

FINISHING THE MYSTERY OF GOD

LESSON #14

ASSAULT ON THE SANCTUARY DOCTRINE

INTRODUCTION

All emphases are authors except where noted. All Scripture are from the K.J.V. Bible unless stated.

The pillar that supports the foundation of ALL our doctrines is the sanctuary doctrine based on Daniel 8:14. There are a lot of critics that want to destroy this message and us along with it! They have a lot of objections and arguments that seem unanswerable and are designed to prove our sanctuary message to be false. For years we have capitulated to the point where the sanctuary message is no longer taught nor believed by many in the S.D.A. church today. for this reason, we will move into the apologetics or defense of the sanctuary doctrine. The critics have had 200 years to form their objections and they have done a seemingly good job of destroying that doctrine by presenting seemingly unanswerable evidences against it.

The purpose of the next lessons will be to answer these objections and attacks with Scripture truth in support and defense of the sanctuary doctrine!

Let us pray:

Holy Father, Your sanctuary doctrine has been maligned and near destroyed by Satan's attack against it. I plead for wisdom to counter his attack and show the validity of that teaching. Please give me wisdom and the ability to show that it is true and valid in the following lessons. Forgive any trespasses that we, your children, may have committed and cleanse all from iniquity. Create a right way of thinking and acting that will be pleasing in Your sight. I ask this in the name of Jesus, Your Son. Amen.

Daniel 8:14. "And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; **then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.**"

As you know this doctrine is the foundation and central pillar of our belief and faith! All our unique doctrines are based on this one pillar of our faith.

GC 409:1. "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.**"

CCh 347:1. "The **correct understanding** of the ministration in the heavenly sanctuary **is the foundation of our faith.**"

NOTE: If the critics can destroy the sanctuary service doctrine and show that it is false, what do we have left? There would be no reason for the remnant children of God to exist any longer. Dear brothers and sisters, these two statements make it a life and death matter concerning our existence. Without this truth we might as well be Baptist or one of the other evangelical churches.

The sanctuary teaching is the most unique and important doctrine we hold. It is our contribution to Christianity!

It is also the most misunderstood, the most questioned, the most controverted, challenged and hated doctrine held by God's remnant people in the evangelical world today.

The claim that Jesus is now ministering in the second apartment of the sanctuary in heaven performing the second phase of the atonement is hotly ridiculed and maligned and hated. So, we have an uphill

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battle to wage in defending this most important doctrine.

Here is a list of some of the major objection that are being raised against this message. Objection to our date of 1844 and the timing of the work of Christ in the most holy place. The objectors contend that Jesus entered the most holy place in 31 A.D. after his ascended. This is a major objection. Here are some of the verses being used to support this idea.

1. **Hebrews 6:19, 20.** “Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, *even* Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.” (Italics in original).

NOTE: In the old testament this expression “within the veil” always refers to the most holy place without exception. Therefore, the critics claim that this points to Christ entering the most holy place at His ascension.

If this is true, we are in trouble, big trouble! This was written in the first century around 66 A.D. meaning that it is referring to that century. Or in other words to Christ’s ascending to the most holy apartment at that time.

2. **Hebrews 10:19.** “Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus.”

NOTE: This says the holiest. That is a seeming reference to the most holy place. But is this speaking of Jesus at His ascension or is it speaking of some other time? Even though verse 10 speaks of Christ offering His body, it is in the context of the cleansing of the sanctuary. Verses 16-18 indicate the atonement at the end of time. It speaks of the cleansing of sin and no more offering for sin after those days. That is clearly the cleansing of the sanctuary

language and that does not take place until the last act of the atonement. After those days would indicate after the persecutions of the Catholic Church and that would indicate after 1844. In Heb. 9:8 “The Holy Ghost this signifying, that **the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing.**” Paul is saying that the way into the holiest was not made manifest while the earthly sanctuary was still standing. At this time the earthly sanctuary was standing so the way into the holiest could not take place at Christ’s ascension!

The critics say that Christ entered the most holy after the temple was destroyed. Since the temple is no longer standing, we now have access to the most holy. Of course, I do not believe that. My question is, at what time did Christ enter the holiest? Was it in 31 A. D. or after Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 A. D?

3. **Hebrews 4:16.** “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

NOTE: The assumption is that the throne of grace is in the most holy place. And since the temple is no longer standing, we have direct access to the throne of God. That is where Christ is, so as early as 66 A.D. Paul was inviting Christians to come into the holiest to obtain mercy and help in time of need. The NIV is more blunt, it says “the most holy place.”

4. **Hebrews 10:19.** “Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus.”

The objectors say that the atonement began in 31 A.D. and not in 1844 as we teach. Let’s look at some verses that they use to support this assumption.

5. **Hebrews 5:3, 4.** “And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins. And no man taketh this

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honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as *was* Aaron.”

NOTE: They say this represents the day of atonement where Aaron offered a sacrifice for himself and for the people after his offering. But, is that the only time Aaron or the rest of the priest offered sacrifice for themselves? NO! they offered sacrifice for the people daily and for their own sins also on a daily basis. Therefore, this is not necessarily speaking of the day of atonement exclusively. Hebrews 7:26, 27 here Paul is saying the same thing. “For such an high priest became us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; **Who needeth not daily, as those high priests,** to offer up sacrifice, **first for his own sins, and then for the people's:** for this he did once, when he offered up himself.” Notice in verse 27 it indicates that this is talking about the daily sacrifices and not the day of atonement sacrifices!

6. The year day principal is not biblical. They say it is **contrived**, that is the word they use.
7. They say that the 2300 evening morning prophecy of Daniel 8, and the seventy weeks prophecy of Daniel 9 are not related. There is no connection between the two of them! If that is true what happens to our teaching of the 2300 days? It removes the starting point for the 2300-day prophecy. We have no starting point for the 2300 days. If there is no starting point for that prophecy then there can be no ending point. Therefore the 2300-day prophecy has no validation concerning the cleansing of the sanctuary and therefore no reason to teach the cleansing of the sanctuary. This destroys all of the unique doctrines of the sanctuary and therefore, no reason for the Adventist to exist! There were twelve years between these two prophecies, how can there be a connection? You are stretching this connection too far! They say.

8. We teach that the cleansing of the sanctuary in Daniel 8:14 is the same cleansing taught in Leviticus 16. The critics cry foul. Why? Because they say these two cleansing are different cleansings because the words for cleansing used are two different words meaning two different things, one is for righteousness for a living person, the other is for cleansing of buildings or objects and not used for people. Therefore, these two cleansings are not the same! While it is true that different words are used, there are places in Scripture where these exact two words are used interchangeable with each other and are combined in their meaning.
9. The transfer of sin from the animal to the sanctuary through the manipulation of the blood being sprinkled that we teach; the critics say that is ridiculous and absurd. There is no transfer of sin to the sanctuary. Where in the Bible does it teach that there is transfer of sin to the sanctuary? How do we deal with that?
10. There is an accusation that Ellen White is the originator of the sanctuary message. Ellen White came up with that idea. Then sometimes they say it is Hiram Edson's vision in the corn field where we derive the sanctuary doctrine.
11. Objection to our teaching that there is a work of atonement going on in the second apartment of the sanctuary in heaven right now! There is a huge issue revolving around this because Evangelical Christians hold that the atonement was completed when Jesus died on the cross. Everything was done and fulfilled at the cross. Therefore, there cannot be any work of atonement being done in the sanctuary now. Some verses used are Hebrews 9:12 “Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, **having obtained**

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eternal redemption for us" (Italics in original). Another verse to support that everything was done at the cross is Hebrews 7:27 "Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: **for this he did once, when he offered up himself.**" To them, the atonement is finished, done. No more atonement is necessary!

NOTE: We must defend our position from the Bible. We cannot use Ellen White, not even once because the objectors hold her as Jezebel the false prophet of Revelation 2:20. "Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest **that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.**"

We will spend time studying these objections and when we are finished you will have ammunition to counteract these objections. I am sure we will all face these objections, especially when we are called to defend our faith before courts in the time of trouble. Please keep these studies for future reference as you will need this information. We should keep this information in our minds and hearts in order to give answer to those who ask or present to us these objections.

Jude 1:3. "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*"

12. This is the last objection we will look at and it is the objection to the **investigative judgment.** Our critics do not deny that there is a judgment at Christ's coming but they strenuously object to a pre-advent judgment. There is no judgment, they say, before the Lord's coming.

I have shared with you 12 major objections that the evangelical churches make to prove that the Adventist faith is a deception and a perversion of the Gospel truth. We will study these individually in the following lessons. I hope you will study these objections for yourselves so you can give Biblical answers when called upon to defend your faith!

Now I would like to spend some time discussing and examining the way our sanctuary service message came about and how firmly laid it is. I want us to see that it is the truth and we are right in supporting it! I am going to share from the spirit of prophecy because Ellen White gives us inside information how this truth came about. There are a lot of historical tidbits here.

In Selected Messages she explains how the brethren spent night after night, and sometimes all night in study and prayer while learning from the Bible the truths for the end time. You will see that you are right in supporting these truths!

1SM 206:4-208:2. "Many of our people do not realize how firmly the foundation of our faith has been laid."

NOTE: "Many do not realize" we take for granted that we know what we believe when we do not realize how much we take for granted but do not really know. We study the quarterly or listen to a sermon, or read an article or listen to a tape and we think we understand but when we are confronted, we cannot give adequate answers. Let us continue in Selected Messages:

"My husband, Elder Joseph Bates, Father Pierce, [Older brethren among the pioneers are here thus reminiscently referred to. "Father Pierce" was Stephen Pierce, who served in ministerial and administrative work in the early days. "Father Andrews" was Edward Andrews, the father of J. N. Andrews. —Compilers.] Elder [Hiram] Edson, and others who were keen, noble, and true, were among those who, after the passing of the time in 1844, searched for

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the truth as for hidden treasure. I met with them, and we studied and prayed earnestly. Often, we remained together until late at night, and sometimes through the entire night, praying for light and studying the Word. Again, and again these brethren came together to study the Bible, in order that they might know its meaning, and be prepared to teach it with power. When they came to the point in their study where they said, "We can do nothing more," the Spirit of the Lord would come upon me, I would be taken off in vision, and a clear explanation of the passages we had been studying would be given me, with instruction as to how we were to labor and teach effectively."

NOTE: These truths did not just come from a vision they came from earnest Bible study and much prayer. At what point did the visions come? When the brethren could understand no more! We need to study like that. Let's continue:

"Thus, light was given that helped us to understand the scriptures in regard to Christ, His mission, and His priesthood. A line of truth extending from that time to the time when we shall enter the city of God, was made plain to me, and I gave to others the instruction that the Lord had given me. {1SM 206.4}.

During this whole time, I could not understand the reasoning of the brethren. My mind was locked, as it were, and I could not comprehend the meaning of the scriptures we were studying."

NOTE: Why is this important for us to know? So, we can understand that Ellen could not understand what was being discovered of the foundation of our faith. Thus, she had nothing to contribute to the understanding of the sanctuary doctrine. It is not true that the sanctuary doctrine is her fabrication, she had nothing to do with establishing it! She wanted to understand but she could not. let's continue:

"This was one of the greatest sorrows of my life. I was in this condition of mind until all the principal points of our faith were made clear to our minds, in harmony with the Word of God. The brethren knew

that when not in vision, I could not understand these matters, and they accepted as light direct from heaven the revelations given. {1SM 207.1}.

For two or three years my mind continued to be locked to an understanding of the Scriptures. In the course of our labors, my husband and I visited Father Andrews, who was suffering intensely with inflammatory rheumatism. We prayed for him. I laid my hands on his head, and said, "Father Andrews, the Lord Jesus maketh thee whole." He was healed instantly. He got up, and walked about the room, praising God, and saying, "I never saw it on this wise before. Angels of God are in this room." The glory of the Lord was revealed. Light seemed to shine all through the house, and an angel's hand was laid upon my head. From that time to this I have been able to understand the Word of God. {1SM 207.2}.

"What influence is it would lead men at this stage of our history to work in an underhand, powerful way to tear down the foundation of our faith—the foundation that was laid at the beginning of our work by prayerful study of the Word and by revelation? Upon this foundation we have been building for the past fifty years. Do you wonder that when I see the beginning of a work that would remove some of the pillars of our faith, I have something to say? I must obey the command, "Meet it!" ... {1SM 207.3}.

NOTE: Meet it, hit it dead on! Do not try to avoid the collision for that will sink the ship, just as the Titanic was sunk! Let's continue. "I must bear the messages of warning that God gives me to bear, and then leave with the Lord the results. I must now present the matter in all its bearings; for the people of God must not be despoiled. {1SM 208.1}. "We are God's commandment-keeping people. For the past fifty years every phase of heresy has been brought to bear upon us, to becloud our minds regarding the teaching of the Word—especially concerning the ministration of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary, and the message of Heaven for these last days, as given by the angels of the fourteenth

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chapter of Revelation. **Messages of every order and kind have been urged upon Seventh-day Adventists, to take the place of the truth which, point by point, has been sought out by prayerful study, and testified to by the miracle-working power of the Lord. But the waymarks which have made us what we are, are to be preserved, and they will be preserved, as God has signified through His Word and the testimony of His Spirit. He calls upon us to hold firmly, with the grip of faith, to the fundamental principles that are based upon unquestionable authority.**" {1SM 208.2}.

NOTE: We need to ask ourselves. What role do I play in this vision? We understand that the sanctuary doctrine did not come from Hiram Edson or Ellen White but from earnest prayerful and much work in studying scripture that these truths were discovered! Ellen was also given a vision that portrayed the controversy surrounding the sanctuary doctrine. Let's read what she revealed concerning this.

EW258:3. "I saw a company who stood well-guarded and firm, **giving no countenance to those who would unsettle the established faith of the body. God looked upon them with approbation.** I was shown three steps—the first, second, and third angels' messages. Said my accompanying angel, "Woe to him who shall move a block or stir a pin of these messages. **The true understanding of these messages is of vital importance. The destiny of souls hangs upon the manner in which they are received.**" I was again brought down through these messages, and saw how dearly the people of God had purchased their experience. **It had been obtained through much suffering and severe conflict. God had led them along step by step, until He had placed them upon a solid, immovable platform.**"

NOTE: How can these doctrines be counted as error if they are established by the master builder! His work never changes! These doctrines are immovable, a platform of truth, that will never be altered!

Let's continue in Early writings:

"I saw individuals approach the platform and examine the foundation. Some with rejoicing immediately stepped upon it. **Others commenced to find fault with the foundation. They wished improvements made, and then the platform would be more perfect, and the people much happier.** Some stepped off the platform to examine it and declared it to be laid wrong. But I saw that nearly all stood firm upon the platform and **exhorted those who had stepped off to cease their complaints; for God was the Master Builder, and they were fighting against Him.** They recounted the wonderful work of God, which had led them to the firm platform, and in union raised their eyes to heaven and with a loud voice glorified God. **This affected some of those who had complained and left the platform, and they with humble look again stepped upon it.**" {EW 258.3}.

NOTE: There are some who will realize it is a mistake to discount the work of God by finding fault with the first fifty years of truths revealed to the S.D.A. Church. They will repent of their complaining and unbelief and step back upon the platform of truth.

In the next lesson we will look at the first objection concerning the veil and its meaning in Hebrews 6:19, 20. Is it the veil separating the most holy place from the holy?

Let us pray:

Holy father, please send Your holy spirit to guide our thinking and reveal the correct understanding of these objection that the enemy has presented. You have called us to reason with You. Please guide us in our reasoning that we might rightly divide Your Word! Forgive our sins and cleanse us. I ask this prayer in the name of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Your brother in Christ

Virgil Prindle