

The Gospel, 1844, and Judgment
The Sanctuary and the Little Horn

Lesson #11 for September 9, 2006

Scriptures: Exodus 27:20; 29:42; Numbers 4:7; 28:6; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:24-27; 8:1-5; 9:1-14, 24.

1. In our lesson for this week we are studying two “opponents” neither of which is clearly understood. What is the heavenly sanctuary? Does it look like the one built by Moses and the children of Israel in the desert? What happens there? Why is it called a sanctuary? Is this God’s permanent home? Or just his throne?
2. The sanctuary we know and read about in Scriptures involved a lot of animal sacrifices, incense, sacred bread, lamps, etc. None of these will be in heaven as far as we know. Certainly there will be no sacrifices. So what is in the sanctuary in heaven? **The sanctuary on earth had a holy place and a most holy place. Is there a holy place and a most holy place in heaven? The sanctuary on earth was considered holy because God’s presence was in it. The most holy place was his special dwelling place. So if God is in heaven does that mean that all of heaven is a most holy place? Is the sanctuary the same as the temple of heaven? (Revelation 21:22)**
3. In the sanctuary here on this earth, the priests went through elaborate ceremonies of cleansing, purification, sacrifice of animals, and many, many rituals. Are all of these things necessary in heaven? Why would such things be necessary? In the earthly sanctuary only the priests were allowed to enter, and only the high priest was allowed to enter the most holy place and approach the presence of God. **The good news of the gospel as suggested in the New Testament is that every one of us can approach God personally. (Hebrews 4:16) Does this mean that the sanctuary in heaven does not need priests any longer? If there are priests, who are they, and what do they do? Is Jesus the only “priest”?** Are there beings in heaven who mediate between God and other beings? This is completely contrary to what we have taught about God. As you understand things right now, if you were suddenly transported to heaven and placed in front of the heavenly sanctuary, would you feel comfortable walking into the most holy place? Why? Or why not?
4. What is the little horn? It is not a symbol that we are accustomed to speaking about often. Why did God choose this symbol? What was he trying to represent? In Daniel 7 & 8, we learn about two little horns. Are they the same? The beasts in Daniel 7 & 8 represent major kingdoms that conquered and ruled the world. So what does(do) the little horn(s) do? We noticed that the little horn’s activity seems to shift in Daniel 8:9-12 from a horizontal action against other human beings to a vertical action against the prince of the host of heaven. **Is it fair for us to look at these two phases of the little horn’s activity as the two phases of another world empire?** Taking only the words in Daniel 8, which aspect of the little horn’s activities seems to be the most prominent: the horizontal activity or the vertical activity? Is his attack more against other human beings or against God? Notice the parallel explanatory passage in Daniel 8:23-25. **Notice specifically that the little horn is in constant conflict with God and God’s own people.**
5. So what is the relationship between the heavenly sanctuary and this power which seems to be a power here on this earth? Specifically, **what does the cleansing of the sanctuary have to do with the little horn?** What is the relationship between the little horn, the sanctuary and the gospel—even the plan of salvation—as we understand it?
6. Read again Daniel 8:9-12. How can an earthly power attack “the army of heaven” even “the stars themselves” throwing some of them to the ground and trampling on them? In what way does the little horn defy the Prince of the heavenly army? How can an earthly power of any kind stop the daily sacrifices being offered to God and inflict damage upon the

heavenly sanctuary? It has been suggested that this little horn power seeks to take away the heavenly ministry of Christ? How is this possible? What does he do? What would the little horn need to do in order to be considered an attack on the sanctuary? Do we have evidence that this little horn power sought or seeks to take over the position, the power, and the prerogatives that belong exclusively to God?

7. It's interesting to notice that the animals envisioned in Daniel 8 are all "clean" animals and were a part of the Day of Atonement ceremonies in the ancient sanctuary. What do you think God is trying to symbolize by this?
8. **If the little horn power could somehow confuse and distort and misrepresent God and the heavenly sanctuary—and thus the correct understanding of the plan of salvation—would that be a clear attack on the heavenly sanctuary?**
9. To delve more carefully into the meaning of this verse we must look at it very carefully. The phrase often translated "daily" or "continual" comes from the Hebrew word *tamid*. This word is used many times in the Old Testament. The basic meaning is not "daily" but "continual". So what was "daily" or "continual" in the ancient sanctuary? The burnt offerings, morning and evening (Exodus 29:38-42); the daily or continual sacred bread (Exodus 25:30); the lamp that was to be kept continually burning (Exodus 27:20), the continually burning incense (Exodus 30:8) and the perpetual fire to be kept burning on the altar of burnt offering (Leviticus 6:13). Is it clear in your mind what each of these symbols represented? If the meaning is not clear in reference to the heavenly sanctuary and what is represented there, was the symbolism a waste? What do you think is meant by the fact that Hebrews 8:5; 10:1-4 suggests that these symbols were a copy and shadow of what is in heaven? **Did Moses build the sanctuary in the desert as a copy of the heavenly sanctuary or only a copy of what he was shown in the mount? What aspects of the plan of salvation and the ministry of Christ need to be continuously present? What does God do for us continuously?**
10. What would it mean when it says that the "place" or "foundation" of God's sanctuary in heaven was cast down or overthrown? (Daniel 8:11). The words "place" and "sanctuary" are used in Daniel for God's dwelling place. Could any earthly power directly attack God's dwelling place?
11. If an earthly power attacked not only God's people, persecuting them and killing them, but also attacked God's plan of salvation—distorting and misrepresenting—it would that qualify as an attack against the heavenly sanctuary?
12. Seventh-day Adventists believe that the little horn in Daniel 8 represents Rome in both its pagan and papal forms. Considering Daniel 8:11, 25 we see a parallel to the claim by the pope to be the mediator between man and God. He claims to act in the place of God here on this earth. We know historically also that Rome has persecuted Christians in both its pagan and papal ministrations.
13. But how did the little horn in its papal form accomplish all the things we have been talking about—even casting down the sanctuary? In what way did he do away with the daily priestly ministry of the new covenant and thus attempt to replace Christ as our heavenly priest? Historically we know that: **1)** Through the establishment of the confessional, through the mass, and through the intercession carried out by human priests the Roman Catholic Church has in a sense replaced the need for Jesus Christ to the individual believer. Individual believers are taught to go to priests instead of going directly to Christ. (Hebrews 4:16) **2)** In the Roman Catholic Mass, the priest claims to change the bread and wine into the literal body and blood of Jesus Christ. In effect he's claiming the power to create God. **3)** Through an elaborate system of saints and priests, human beings are asked to repent of their sins to human beings instead of to God directly. **4)** Numerous false doctrines were established to take the place of major teachings from the Bible: the Sunday-Sabbath, immortality of the soul, the worship of Mary, human intercession, Purgatory, even the

establishment of church tradition on equality or even superiority to the teachings of scripture themselves, thus trampling down biblical truth. **5)** Through all of these means the church has come to claim that it is the sole power able to administer and give salvation. This exalts the human priesthood and particularly the papal authority in the place of God himself. Thus the Roman Catholic Church has attempted to replace the major doctrines of scripture with human substitutes.

14. Who is the little horn attacking when he attempts to attack the “prince of the hosts?” In what way does this attack affect the ministry of Jesus Christ in the heavenly sanctuary? It should be clear that no earthly power can literally attack the sanctuary in heaven. So how does it do this?
15. Does it really matter to your Christianity that a group of human beings establishing a false church has sought to replace all the major doctrines taught through scripture and to claim for itself the sole right to administer salvation?
16. Considering the history of the world up until the death of Christ, if you had been Satan, what would you have planned to do to try to destroy the effectiveness of the ministry of Jesus? Would you attempt to destroy all the true believers? Rome has done that! Would you try to distort and misrepresent the truths as taught in scripture? Rome has done that. Would you try to destroy the scriptures themselves so that people could not investigate the truth for themselves? Certainly Rome has done that. Would you claim that the new system which you had set up was the only one by which human beings can be saved? Rome has done that as well. So how should we as Seventh-day Adventists and Protestants respond to all of this? Should we choose to ignore it, believing it's all false? How can we convince others of the truth of scripture as we understand it? Are we certain that we have understood these things correctly? In Old Testament times the Hebrew people believed that nothing could happen to them so long as they lived and worshiped in the temple at Jerusalem. (Jeremiah 7:1-4) That hope was dashed by the conquest of Jerusalem three times by Nebuchadnezzar. How many people today are holding to false teachings and believing that these will save them? Are we certain that all of our understandings of Biblical doctrines are correct? **How can we protect ourselves against these attacks by Satan? Considering Revelation 13:1-8, when will Satan's most successful campaign take place?**
17. Protestants have often stated that Roman Catholic theology is false because it claims that human beings can be saved through their own works. Does this description fit your understanding of these false teachings? Do you personally understand where each of the Roman Catholic teachings is incorrect and what the correct biblical doctrine is by comparison? Is it clear in your mind why this makes a difference? “The principle that man can save himself by his own works lay at the foundation of every heathen religion; it had now [36] become the principle of the Jewish religion. Satan had implanted this principle. Wherever it is held, men have no barrier against sin.” *Desire of Ages* p. 35,36.
18. So how much is included in the “daily” or “continuous” that the little horn seeks to overthrow? The sacred bread, the lamp or menorah, the altar of incense, and the altar of burnt offering were to be kept continuously going. These individual portions of the daily service were to represent different aspects of Christ's ministry. Can you identify what each represented? Notice that they all are part of the holy place or first compartment of the sanctuary. Of course the altar of burnt offerings was outside. What have you personally learned from the sanctuary system and from these symbols that has helped you in your Christian life?
19. Hebrews 10:1-4 says that all of these symbols are a mere shadow of the truth. Can we look at the shadow or through the shadow to the truth? If we understood more clearly exactly what was happening in the heavenly sanctuary now and even before 1844, would the symbolism be more meaningful to us?
20. What was the basic message of the ancient sanctuary system? How would it impact you

if every time you committed sin you were expected to bring a sacrifice and kill an innocent animal as “payment” for that sin? Are we even aware of the seriousness of sin? When you look back at Numbers 15:27-31 you’ll discover that it’s even more serious than we at first thought! The ancient sacrificial system was for the transgression of unintentional sin. **“But any person who sins deliberately, whether he is a native or a foreigner, is guilty of treating the LORD with contempt, and he shall be put to death.”** (GNB) How often would you sin if you thought there was a death penalty connected to every sin? How many of your personal sins are deliberate? How many are unintentional? Does this seem like an impossible standard? Does this help us to understand why rebellious human beings tried to set up their own system? Look at some of the statements that the Roman Catholic Church has made about dealing with sins: *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (New York: Doubleday, 1995):

“The power to ‘bind and loose’ connotes the authority to absolve sins. . . . Jesus entrusted this authority to the Church through the ministry of the apostles.”—No. 553.

“As sacrament, the Church is Christ’s instrument. ‘She is taken up by him also as the instrument for the salvation of all,’ ‘the universal sacrament of salvation.’ ”—No. 776.

“It is in the Church that ‘the fullness of the means of salvation’ has been deposited.”—No. 824.

“Basing itself on Scripture and Tradition, the Council teaches that the Church, a pilgrim now on earth, is necessary for salvation.”—No. 846.

“The Church is catholic: she proclaims the fullness of the faith. She bears in herself and administers the totality of the means of salvation.”— No. 868.

“There is no offense, however serious, that the Church cannot forgive.”— No. 982.

“Were there no forgiveness of sins in the Church, there would be no hope of life to come or eternal liberation. Let us thank God who has given his Church such a gift.”—No. 983.

“By Christ’s will, the Church possesses the power to forgive the sins of the baptized.”—No. 986.

“Through the liturgy Christ, our redeemer and high priest, continues the work of our redemption in, with, and through His Church.” —No. 1096.

“Baptism is birth into the new life in Christ. In accordance with the Lord’s will, it is necessary for salvation, as is the Church herself, which we enter by Baptism.”—No. 1277.

Does this sound like Daniel 8:9-12? To what extent do we believe that the church has the power to minister salvation to us as human beings? Do we believe that people must be Seventh-day Adventists in order to be saved?

21. When persecution arises again near the end of time, are you prepared to stand up for the truth even if it costs you your life? How many of the things we have studied in this series of lessons are important enough to you to die for?

22. **The origin of sin and the great controversy began in the sanctuary in heaven in God’s very presence. God’s character and his government were accused and smeared in a campaign that no doubt went on for a long period of time. This contamination had to be dealt with in some way before peace and harmony could be restored. The great controversy will be ended when all the misrepresentations and lies about God have been cleared up, the truth fully demonstrated, and all those who cherish those lies eliminated by their own choices. God, now recognized as the “temple” or “sanctuary” of heaven, will have his name vindicated for all eternity. The heavenly “sanctuary” will finally be “cleansed” or restored to its rightful state!**

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