

The Relevance of Christ's Two-Dimensional Sanctuary Ministry after 1844 P. Gerard Damsteegt, Dr. Theol. <u>damsteeg@andrews.edu</u>

### The First Angel's Message of Revelation 14:6, 7



The Sanctuary Reveals Christ's Last Message of Mercy "The subject of the sanctuary was the key which unlocked the mystery of the disappointment of 1844. It opened to view a complete system of truth, connected and harmonious, showing that God's hand had directed the great advent movement and revealing present duty as it brought to light the position and work of His people" (Great Controversy, p. 423).

## New Light on Christ's Cleansing Work in the Time of the End



The Cleansing of the Sanctuary in **Two Dimensions** There is a perfect relationship between God's final work of grace in heaven and on earth "There is a literal and a spiritual temple—the literal being the Sanctuary in New Jerusalem (literal city), and the spiritual the church—the literal occupied by Jesus Christ, our King and Priest, Jn 14:2, Heb 8:2, 9:11; the spiritual by the Holy Ghost. 1 Cor 3:17; 6:19, O.R.L. Crosier Eph 2:20-22.

#### The Cleansing of the Sanctuary in Two Dimensions There is a perfect relationship between God's final work of grace in heaven and on earth

"Between these two there is a perfect concert of action, as Christ 'prepares the place,' the Spirit does the people. When he came to his temple, the sanctuary, to cleanse it, the Spirit commenced the special cleansing of the people. Mal 3:1-3" (Crosier, "The Law of Moses," Day-Star, *Extra*, Feb. 7, 1846).



#### Why Do God's People Need Cleansing? Rev 6:17-7:4 They must receive the seal of the living God

"I... saw that many do not realize what they must be in order to live in the sight of the Lord without a high priest in the sanctuary through the time of trouble.

"Those who receive the seal of the living God and are protected in the time of trouble must reflect the image of Jesus fully....



#### Why Do God's People Need Cleansing?

"I saw that none could share the "refreshing" (latter rain) unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action.

"We should, therefore, be drawing nearer and nearer to the Lord and be earnestly seeking that preparation necessary to enable us to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord" (*EW*, p. 71)

#### Conclusion

- 1. The need of God's people: Total victory over sin
- 2. How to accomplish this: Drawing nearer to Jesus

Light from Christ 's Antitypical Day of Atonement Sanctuary Ministry What does it reveal about the end of Christ's priesthood? His high-priestly ministry ends just before the 2nd advent When His mediation is finished the time of trouble begins How are God's people involved?

Only the seal of the living God protects them at that time Victory over all temptations leads to sharing the latter rain How can that be achieved? By drawing closer to Jesus Conclusion

God's people must prepare for the time when Christ has completed His mediatorial work as high priest

When Christ has finished cleansing the sanctuary (blotting out of sin), His people will reflect the image of Jesus fully

### The Restoration of All Truth Among God's Remnant People



Were Adventists Ready for Jesus' Return in 1844? What was their condition? Many loved the Lord dearly and had sacrificed everything



Were Adventists Ready for Jesus' Return in 1844? Were they ready to meet alive their Lord? They "were not yet ready to meet their Lord"



#### Were Adventists Ready for Jesus' Return in 1844? Why not?

Mal 3:1-3: The Lord will suddenly come to His temple and "purify" His people so that they "can stand when He appears."

"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" (*Great Controversy*, pp. 424, 425).

How will they survive?

"Through the grace of God and their own diligent effort they must be conquerors in the battle with evil" (*Great Controversy*, p. 425).

# What Are the Conditions for the Second Advent?

#### Acts 3:19-21

"Repent therefore and be converted....that He may send Jesus Christ... whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things"

#### Conclusion

The Second Advent takes place when all truth is restored and practiced among God's remnant people

Then they are cleansed from all worldliness and Babylonian teachings and influences What Are the Conditions for the Second Advent? What will be the final result? They will be sealed with the seal of the living God that enables them to stand in the Day of the Lord What Truths Have Been Restored Among the Remnant Since 1844? Restoration of Spirit of Prophecy in the church Christ ministers in a real sanctuary in heaven The 7th day Sabbath is the biblical day of worship and light on how to keep it holy

SABBATH

DAY

What Truths Have Been Restored **Among the Remnant Since 1844?** There is no immortal soul. Death is a sleep The wicked will be destroyed (annihilationism) Christ reigns with righteous in heaven for 1000 years. This period separates the resurrection of the righteous from the wicked.



#### What Truths Have Been Restored Among the Remnant Since 1844? Baptism by immersion Footwashing



What Truths Have Been Restored Among the Remnant Since 1844? **Obedience to God's moral** and natural (health) laws **Temperance**—abstinence from health destroying practices **Practice simplicity**, moderation, and regularity in eating, drinking, working, sleeping, etc. **Abstinence of harmful** substances such as alcohol, tobacco, coffee, tea, flesh foods, drugs

### What Truths Have Been Restored Among the Remnant Since 1844?

**Tithe and offerings The New Testament** lifestyle of simplicity without adornment Simplicity in dress and appearance No jewelry or colorful cosmetics



**Christ our High Priest** has begun His judgment to cleanse the heavenly sanctuary of the confessed sins of His people The Holy Spirit has begun to purify Christ's church on earth A 2-phase final judgment since 1844



Three angels' messages: Present truth for the end time, revealing the gift of Christ's righteousness to the helpless human agent

The Sabbath is a test for God's people since 1844

The sealing message prepares for the seal of the living God



**The United States leads** out in the final conflict and is the leader in the ecumenical movement The SDA church is the remnant church of prophecy **Unique lifestyle during** the antitypical Day of Atonement



Health Reform is a vital part of the present truth **Christ's wholistic ministry** is the remnant's model The faith of Jesus is the key to the victory over sin **Christ's final invitation: Call to prepare for latter** rain and the loud cry (Rev 18)



# The Latter Rain of Revelation 18

## Power to Finish the Mission

 The Latter Rain will give light and power to finish the gospel mission
 Zech 10:1
 Deut 11:13-17
 Revelation 18:1

## The Latter Rain Defined

A special outpouring of the Holy Spirit to prepare the church for Christ's return (Rev 18) "But near the close of earth's harvest, a special bestowal of spiritual grace is promised to prepare the church for the coming of the Son of man. This outpouring of the Spirit is likened to the falling of the latter rain." (Acts of the Apostles, p. 55)

### Purpose of the Latter Rain

The message will go into all the world "When do her [Babylon] sins reach unto heaven? When the law of God is finally made void by legislation. Then the extremity of God's people is His opportunity to show who is the governor of heaven and earth. "As a Satanic power is stirring up the elements from beneath, God will send light and power to His people, that the message of truth may be proclaimed to all the world." (Maranatha, p. 179)

Purpose of the Latter Rain It prepares for the time of trouble
"It is the latter rain which revives and strengthens them [God's people] to pass through the time of trouble." (*Review*, May 27, 1862).

It fits persons for translation "Those who come up to every point, and stand every test, and overcome, be the price what it may, have heeded the counsel of the True Witness, and they will receive the latter rain, and thus be fitted for translation." (*Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 187)

### Be Part of the Latter Rain Revival

"The third angel's message is swelling into a loud cry, and you must not feel at liberty to neglect the present duty, and still entertain the idea that at some future time you will be the recipients of great blessing, when without any effort on your part a wonderful revival will take place....

Today you are to have your vessel purified, that it may be ready for the heavenly dew, ready for the showers of the latter rain; for the latter rain will come, and the blessing of God will fill every soul that is purified from every defilement.

"It is our work today to yield our souls to Christ, that we may be fitted for the time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord-fitted for the baptism of the Holy Spirit." (*Evangelism*, p. 701)

## Reflections

How does the fact that Christ is finishing His ministry in the great antitypical **Day of Atonement** influences your lifestyle?

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