

The Cleansing of the Sanctuary



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DANIEL

12. FOREVER CLEANSED



Christ died for our sin. He now lives to remove its stain
from the universe forever

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN UNIT 12

- More about the 2300 days.
- The cleansing of the sanctuary.
- Christ's final work in heaven before His return.
- How God will banish sin forever.

Remember that we are still in Daniel Chapter 8 and its prophecies. Start briefly by reviewing the vision.

THE RAM Symbolised _____
 THE GOAT Symbolised _____
 THE GREAT HORN Symbolised _____

The great horn would:

“trample” upon God's people

“exalt himself as high as the Prince of the host”

“take away the daily sacrifices” (the tamid)

“cast the place of the (Prince of the host's) sanctuary”

“cast the truth to the ground”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A. THE 2300 DAYS

QUESTION 1 (Daniel 8:13, page 866)

With regard to the **time** covered by the vision, what question did Daniel hear from one of the "holy ones"?

"How _____ will the vision be?" (verse 13)



QUESTION 2 (Daniel 8:14, page 866)

What reply did the angel give as to the length of time?

"And he said to me 'for _____ days!'" (verse 14)

THE EARTHLY POINTS TO THE HEAVENLY

HEAVENLY MINISTRY OF CHRIST



Christ Ever Lives to Make Intercession for Us

THE CHRISTIAN ERA

Ascension of Jesus

Close of Probation

Heavenly Sanctuary

PARALLELS BETWEEN THE TWO SANCTUARIES



Beginning of year

ONE JEWISH YEAR

End of Year

Earthly Sanctuary

QUESTION 3 (Daniel 8:17,19,26)

As we saw in Unit 10, the angel Gabriel did not explain the 2300 days immediately. But what did he say which showed that they stood for a very long period of time?

"The vision refers to the _____ of the _____ ." (verse 17)

"For it refers to _____ in the future." (verse 26)



At the end of the 2300 years, Jesus begins his work of judgment in the heavenly sanctuary

At first glance we seem to have a problem here. How could the events of this prophecy, commencing with Medo-Persia and passing onto Greece, Rome, and to the time of the end, fit into a mere 2300 days – less than six-and-a-half years?

We remind ourselves that this prophecy is given in symbols. Just as the animals were symbols, so were the "days". When the symbolism of one day for one year (as illustrated in Ezekiel 4:6 page 804) is applied, the problem is solved. The 2300 days stand for 2300 years. Here we are looking at long-term events covering the many centuries from Medo-Persia to the time of the end.

B. THE END OF THE 2300 DAYS

QUESTION 4 (Daniel 8:14)

What event would take place at the end of the 2300 days (years)?

"Then the sanctuary shall be _____ ." (verse 14)

QUESTION 5 (Mark 15:38, page 988; Hebrews 10:8,9, page 1154)

Since the prophecy "refers to the time of the end", which sanctuary would the angel have meant - the earthly or the heavenly?

Answer by drawing a circle around either (a) or (b):

- (a) The earthly (b) The heavenly

QUESTION 6 (Hebrews 9:23, page 1153)

What does the New Testament say about the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary?

*"It was necessary that the (earthly) **copies** of things in the heavens should be purified with these (animal sacrifices), but the _____ things themselves with better sacrifices than these." (verse 23)*

Why should the heavenly need to be purified or cleansed? Is there anything impure in heaven? For answer –

TURN TO EXHIBIT 1: Page 12

THE PLACE WHERE GOD DEALS WITH SIN

C. THE CLEANSING OF THE EARTHLY ILLUSTRATES THE CLEANSING OF THE HEAVENLY

QUESTION 7 (Leviticus 16:15-21, page 109)

As we learned in Unit 11, only on one special day toward the end of Israel's ceremonial year, did the high priest enter the Most Holy Place. In a solemn ceremony, he cleansed the earthly sanctuary from the sins of the people that had been taken there during the year. How did he do this?

- He took the blood of a special sacrifice into the Most Holy Place
- sprinkled it upon the Mercy _____ (verse 15)
- to make an atonement for the _____ (verse 16)
- he did the same for the whole sanctuary and the people (verses 33,34)



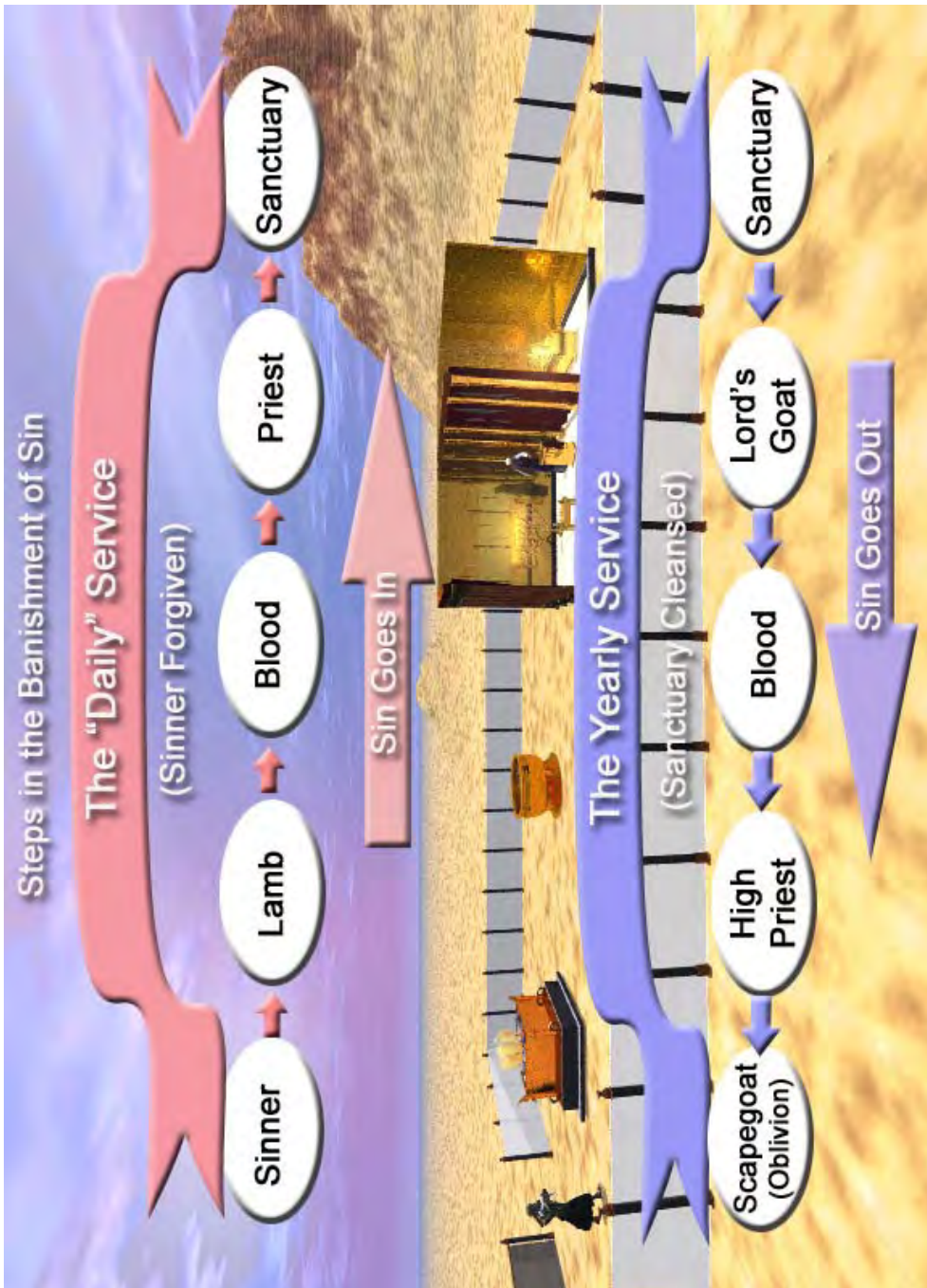
Exhibit 3

THE SANCTUARY CLEANSED AND RESTORED

The original word for "cleansed" has also been interpreted as "restored", "restored to its rightful state", "vindicated". It would seem that the cleansing of the Heavenly Sanctuary takes in this idea of restoration, not only through the pre-advent judgment itself, but through the restoration of all the great truths of the sanctuary that had been "cast down" and "trampled underfoot" throughout the long centuries (Daniel 8:12,13).

In other words, the sanctuary is restored to its rightful state, not only by the processes of divine judgment in heaven, but also here on earth in the minds and hearts of Christ's people who had been taught to look to human priests and supposed sacrifices and "sanctuaries made with hands" for their salvation.

Millions are now rejoicing in the knowledge of the true sanctuary, understanding where it is, and what it means - the only place where the only High Priest ministers salvation through the only sacrifice ever made to atone for sin.



QUESTION 8 (Leviticus 16:22,30, page 109)

After the sanctuary was cleansed, where were the sins taken?

"to an _____ land" (verse 22)

The cleansing of the sanctuary in Israel illustrates how sin and its record will be removed and banished forever through Christ's closing ministry in the heavenly sanctuary

TURN TO EXHIBIT 2: Page 13
STEPS IN THE BANISHMENT OF SIN

QUESTION 9 (Leviticus 23:27, page 116)

What were the people of Israel instructed to do on this crucial day?

"You shall _____ your _____ ." (verse 27)

"Afflict your souls" means examine your lives, repent, return to God.

QUESTION 10 (Leviticus 23:29,30)

What would happen to the one who did not search his heart and repent?

"He shall be _____ from his people." (verse 29)

"That person I will _____ ." (verse 30)

That day was Israel's day of judgment. It is still revered by Jewish people as such. On that day it was to be determined who should live and who should die – symbolic of the greater day of judgment at the time of the end, which we studied about in Chapter 7, Unit 9.



The children of Israel were to fast and pray and examine themselves closely on the day of atonement

Those who searched their hearts, who repented and trusted in their High Priest, remained before God. Just so, those who trust in Christ and repent from sin remain justified before God in the heavenly judgement. They will not come into condemnation. Christ stands for them.

However, Christ cannot accept those who profess to believe in Him but are unwilling to examine their lives and turn fully to Him.

Said Jesus, "Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven." (Matthew 7:21-23, page 941. Please be sure to read all three verses.)

Besides the sanctuary being cleansed in Heaven, there must be a restoration of the sanctuary to its *rightful place* in the minds and hearts of God's people on earth. Remember the *place* of Christ's sanctuary has been "cast down"; "brought low" in the minds and hearts of millions throughout many centuries. It is to be restored to heart and mind at the time of the end.

READ EXHIBIT 3: Page 14

THE SANCTUARY CLEANSED AND RESTORED

READ EXHIBIT 4: Page 15

HOW THE EARTHLY SANCTUARY POINTS TO THE HEAVENLY

D. HOW THE CLEANSING IN CHAPTER 8 RELATES TO THE JUDGMENT IN CHAPTER 7

Daniel's prophecies are all closely linked to each other, all covering much the same ground, but with additional detail in each succeeding vision. Study the following diagram. Note the parallel between the judgement in Daniel 7 and the cleansing of the sanctuary in Daniel 8.

Exhibit 1

THE PLACE WHERE GOD DEALS WITH SIN

As the earthly sanctuary (or "tabernacle") was the focus of Israel's faith, so the heavenly sanctuary is to be the focus of the faith of Christian believers. The sanctuary is depicted as the place where God deals with sin and ministers salvation through Christ.

Concerning the earthly tabernacle, God said to Moses, "Let them make me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them." (Exodus 25:8) The sanctuary was pitched in the centre of the twelve tribes of Israel whenever they camped, and carried in the centre of the moving nation as they travelled. Thus the sanctuary was central to their lives and always within reach. (Exodus 40:34-38)

To obtain salvation the sinner went to the sanctuary and took part in its services. The daily sacrifice in the courtyard covered him. There he offered his own sacrifice, confessed his personal sins over an innocent animal, and placed his case in the hands of the priest who interceded with God for him. In the final act, on the day of Israel's judgment, his sins, with the sins of all Israel, were removed from the sanctuary forever.

All this pointed to Jesus' sacrifice and His priestly work in the heavenly sanctuary. He was once our Lamb sacrifice, now He is our High Priest and intercessor. From His sanctuary He cares for everything from the needs of the humblest believer to the cleansing of the universe from the death-plague of sin. Sin commenced in heaven and spread to earth (see Revelation 12:7-12; Genesis 2,3). In the heavenly sanctuary sin will be judged, removed, and banished from the universe, never to rise again.

For it pleased the Father that in Him (Christ) all the fullness should dwell, 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. (Colossians 1:19,20, page 1132)

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THINK THROUGH

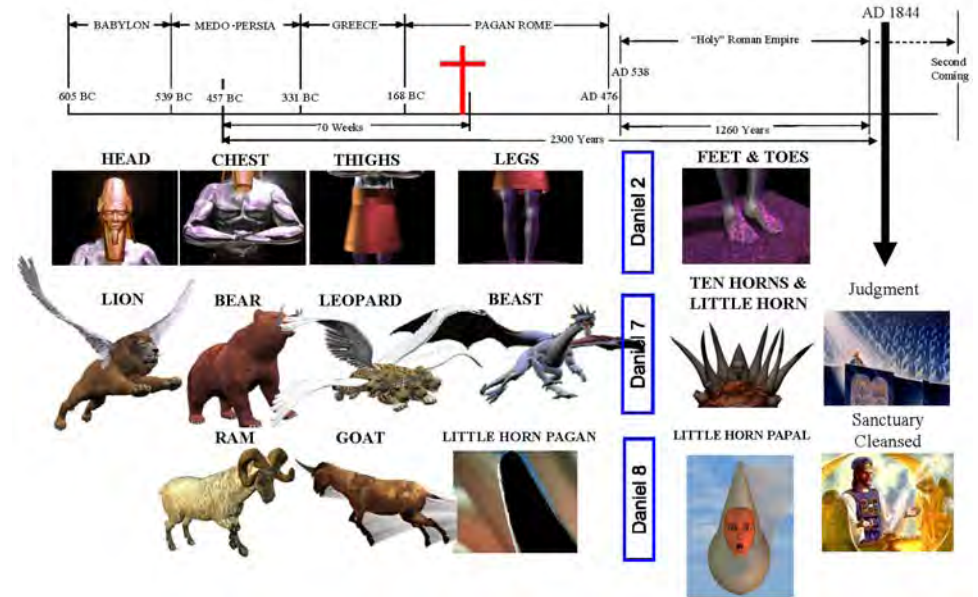
- 1) Why couldn't God have avoided all the sin and suffering of this world by either not creating it in the first place, or by wiping it out when mankind sinned, and starting again?
- 2) Better still, why couldn't God have made all His intelligent creation **unable** to sin, or have simply saved them in their sins without Christ having to suffer and die?

REVIEW QUIZ

Complete the following sentences by selecting the correct word from the supplied list. One word should go in each space. You will not need to use all the words supplied.

SIN DESTROYED CENTURIES YEARS JERUSALEM
 DAYS CREATION JUDGMENT HEAVEN RESTORED

- 1) The 2300 "days" in Daniel 8:14 represent 2300 _____
- 2) The sanctuary to be "cleansed", at the close of the 2300 "days" is the sanctuary in _____
- 3) The "cleansing" of the sanctuary referred to in Daniel 8 is linked to the _____ in Daniel 7.
- 4) The heavenly sanctuary is the place where God deals with _____.
- 5) The sanctuary would not only be cleansed, but also _____.



QUESTION 11 (1 John 4:17,18, page 1170)

Is the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary and its associated judgment something to be feared by the true believer in Christ?

"We may have _____ in the day of judgment." (verse 17)

"Perfect love casts out ____ ." (verse 18)

E. THREE ASSURANCES OF SECURITY IN CHRIST

- 1) (1 John 1:9, page 1168): CHRIST IS FAITHFUL

"If we confess our sins, He (Christ) is _____ and just to forgive us our sins and to _____ us from all unrighteousness."

- 2) (John 1:12,13, page 1025): THE RIGHT TO BE GOD'S CHILDREN

"As many as _____ him, to them He gave the right to become the children of God." (Also read Acts 16:31, page 1070; Romans 10:9, page 1093.)

3) (Colossians 1:22,23, page 1132): CONTINUE IN HIM

He will present you "holy and blameless if you _____ in the faith ... and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel." (Also read Hebrews 3:14, page 1149; John 15:4-8, page 1043; Matthew 24:13, page 960.)

F. THE JUDGMENT- HOUR CALL

QUESTION 12 (Revelation 14:6,7, page 1183)

Keep in mind that this sanctuary judgment occurs in "the time of the end". Then should the preaching of the Gospel in the time of the end include a message about the judgment? Revelation points to such a message.



"Then I saw another angel ... having the everlasting Gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth ... saying with a loud voice, 'Fear God and give glory to Him for the hour of His _____ has _____.'" (verses 6,7)

QUESTION 13 (Revelation 22:11,12, page 1190)

Just before Jesus returns what decree is proclaimed which shows that this phase of judgment has finished and man's day of opportunity has closed?

"He who is unjust, let him be unjust _____."

"He who is filthy, let him be filthy _____."

"He who is righteous, let him be righteous _____."

"He who is holy, let him be holy _____."

"And behold, I am coming quickly."

QUESTION 14 (Isaiah 55:6,7, page 712)

What does the "time of the end" and the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary mean to all of us personally?

"Seek the Lord while He may be _____,

Call upon Him while He is _____

Let the wicked _____ His way and the unrighteous man his thoughts;

Let him _____ to the Lord,

And He will have _____ on him;

And to our God, _____ For He will abundantly _____."



Now is the time to seek the Lord and seek forgiveness for our sins

QUESTION 15

Do you want to respond to this loving call from God? _____

As we come to the end of Chapter 8, we find Daniel in great distress over this prophecy. So astonished was he by the vision of the great horn and the 2300 days that he became sick with anxiety. What did it all mean?

IN THE NEXT UNIT GABRIEL RETURNS TO THE ANXIOUS PROPHET. He explains the Chapter 8 vision further – gives the point of commencement for the 2300 days – foretells the time of the coming of "Messiah the Prince" and reveals what these events would mean to Daniel's people of the future.