

THE WORD OF

TRUTH

Bible Study Course

Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:32

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THE SANCTUARY SERVICE... AND THE REMOVAL OF SIN

The preceding lesson described the layout of the sanctuary and gave some indication as to the depth of symbolism connected with every part of the complex. Like the layout, the services of the sanctuary, are far more extensive in their meaning and application than what is able to be covered in a few lessons.

In this study we will look at the procedure followed by the priest when he ministers in the sanctuary to atone for the sins of the penitent soul. We will then examine the final cleansing of the sanctuary, why it is necessary and how it is done.

As the earthly sanctuary is a type, or copy of the heavenly sanctuary, the system portrayed on earth will give a clear description of how Jesus, in heaven, atones for the transgressions of the repentant sinner. It further clarifies how He will finally eradicate the last vestige of sin from the universe.

1. What was a daily duty for the priests of the temple?

Hebrews 9:6

Note: The priest went into the first apartment to offer the blood of the sacrifice upon the altar of incense and to burn incense to the Lord morning and evening (Num.28:3,4; Ex.30:1,7,8).

2. When a person sinned and desired forgiveness, what were they to do?

Leviticus 4:27-29

Note: The penitent sinner would bring to the sanctuary, a sacrifice, say a lamb or kid, one without spot or blemish. He would place his hand on the head of the innocent animal and confess his sins before God, thus, symbolically his sin was transferred to the innocent one. He then, with his own hand, took the life of the sacrifice, which, at that moment became his substitute, taking his penalty for sin and dying in his stead.

Similarly, Christ became sin for us, taking our sin on His head and died in our place as though He had committed the transgressions Himself and we were left free as though we had committed no sin (2Cor.5:21). He could only do this if He Himself were totally innocent and free from sin (1John 3:5). Had Christ committed one sin, His death could only have been to pay for His own sin and not the sins of others. But praise God, He became our perfect sacrifice and because He was sinless death could not hold Him and because He is risen, we too are raised with him to life eternal (Rom. 6:4-6; 1Cor.15:12-21).

3. What was done with the blood of the sacrifice?

Leviticus 4:30 _____

4. What then was done by the priest as he ministered for the penitent sinner?

Leviticus 6:25-26 _____

Note: By eating some of the meat of the sacrifice, the priest took the sins that had been confessed over the head of the animal upon himself. He then would transfer the sins from himself into the sanctuary when he ministered before the altar in the holy place.

5. The priests of the earthly tabernacle were men and therefore in need of atonement for their own sins. How was this done for the priests?

Leviticus 4:3-7 _____

Note: Again, in taking the blood of the sin offering into the sanctuary and sprinkling it before the veil and placing some blood on the horns of the altar, the priest was transferring his own sin and the sins of the people he bore into the sanctuary. Here the sins would remain, held separate from the sinner, but not yet destroyed forever.

6. Following the round of daily services in the sanctuary, what annual service then became necessary?

Leviticus 16:29,30 _____

7. Explain why this special atonement was necessary?

Leviticus 16:16 _____

Note: For a whole year the service had been concerned with the removal of the sins from the people and the transfer of those sins into the sanctuary. This service, known as the cleansing of the sanctuary, was conducted on the Day of Atonement and was to remove, or cleanse the sanctuary of the accumulation of sins.

REMOVING THE SINS FOREVER FROM THE SANCTUARY

8. On the Day of Atonement, two goats were chosen and by casting lots, each goat was designated to a particular function. What were those two functions?

Leviticus 16:7,8 _____

9. What was then done with the Lord's goat?

Leviticus 16:9,11-16 _____

Note : After the priest had made an atonement for his own sin, the Lord's goat was then sacrificed as a sin offering and his blood sprinkled on the Mercy Seat in the Most Holy place. Thus an atonement was made for the sins of all those who had been afflicting their souls while this service was in progress.

10. Now that the atonement had been made in the Most Holy Place for the accumulated sins, how did the priest accomplish the permanent separation of the sins from the sanctuary ?

Leviticus 16:20-22 _____

Note: The second of the two goats previously selected, the scapegoat, now receives all of these sins, when, in the next part of the ceremony, the priest places his hands upon the head of the goat and confesses all of these sins upon him. The goat is then taken into the wilderness and released, never to return.

How does this meet its antitype in the Heavenly Sanctuary? When Jesus finishes His present ministry in the Most Holy Place, that will be the end of probation for this world and there will be no more atonement for sin in the Heavenly Tabernacle as Jesus will have

ended His pleading for mankind. He now removes His priestly garments and dons the robes of King of kings and Lord of lords and returns to this earth to receive His people, that is, all of those who have been afflicting their souls during the antitypical Day of Atonement and to raise those who have died in Christ. Every man and woman who has defied His pleadings of mercy will be destroyed by the brightness of His coming.

Those who have rejected Him will die in their sins. Satan will receive the sins of the redeemed, the sins atoned for by the blood of Jesus, the sins that he himself had induced them to commit, for they are his sins also. After a period of reflection, Satan will then be cast into the lake of fire to be destroyed, along with the sin, forever. Hence the scapegoat, filled with the sins of the repentant people is a type of Satan. While the Lord's goat was a type of Christ. It was Christ who atoned (paid the price Heb.9:14,22) for sin. It will be Satan who is punished for his sin and the sins he has induced the righteous people to commit.

Satan rejected his opportunity for forgiveness and restoration before he was cast out of heaven, and just like man if he rejects God's offer of salvation, cannot be saved (Heb.10:26,29; Mark 3:29). A later lesson will discuss the final destiny of the unrepentant man and Satan.

11. While the high priest was fulfilling the cleansing of the sanctuary, what important work was open to the congregation?

Leviticus 23:26-30

Note: While this service was in progress, the people were to co-operate by a solemn determination, that by the power of God they will put sin out of their lives. It was not the time to begin thinking about confessing individual sins; this was to have been done at the time the act had been committed. They were to turn from sinfulness, seeking for God to turn their whole mind away from

sin (Ezra 8:21), that they might be fully sanctified as a holy people. Those who did not participate in this personal effort, were cut off from the congregation and in this respect, the Day of Atonement was the Day of Judgement for the people.

12. The earthly sanctuary and its services have a lesson to teach. What are those lessons and of what is the earthly sanctuary a type?

Hebrews 8:4-5; 9:11,14

The cleansing of the Sanctuary and the Judgement, now proceeding in heaven, are of life and death importance to us here on earth. Just as the people of old were required to afflict their souls, lest they should be lost, we today are given the same privilege and opportunity (grace) to be made fit for Christ's kingdom. In our next lesson, we shall see that the antitypical Day of Atonement is a time to achieve that fitness, a time when the Christian is to become more Christlike!

Note: The second of the two years previously selected, the sanctuary, contained the ark of the covenant, the table of showbread, and the golden altar of incense. The ark of the covenant was the symbol of God's presence with His people. The table of showbread was the symbol of God's provision for His people. The golden altar of incense was the symbol of God's acceptance of His people's prayers. The sanctuary was the symbol of God's dwelling with His people.

in (see 2:21), but they might be fully qualified as a holy people. Those who did not participate in this personal ritual, were not off from the congregation and in this respect, the Day of Atonement was the Day of Judgment for the people.

12. The earthly sanctuary and its services have a history to teach. What are those lessons and of what is the earthly sanctuary a type? (Hebrews 8:4-5; 9:11,14)

The cleansing of the Sanctuary and the Judgment, now going on in Heaven, are of life and death importance to us here on earth. Just as the people of old were required to offer their sins, lest they should be lost, we today are given the same privilege and opportunity (grace) to be made fit for Christ's Kingdom. In our next lesson, we will look at the Day of Atonement as a time in which we must live, when the Christian is to become more Christlike.