rebelled against the government of heaven, and to **look forward with trembling and terror** to the dreadful future when he must suffer for all the evil that he has done and be punished for the sins that he has caused to be committed.” GC, p. 660*

## **The Millennial Judgment**

As we have seen, **all** the **lost** from **every age** will be **dead** when the millennium begins (Apocalipsis 20:5). Some will have **died before** the second coming and the rest as a result of **the plagues** and the second coming.

But this death is **not their final punishment** for sin. God would not execute the **judgment sentence without** giving them the chance to have **their day in court**. The fact that they will suffer **second death after the millennium** indicates clearly that their **first death was not the reward** for their life of sin.

## **Purpose of the Millennial Judgment**

The purpose of the millennial stage of the judgment is to **persuade the saved** that God acted correctly in leaving the wicked behind. There will be **some people missing** that appeared to be fit for the kingdom.

**I Corinthians 6:1-3: Investigation** and **sentencing** of **Satan**, his **angels** and the **wicked world**:

*“Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? <sup>2</sup> Do you not know that the saints will **judge the world**? And if the world will be judged **by you** [**by the Corinthians but not only by them; Revelation 20:4**], are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that **we** [**the Corinthians but not only them; Revelation 20:4**] **shall judge angels**? How much more, things that pertain to this life?”*

This will be God's:

- **Audit**
- **Instant replay**

## **Revelation 20:4, 5**

*“And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and **judgment was committed to them**. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And **they lived** [**which means they must have been dead**] and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. <sup>5</sup> (But the **rest of the dead** did not live again until the thousand years were finished). This is the first resurrection.”*

## **Revelation 20:11, 12**

*“Then I saw a great **white throne** and Him who sat on it, from whose face the **earth** and the **heaven** fled away. And there was found no place for them [**the second coming of Jesus; Revelation 6:14-17**]. <sup>12</sup> And I saw **the dead** [**not the living**], small and great, **standing before God**, and books were opened. And **another book** was opened, which is the Book of Life. And **the***

**dead [not the living] were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.”**

### **Revelation 6:14, 17**

“Then **the sky** receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was **moved out of its place**. . . Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who **sits on the throne** and from the wrath of the Lamb!”

**Ellen White** explains it in this manner:

“Then I saw thrones, and Jesus and the redeemed saints sat upon them; and the saints reigned as kings and priests unto God [**Revelation 20:4**]. Christ, in union with His people, **judged [the investigation] the wicked dead [Revelation 20:12; 1 Corinthians 6:2]**, comparing their acts with the statute book, the Word of God, and **deciding every case** according to the deeds done in the body [**but the wicked have not yet had their day in court because they are dead**]. Then they **meted out [the sentence]** to the wicked the portion which they **must suffer [the execution]**, according to their works [**Revelation 20:12**]; and it was written against their names in the book of death [**Revelation 20:15**]. **Satan also and his angels** were judged by Jesus and the saints [**1 Corinthians 6:3**]. Satan's punishment was to be **far greater** than that of those whom he had deceived. His suffering would **so far exceed theirs** as to bear **no comparison** with it [**because he is the scapegoat**]. After all those whom he had deceived had perished, Satan was still to **live and suffer on much longer**.” *EW*, pp. 290, 291

**Revelation 21:8**: **What was contained** in the books that were examined during the millennium?

“But the **cowardly [not willing to die]**, **unbelieving [those who had no faith]**, **abominable, murderers [sixth commandment]**, **sexually immoral [seventh commandment]**, **sorcerers [first commandment]**, **idolaters [second commandment]**, and all **liars [eighth commandment]** shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

## **Purpose of the Post-Millennial Judgment**

**After the millennium** God will give Satan, his angels and the wicked their **day in court**. God would **not execute the sentence** without showing them **why they were lost**. The **purpose of this stage** of the judgment is to persuade Satan, his angels and the wicked that He has **acted in harmony** with his love and justice in **every single case**.

## **Summary of Post-Millennial Events**

**One**: Jesus **descends** from heaven with the redeemed saints and His feet **split open** the **Mount of Olives**

**Zechariah 14:4, 5**:

“And in that day **His feet will stand** on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be **split in two**, from east to west, making a **very large valley**; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south. <sup>5</sup> Then you shall flee through My mountain valley, for the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall

flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Thus the LORD my God will come, and **all the saints with You.**

**TWO: Jesus resurrects** the wicked dead from **all ages** and Satan will once again have his **power base**

**Second death** implies a **second resurrection**

**Revelation 20:5:**

*“The **rest of the dead** did not live again until the thousand years were ended.”*

**Revelation 20:13:**

*“The sea **gave up the dead** who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And **they were judged**, each one according to his works.”*

**Isaiah 26:19**

*“Your **dead shall live**; together with my **dead body** they **shall arise**. Awake and sing, you who **dwell in dust**; for your dew is like the dew of herbs, and the **earth shall cast out the dead.**”*

They receive back their **personal spirit**:

*“There are kings and generals who conquered nations, valiant men who never lost a battle, proud, ambitious warriors whose approach made kingdoms tremble. In death these experienced **no change**. As they come up from the grave, they **resume the current of their thoughts** just where it ceased. They are actuated by the same desire to conquer that ruled them when they fell.” GC, p. 664*

**Three:** The Holy City, **New Jerusalem descends** from heaven upon the mighty plain:

**Revelation 21:2:** Explain the **chronology problem**

*“Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming **down out of heaven** from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”*

**Revelation 20:7-9:**

*“Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison <sup>8</sup> and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. <sup>9</sup> They went up on the breadth of the earth and **surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city [so the city must have been on earth at this point]**. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.”*

**FOUR: Satan prepares and organizes** the unrighteous to attack the holy city. The **number of Satan’s troops** is greater than **all the warriors** who have fought in **all the battles** in the history of planet earth. Remember that all the wicked from **all ages resurrect**. The Bible describes their number as the **sand of the sea**. Ellen White refers to them as ‘unnumbered millions’ (GC 663) and a ‘countless host’ (GC, p. 664)

- **Consults** with his angels

- Consults with **kings, conquerors and mighty men**
- **Skilfull artisans** construct implement of war
- **Military men organize** throngs of warlike men into companies and divisions
- **Each company** has its appointed leader
- The armies march with **military precision** in serried ranks
- They **march toward** the Holy City, New Jerusalem

The fact that the wicked **follow Satan's orders** reveals that they believe that he is right and God is wrong.

**Revelation 20:7-9:**

*"Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison <sup>8</sup> and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is **as the sand of the sea**. <sup>9</sup> They went up on the breadth of the earth and **surrounded the camp of the saints** and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them."*

**The Great Controversy, p. 664:**

*"At last the order to advance is given, and the **countless host** moves on--an army such as was **never summoned by earthly conquerors**, such as the **combined forces of all ages** since war began on earth could never equal. Satan, the mightiest of warriors, leads the van, and **his angels** unite their forces for this final struggle [**remember that Satan is now released**]. Kings and warriors are in his train, and the multitudes follow in **vast companies**, each under its **appointed leader**. With **military precision** the serried ranks advance over the earth's broken and uneven surface to the City of God. By command of Jesus, the gates of the New Jerusalem are closed, and the armies of Satan surround the city and make **ready for the onset**."*

**Five:** By order of Jesus the **gates** of the New Jerusalem are **shut** (GC, p. 664)

**Six:** Jesus sits on a **great white throne** and is **crowned** in the presence of the vast multitudes

**The Great Controversy, p. 665:**

*"Now Christ again appears to the view of His enemies. Far above the city, upon a foundation of burnished gold, is **a throne**, high and lifted up. Upon **this throne** sits the Son of God, and around Him are the subjects of His kingdom."*

**Matthew 25:31, 32:**

*"When the Son of Man **comes in His glory**, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the **throne of His glory**. <sup>32</sup> **All the nations will be gathered** before Him, and He will **separate them** [**this is judgment language—it is the post millennial judgment**] one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats."*

**Matthew 25:41:**

*"Then He will also say to those on the **left hand**, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire **prepared for the devil and his angels**.'"*

**Matthew 25:46:** This has to be **after the millennium** because **all nations** are gathered and the **final rewards** are given:

*“And these will go away into **everlasting punishment**, but the righteous into **eternal life**.”*

**Seven:** The **books are opened** and Satan, his angels and the unrighteous understand **the justice of their sentence**

**Revelation 20:13:**

*“The sea **gave up the dead** who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they **were judged**, each one according to his works.”*

In a great **panoramic vision** the entire history of planet earth is seen as on a large **HD screen**. Satan, his angels and the unrighteous **understand** why they were lost and **recognize the justice** of God in their sentence. This is the book sealed with **seven seals**.

**The Great Controversy, pp. 666, 667:**

*“As soon as the **books of record are opened**, and the eye of Jesus looks upon the wicked, they are conscious of **every sin which they have ever committed**. They see just where their feet diverged from the path of purity and holiness, just how far pride and rebellion have carried them in the violation of the law of God. The seductive temptations which they encouraged by indulgence in sin, the blessings perverted, the messengers of God despised, the warnings rejected, the waves of mercy beaten back by the stubborn, unrepentant heart--all appear **as if written in letters of fire**.*

*“Above the throne is revealed the cross; and **like a panoramic view [in ultra high definition]** appear the scenes of **Adam's temptation and fall**, and the **successive steps** in the great plan of redemption. The Saviour's lowly birth; His early life of simplicity and obedience; His baptism in Jordan; the fast and temptation in the wilderness; His public ministry, unfolding to men heaven's most precious blessings; the days crowded with deeds of love and mercy, the nights of prayer and watching in the solitude of the mountains; the plottings of envy, hate, and malice which repaid His benefits; the awful, mysterious agony in Gethsemane beneath the crushing weight of the sins of the whole world; His betrayal into the hands of the murderous mob; the fearful events of that night of horror--the unresisting prisoner, forsaken by His best-loved disciples, rudely hurried through the streets of Jerusalem; the Son of God exultingly displayed before Annas, arraigned in the high priest's palace, in the judgment hall of Pilate, before the cowardly and cruel Herod, mocked, insulted, tortured, and condemned to die--**all are vividly portrayed**.” GC, pp. 666, 667*

*“Every question of truth and error in the long-standing controversy has now been **made plain**. . . The working out of Satan's rule **in contrast** with the government of God, has been presented to the **whole universe**. Satan's **own works have condemned him**. God's wisdom, His justice, and His goodness stand **fully vindicated**.” GC, p. 670*

**Eight:** The sentence of **eternal death** is pronounced after the investigation:

*“The whole wicked world **stand arraigned** at the bar of God on the charge of high treason against the government of heaven. They have none to plead their cause; they are without excuse; and the **sentence of eternal death is pronounced** against them.” GC, p. 668*

**Nine:** Satan and all the wicked hosts **bow and confess** that God's judgment **was fair** and their **sentence is just**. For the **first time in history** after the inception of sin, the **entire universe recognizes** that God has **acted correctly** in the case of every single person.

**Isaiah 45:23:**

*"I have sworn by Myself; the word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that to Me **every knee** shall bow, **every tongue** shall take an oath."*

**Philippians 2:9-11:**

*"Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus **every knee should bow**, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and that **every tongue should confess** that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

**Revelation 15:2-4:** The Greek word is **phaneroo**

*"And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. <sup>3</sup> They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! **Just and true** are Your ways, O **King of the saints!**" <sup>4</sup> Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For **all nations shall come [future from the time of the song] and worship before You**. For [because] Your judgments **have been manifested.**"*

**Ten:** The unrighteous **remove their support** from Satan and in rage **avalanche themselves** against him. This proves that the wicked **now blame Satan and not God:**

**Ezekiel 28:6-10:**

*"Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Because you have set your heart as the heart of **a god**, <sup>7</sup> behold, therefore, I will bring strangers against you, the most **terrible of the nations**; and they shall **draw their swords** against the beauty of your wisdom, and defile your splendor. <sup>8</sup> They shall throw you down into the Pit, and you shall die the death of the slain in the midst of the seas. <sup>9</sup> "Will you still say before him who slays you, 'I am a god'? But you shall be a man, and not a god, in the hand of him who slays you. <sup>10</sup> You shall die the death of the uncircumcised by the hand of aliens; for I have spoken," says the Lord GOD."*

**Isaiah 14:12-17:**

*"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! <sup>13</sup> For **you have said** in your heart [**when in heaven in the past**]: 'I **will** ascend into heaven, I **will** exalt my throne above the stars of God; I **will** also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I **will** ascend above the heights of the clouds, I **will** be like the Most High.' <sup>15</sup> Yet **you shall be [after the millennium]** brought down to **Sheol**, to the lowest depths of **the Pit.** <sup>16</sup> "Those who see you will gaze at you, and consider you, saying: 'Is this the man who **made** the earth [**past**] tremble, who **shook [past]** kingdoms, <sup>17</sup> who **made [past]** the world as a wilderness and **destroyed [past]** its*

cities, who **did not [past]** open the house **[the grave]** of his prisoners?' <sup>18</sup> "**All the kings** of the nations, all of them, sleep in glory **[they are dead]**, everyone in his own house **[symbolic of the grave]**;<sup>19</sup> But you are cast **out of your grave** like an abominable branch **[Satan will be alive]** , like the garment of those who are slain, thrust through with a sword, who go down to the stones of the pit, like a corpse trodden underfoot.<sup>20</sup> You will **not be joined with them in burial**, because you have destroyed your land and slain your people. The brood of evildoers shall never be named."

### **The Great Controversy, p. 671, 672:**

"The time has come for a last desperate struggle against the King of heaven. He rushes into the midst of his subjects and **endeavors to inspire them** with his own fury and arouse them to instant battle. But of all the countless millions whom he has allured into rebellion, there are **none now to acknowledge his supremacy**. His power is at an end. The wicked are filled with the same hatred of God that inspires Satan; but they see that their case is hopeless, that they cannot prevail against Jehovah. Their rage is kindled against Satan and those who have been his agents in deception, and with the **fury of demons they turn upon them**."

**Eleven: Fire descends** from heaven, **destroys the unrighteous** and **cleanses the earth:**

**Revelation 20:14, 15: Execution** of the judgment sentence

"Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. <sup>15</sup> And anyone **not found written in the Book of Life** was cast into the lake of fire."

### **1 Corinthians 15:24-28**

"**Then comes the end**, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. <sup>26</sup> The **last enemy that will be destroyed is death**. <sup>27</sup> For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. <sup>28</sup> Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all."

### **Revelation 21:7, 8:**

"He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. <sup>8</sup> But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the **second death**."

### **Matthew 25:46:**

"And these will go away into **everlasting punishment**, but the righteous into eternal life."

God creates a new heaven and a new earth:

### **Twelve: New Heaven and New Earth**

#### **Revelation 21:1, 3, 4:**

"And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is **with men**, and He will  **dwell with them**, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and

be their God. <sup>4</sup> And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be **no more death**, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

“The great controversy is ended. Sin and sinners are no more. The **entire universe is clean**. One pulse of **harmony and gladness** beats through the vast creation. From Him who created all, flow life and light and gladness, throughout the realms of illimitable space. From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, **declare that God is love.**” *GC*, p. 678

## **The Cross and Eternal Security**

“Fallen men could not have a home in the paradise of God without the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Shall we not then exalt the cross of Christ? The angels ascribe honor and glory to Christ, for **even they are not secure** except by looking to the sufferings of the Son of God. It is through the **efficacy of the cross** that the angels of heaven are **guarded from apostasy**. Without the cross they would be **no more secure** against evil than were the angels before the fall of Satan. Angelic perfection failed in heaven. Human perfection failed in Eden, the paradise of bliss. All who wish for **security** in earth or heaven must **look to the Lamb of God**. The plan of salvation, making manifest the **justice and love** of God, provides an **eternal safeguard** against defection in unfallen worlds, as well as among those who shall be redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. *Signs of the Times*, Diciembre 30, 1889





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