

SANCTUARY STUDY LESSON #29

THE ATONEMENT PART D

A CLARIFICATION OF THE ATONEMENT

INTRODUCTION

All italics are in the original text. All other emphases are the authors unless noted. All scriptures are from the K.J.V. Bible unless stated otherwise.

To me, the subject of the atonement is very difficult to write about. It seems I have a hard time expressing my thoughts on this matter. I have asked the Lord to give me clarity of thought and understanding that I may express the truth in a manner that all may easily understand. May this prayer be answered for everyone who studies this lesson.

Let us pray:

Holy Father grant that Your spirit may be present with those who study this lesson. May Your spirit also guide me in writing for clarity of thought and words. We know You have promised to answer this prayer because I ask this in the name of Your Son Jesus. Amen.

1John 1:9. “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

NOTE: This is the promise of God and He will fulfill this promise in detail, but there are methods and procedures that we must follow for this promise to be fulfilled for each one. Let us look at some of these procedures.

Patriarchs Prophets 355:5. “In the sin offerings presented during the year, a substitute had been accepted in the sinner's stead; but the blood of the victim had not made full atonement for the sin. It had only provided a means **by which the sin was transferred to the sanctuary.** (This is the written record against us). By the offering of blood, the sinner acknowledged the authority of the law, confessed the guilt of his transgression, and expressed his faith in Him who was to take away the sin of the world; **but**

he was not entirely released from the condemnation of the law.”

Hebrews 9:6-8. “Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the **first tabernacle, (the holy place)** accomplishing the service of God. **But into the second (most holy place)** went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people: **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.”**

NOTE: This raises questions that I believe need to be answered for a better understanding of the two stages of the atonement brought to view here.

1. What is the reason the blood did not completely cleanse from sin in the first apartment (the holy place) of the sanctuary?
2. What is it that makes the most holy (second apartment) place administration of such importance?
3. How does the most holy place experience apply to all of God's people that have passed from the scene of action? Or have died.
4. Why are part of the last generation who have been purified, the 144,000, called the first fruits?

I will answer each question separately and in order.

QUESTION #1. What is the reason the blood did not completely cleanse from sin in the holy place administration? Or why was the sinner not entirely released from condemnation?

Hebrews 11:39, 40. “And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, **received not the promise:** God having provided some better thing for us, **that they without us should not be made perfect.**”

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Hebrews 9:23-28. “It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; (animal sacrifices) but the heavenly things themselves with **better sacrifices** than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; **but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:** (this is one reason we are not fully cleansed in the holy place), **Nor yet that he should offer himself often,** (another reason), as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; **For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world:** (this is another reason), **but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.** (probably the main reason), **And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:** (another reason), **So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many;** (another reason), **and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”**

NOTE: Christ makes the final Atonement only once. During this time every case is investigated to determine if they have truly surrendered to Christ. The dead are judged first. In Rev. 6:9-11, the worthy dead are given white robes and told to wait a little while longer. After that the living are judged and all sins are blotted out after that time. This allows all to be glorified together at the same time at Jesus’s second coming! What about those who do not take advantage of the benefits provided in the first phase of the atonement? That atonement provided in the first tabernacle. Heb. 9:6. Can they be helped by the second (most holy place atonement)?

(TMK) That I May Know Him 238:3. “The mansions that Jesus has gone to prepare for all who love Him will be peopled by those who are free from sin. **But sins that are not confessed will never be forgiven;** the name of him who thus rejects the grace of

God will be blotted out of the book of life. **The time is at hand when every secret thing shall be brought into judgment,** and then there will be many confessions made that will astonish the world. **The secrets of all hearts will be revealed.** The confession of sin will be most public. **The sad part of it is that confession then made will be too late to benefit the wrongdoer or to save others from deception.** It only testifies that his condemnation is just. . . **You may now close the book of your remembrance in order to escape confessing your sins, but when the judgment shall sit and the books shall be opened, you cannot close them.** The recording angel has testified that which is true. All that you have tried to conceal and forget is registered, and will be read to you when it is too late for wrongs to be righted. . . . **Unless your sins are canceled,** (which takes place in the first apartment of the sanctuary), **they will testify against you at that day.”**

NOTE: How do the sins get canceled? First there is confession to God, this transfers the sin to the holy place in the sanctuary in heaven thereby making a record of the sin in the books of heaven! Without participation in this first phase of the atonement the second cannot benefit the sinner! It is only those sins that have been confessed and overcome in the first apartment, or first phase of the atonement, that are considered in the second phase, or most holy place part, of the atonement.

GC 480:1, 2. “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 (the blotting out of sins). **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.

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‘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 480.1}

“The books of record in heaven, in which the names and the deeds of men are registered, are to determine the decisions of the judgment. Says the prophet Daniel: ‘The judgment was set, and the books were opened.’ (Daniel 7:10). The revelator, describing the same scene, adds: ‘another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.’ Revelation 20:12.” {GC 480.2}.

NOTE: The work of the most holy place atonement is to remove this record of sin against God’s people but only those who have previously confessed their sins will benefit from this work of atonement! Since Christ only makes one sacrifice in the end of time, the holy place therefore, is the place that contains all the records of all those who have accepted salvation and are counted worthy of the blotting out of sins. That is why we must confess our sins to Christ to be covered with His blood in order that they may be transferred to the sanctuary because no other sins are blotted out except those that have been previously confessed.

QUESTION #2. What makes the most holy place Atonement and administration so important?

NOTE: It is the blotting out of sin from the records in heaven, but more important, it also represents the eradication of sin out of our lives, the soul sanctuary. We will look at the cleansing of sin from our personal lives in answering this question.

PP (Patriarchs and Prophets) 354:2-355:5. “The most important part of the daily ministration was the service performed in behalf of individuals. The repentant sinner brought his offering to the door of the tabernacle, and, placing his hand upon the victim’s

head, confessed his sins, thus in figure transferring them from himself to the innocent sacrifice. By his own hand the animal was then slain, and the blood was carried by the priest into the holy place and sprinkled before the veil, behind which was the ark containing the law that the sinner had transgressed. By this ceremony the sin was, through the blood, transferred in figure to the sanctuary. In some cases the blood was not taken into the holy place but the flesh was then to be eaten by the priest, as Moses directed the sons of Aaron, saying, ‘God hath given it you to bear the iniquity of the congregation.’ (Leviticus 10:17 LP). Both ceremonies alike symbolized the transfer of the sin from the penitent to the sanctuary. {PP 354.2}.

“Such was the work that went on day by day throughout the year. The sins of Israel being thus transferred to the sanctuary, the holy places were defiled, and a special work became necessary for the removal of the sins. God commanded that an atonement be made for each of the sacred apartments, as for the altar, to ‘cleanse it, and hallow it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel.’ Leviticus 16:19. {PP 355.1}

“Once a year, on the great Day of Atonement, the priest entered the most holy place for the cleansing of the sanctuary. The work there performed completed the yearly round of ministration. {PP 355.2}

“On the Day of Atonement two kids of the goats were brought to the door of the tabernacle, and lots were cast upon them, ‘one lot for the Lord, and the other lot for the scapegoat.’ The goat upon which the first lot fell was to be slain as a sin offering for the people. And the priest was to bring his blood within the veil, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat. ‘And he shall make an atonement for the holy place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgression in all their sins; and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth

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among them in the midst of their uncleanness.’ {PP 355.3}

”And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: and the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities into a land not inhabited.’ **Not until the goat had been thus sent away did the people regard themselves as freed from the burden of their sins.** (This is another reason a full atonement was not accomplished in this apartment). Every man was to afflict his soul while the work of atonement was going forward. All business was laid aside, and the whole congregation of Israel spent the day in solemn humiliation before God, with prayer, fasting, and deep searching of heart. {PP 355.4}.

“Important truths concerning the atonement were taught the people by this yearly service. In the sin offerings presented during (each day of) the year, a substitute had been accepted in the sinner's stead; **but the blood of the victim had not made full atonement for the sin. It had only provided a means by which the sin was transferred to the sanctuary. By the offering of blood, the sinner acknowledged the authority of the law, **confessed the guilt of his transgression, and expressed his faith in Him who was to take away the sin of the world; but he was not entirely released from the condemnation of the law.** On the Day of Atonement the high priest, having taken an offering for the congregation, went into the most holy place with the blood and sprinkled it upon the mercy seat, above the tables of the law. **Thus the claims of the law, which demanded the life of the sinner, were satisfied.** Then in his character of mediator the priest took the sins upon himself, and, leaving the sanctuary, he bore with him the burden of Israel's guilt. At the door of**

the tabernacle he laid his hands upon the head of the scapegoat and confessed over him ‘all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat.’ **And as the goat bearing these sins was sent away, they were, with him, regarded as forever separated from the people. Such was the service performed ‘unto the example and shadow of heavenly things.’** Hebrews 8:5.” {PP 355.5}

NOTE: We must be careful in accepting certain teachings concerning the final Atonement of Christ in the most holy. Many who teach this subject do not accept the truth of the doctrine of God. They cannot be trusted to give the truth as it is in Jesus concerning His Atonement.

We must be careful of Dr. Henry Cha’s teaching on the final Atonement of Christ, though he has much truth, he also holds certain errors that are dangerous. He teaches that the Adamic life of Adam that we all receive, that bend toward evil, is what was destroyed by the sprinkling of the blood on the mercy seat in the holiest, therefore producing an instant death of our Adamic life, the death of our fallen nature, there by instantly changing our character. Did the blood that “satisfied the claims of the law” come from the “Adamic man”, or the “Lords goat”, which represents Christ’s blood? The blood that satisfied the claims of the law was Christ’s blood not ours. If we atone for our own sins we die eternally.

Here is how AG, “God’s Amazing Grace”, 153:2-4, confirms this truth: “Christ on the cross not only draws men to repentance toward God for the transgression of His law--for whom God pardons He first makes penitent--**but Christ has satisfied Justice;** He has proffered Himself as an atonement. His gushing blood, His broken body, **satisfy the claims of the broken law, and thus He bridges the gulf which sin has made. He suffered in the flesh, that with His bruised and broken body He might cover the**

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defenseless sinner. The victory gained at His death on Calvary broke forever the accusing power of Satan over the universe and silenced his charges that self-denial was impossible with God and therefore not essential in the human family.

“Christ was without sin, else His life in human flesh and His death on the cross would have been of no more value in procuring grace for the sinner than the death of any other man. While He took upon Him humanity, **it was a life taken into union with Deity.** He could lay down His life as priest and also victim. . . . He offered Himself without spot to God.

“The atonement of Christ sealed forever the everlasting covenant of grace. **It was the fulfilling of every condition upon which God suspended the free communication of grace to the human family. Every barrier was then broken down which intercepted the freest exercise of grace, mercy, peace, and love to the most guilty of Adam's race.**”

NOTE: While it is true that the Adamic life of Adam has been destroyed in us at the time of Christ's fulfilling the claims of the law, that death had been accomplished, it was no longer alive in us because of our own diligent effort, over time, and our total dependence upon the operation of the Father and the recreative power of His Son!

This victory is first obtained by the 144,000 and then for the multitude that no man could number (Rev. 7:9). Ellen White, always in agreement with scripture, tells us in:

EW 270:4- 271:2. “Said the angel, "List ye!" Soon I heard a voice like many musical instruments all sounding in perfect strains, sweet and harmonious. It surpassed any music I had ever heard, seeming to be full of mercy, compassion, and elevating, holy joy. It thrilled through my whole being. Said the angel,

"Look ye!" My attention was then turned to the company I had seen, who were mightily shaken. I was shown those whom I had before seen weeping and praying in agony of spirit. **The company of guardian angels around them had been doubled,** (this company are now equivalent to the Ark of the Covenant, the depository of the law of God) **and they were clothed with an armor from their head to their feet. They moved in exact order, like a company of soldiers.** Their countenances expressed the severe conflict which they had endured, the agonizing struggle they had passed through. Yet their features, marked with severe internal anguish, now shone with the light and glory of heaven. **They had obtained the victory, and it called forth from them the deepest gratitude and holy, sacred joy.** (This statement does not lend itself to the theory of instant removal and death of the fallen nature which is the Adamic life). The numbers of this company had lessened. Some had been shaken out and left by the way. The careless and indifferent, who did not join with those who prized victory and salvation enough to perseveringly plead and agonize for it, did not obtain it, and they were left behind in darkness, and their places were immediately filled by others taking hold of the truth and coming into the ranks. (Here, once again, this does not condone instantaneous death of the Adamic life). Evil angels still pressed around them, but could have no power over them.

“I heard those clothed with the armor speak forth the truth with great power. It had effect. Many had been bound; some wives by their husbands, and some children by their parents. The honest who had been prevented from hearing the truth now eagerly laid hold upon it. All fear of their relatives was gone, and the truth alone was exalted to them. They had been hungering and thirsting for truth; it was dearer and more precious than life. I asked what had made this great change. An angel answered, **"It is the latter rain, the refreshing from the presence of the Lord, the**

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loud cry of the third angel." {EW 271.2}. (Parenthesis and emphasis mine).

NOTE: By this statement is shown that the cleansing is a process that takes time, diligent effort, and perseverance with God. Notice the victory is obtained for some and then later for others showing that the Adamic life of Adam has been destroyed before the declaration that "the demands of the law were satisfied" which showed that Christ's blood is what satisfied the claim of the law. The saved are still alive so their blood could not atone for their sins, only Christ's! He is the creator, His life is equal to all life.

In Zac. 3:1. Joshua, the high priest (royal priest) indicates that it is the priest that first receive the change of raiment they are first to receive the victory and give the message to the world.

1Peter 2:9. "But ye are a **chosen generation, a royal priesthood,** an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

NOTE: These are the first to receive the change of garments, the robe of Christ's righteousness! According to EW 271:2 these give the message to the great multitude of Rev. 7:9.

These polished white stones, according to **8 Red (Redemption or teaching of Paul) 78:1, 2,** Are "**the precious stones (which) represent the most perfect Christians, who have been refined and polished by the grace of God, and affliction which they have endured with much prayer and patience. Their obedience and love resemble that of the great Pattern.** Their lives are beautified and ennobled by self-sacrifice. They will endure the test of the burning day, for they are **living stones.** 'Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out.'(The 144,000)

"Many, from worldly policy, endeavor, by their own efforts, to become as polished stones, but cannot be **living stones,** because they are not built upon the true foundation. The day of God will reveal that they are, in reality, only hay, wood, and stubble."

NOTE: These living stones are the ones that, I believe, give the message which has great influence because of the Latter Rain! Then comes the close of probation of Rev. 22:11.

QUESTION #3. How does the most holy place experience benefit all of God's people that have passed from the scene of action?

Because the atonement, or cleansing, of the 144,000 proves that every human ever born on earth could have live without sin. Satan's claim that it is impossible for man to obey God's law is refuted. At that time the Father will have proved His justice in destroying the wicked of all ages since the world began!

Since the 144,000 are the proof of this truth, that all men can live a sinless life in Christ, He is able to give the righteous dead white robes which is the righteousness of saints! The 144,000 are therefore the first fruits that guarantee the salvation of all men. It is that life which Christ developed while living on this earth for 33 ½ years that is the gift of the "life of His life" that Jesus gave to His disciples on the day of Pentecost as the holy spirit.

RH JANUARY 6, 1911:6. "**Christ gives them the life of his life. The Holy Spirit puts forth its highest energies to work in mind and heart.** Through the grace given us, we may achieve victories which, because of our defects of character and the smallness of our faith, may have seemed to us impossible. To everyone who offers himself to the Lord for service, withholding nothing, is given power for the attainment of measureless results." RH Jan. 5, 1911:6.

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Question #4. Why are the last generation who have been purified, the 144,000 called the “First Fruits”?

To understand this “first fruits” title we must study the church of Philadelphia in:

Rev. 3:7-13. “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth: I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. **Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.** Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”

NOTE: The next church, Laodicea, which is really the Philadelphia church in its last phase of existence, are given a most startling message about being poor, blind, and naked! Those who accept the counsel of the true witness and overcome will have the truths characteristics of the original church of Philadelphia and are alive when Jesus returns for his people.

Not only that, but the 144,000, receive all the promises to all the seven churches mentioned. Please no-

tice that the promise to each church is to the overcomer and the first to overcome are the 144,000! I want to call attention to the white stones given to the overcomers in Pergamos. I think this is awesome because we are told in the Spirit of Prophecy that the polished white stones represent those who have most closely perfected the character of Christ!

ST JUNE 6, 1895:3. “The company of believers may be few in number, but **they have been taken by the Cleaver of truth as rough stones from the quarry of the world**, and have been brought into God’s workshop to be hewed and squared by ax and chisel, to be fitted up by test and trial for a place in God’s heavenly temple, and **they are very precious in the sight of the Lord**. Though they are to be hewed and squared, and **fitted and polished for the heavenly building**, yet even in the rough, they are **precious in the sight of God**. The ax, and the hammer, and the chisel of trial and test, are in the hands of One who is skillful, and are used not to destroy, not to bring to nothingness, but to work **out the perfection of every soul, so that, as precious stones, transformed and polished, the children of God may find their place in the building of God.** {ST, June 6, 1895 par. 3}

“The precious stones represent the most perfect Christians, who have been refined and **polished** by the grace of God, and affliction which they have endured with much prayer and patience. Their obedience and love resemble that of the great Pattern. Their lives are beautified and ennobled by self-sacrifice. They will endure the test of the burning day, **for they are living stones. ‘Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out.’”** {8Red 78.1}.

Revelation 14:1-5. “And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an **hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father’s name written in their foreheads**. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and

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as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were **not defiled with women**; for they are virgins. These are they which **follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth**. These were redeemed from among men, being the **firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb**. And **in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.**”

NOTE: It is the 144,000 who most perfectly reflect the character of Christ and the Father, therefore, each receives a white polished stone. Because they are living among the last generation and are first to reflect the image of Christ fully, they are called the first fruits of the harvest. The first fruits are never the whole harvest but the first to ripen into perfect maturity. This is the reason Satan tries them so severely. He must cause the fall of these overcomers, else his final death knell is rung and his kingdom is finished! That is why there is a time of trouble such has never been on this earth.

Let us pray:

Holy Father please grant us Thy spirit that we may stand against Satan’s wrath in these last days. Help us to put on the whole armor of God that we may overcome the enemy of our souls. I offer this prayer in the name of Jesus the messiah. Amen.

Your brother in Christ,

Virgil Prindle