

JESUS—OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

When Jesus died on the cross, there was a great earthquake, dark angry clouds gathered and clashed against each other, lightning flashed, thunder roared, the sun hid its face to hide the horrible scene -- and the rocks were rent! See the Gospels for the story.

When the Roman soldier pierced the Saviour with his spear, he pierced the Lord's side. Blood and water flowed copiously down to the foot of the cross, where God had prepared a crack in the rock which allowed the blood of the Lamb of God to flow down through twenty feet of rock to sprinkle onto the top of the Ark of the Covenant, secreted there by Jeremiah six hundred years earlier in a cave right under the place where Jesus would be crucified, thus completing the sanctuary type to the minutest detail. For the story of the finding of the Ark of the Covenant ask for our paper called "Amazing Discovery". The Sanctuary service and the Day of Atonement service can be found in Leviticus, and also in brief in Hebrews 9 and 10.

When the blood of the Lamb of God fell upon the Mercy Seat, we were "bought and paid for"! Type met anti-type! The price for our salvation was made and no more blood needed to be shed! Our Saviour took our place and paid the ultimate price Himself for our redemption. What a wonderful Saviour is Jesus our Lord! Let all God's people say, "Amen!"

When Jesus was resurrected He spent some time with His disciples encouraging them, and showing them how it all had to happen that the Scriptures might be fulfilled. On that Resurrection morning, he appeared to Mary and told her not to touch Him as He had not yet ascended to the Father. He apparently ascended to heaven to His Father and returned to this planet on that same day.

Why would He ascend to heaven? Obviously to have His Father's approval and acceptance of His death as the means of salvation for whosoever will accept His grace. On that same day He walked with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, "and beginning at the Law and the Prophets He expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself". See Luke's Gospel chapter 24-- for this account.

Now there is considerable confusion among Christians as to what happened at the Cross. Was the Atonement completed, or does Jesus have to apply the blood every time someone asks for forgiveness?

In one publication we have the authors stating that when sinners come to Him for forgiveness, "Jesus' blood flows forth afresh from His wounds". This is NOT what the Scripture says! This is akin to what Catholicism does in the Mass saying they turn the bread and wine into the actual blood and flesh of Jesus. How hideous!

So let's look at what the Word of God plainly says:

Firstly, the Day of Atonement, when the sins of the year were all expunged, was a Day of Atonement. It was not an ongoing procedure. The Lord's sacrifice was a "once and for all" sacrifice.

His shed blood at Calvary was sufficient to cover the terrible price of sin for all men from the Garden of Eden to the time of the end! His unspeakable gift is available to "whosoever will"

accept it, as the price has been fully paid for all sin. The following Scriptures make the position very plain and simple for anyone who will open their hearts and minds to what the Word of God says so plainly.

Heb 9:1 Then verily the first *covenant* had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary.

Heb 9:2 For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein *was* the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary.

Heb 9:3 And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all;

Heb 9:4 Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein *was* the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;

Heb 9:5 And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly.

Heb 9:6 Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service *of God*.

Heb 9:7 But into the second *went* the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and *for* the errors of the people:

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:

Heb 9:9 Which *was* a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;

Heb 9:10 *Which stood* only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed *on them* until the time of reformation.

Heb 9:11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

Heb 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place,

(from the context this is referring to the Most Holy Place, see v.8, Also, chapter 10:19,20)

having obtained eternal redemption *for us*.

Heb 9:13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

Heb 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Heb 9:15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions *that were* under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

Heb 9:16 For where a testament *is*, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.

Heb 9:17 For a testament *is* of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.

Heb 9:18 Whereupon neither the first *testament* was dedicated without blood.

Heb 9:19 For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people,

Heb 9:20 Saying, This *is* the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you.

Heb 9:21 Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry.

Heb 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

Heb 9:23 *It was* therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

Heb 9:24 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:

Heb 9:25 Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;

Heb 9:26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

-

These verses of Scripture very plainly state that **Christ entered into Heaven itself**, and He only had to offer His precious blood **ONCE**. It is interesting that Paul wrote these Scriptures in about 60AD, and says “in the end of the world”! He obviously believed he was living in the “time of the end”.

Some today teach that Jesus had to work as our High Priest in the First Apartment applying His blood from His ascension to 1844, but that is not what the Scripture says:

Another question is raised here, as to who is now caring for the First Apartment if Jesus is ministering now in the Second Apartment since 1844? Let's see what the Word says:

Heb 10:9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. **He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.**

Heb 10:10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Heb 10:11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

Heb 10:12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

(Remember that the Shekinah Glory represented God's Presence in the Most Holy Place above the Mercy Seat in the SECOND Apartment—beyond the veil!)

Heb 10:13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

Heb 10:14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

Heb 10:15 *Whereof* the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before,

Heb 10:16 This *is* the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

Heb 10:17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

Heb 10:18 Now where remission of these *is, there is* no more offering for sin.

Heb 10:19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest

(Paul wrote this in Ad 60) by the blood of Jesus,

Heb 10:20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

-

Notice how Scripture says "He took away the first to establish the second": (Let's not get carried away with celestial architecture.)

“His offering was ONCE for all”:

“He made one sacrifice for sins forever”:

“He sat down at the right hand of God” (God’s Presence was the Shekinah Glory above the Ark in the Most Holy Place):

“By ONE offering He perfected salvation forever for those who are sanctified”:

“We can enter boldly into the Holiest”:

“We can enter through the veil, (His flesh)”, to the very throne room of God.

Heb 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.

Please note that Paul wrote all this about 60 AD. It says nothing about Christ waiting till 1844 AD to start an Investigative Judgment! At His ascension He became our High Priest—our Mediator—our Advocate in the Heavenly Courts. Why do people continue to insist that we must follow celestial sanctuary geography when the Word of God is so clear?

It says He took away the first to establish the second! How much plainer can the Word of God say it?

Just recently we were reading our little devotional booklet called “Our Daily Bread” put out by Our Daily Bread Ministries. The contributor, Marion Stroud, wrote:

“PLEASE COME IN”

Hebrews 10:22 “Let us draw near to God... with the full assurance that faith brings.”

Jenny’s house is situated on a little country lane, which is often used in rush hour by drivers who want to avoid the nearby main road and traffic lights. A few weeks ago, workmen arrived to repair the badly damaged road surface, bringing with them large barriers and “NO ENTRY” signs. “I was really worried at first”, said Jenny, “thinking that I would be unable to get my car out until the road work was finished. But then I went to look at the signs more closely and realized that they said, “NO ENTRY-- Access for Residents only.”

“No detours or barriers for me! I had the right to go in and out whenever I liked because I lived there. I felt very special!”

In the Old Testament access to God in the temple and the temple itself was strictly limited. Only the High Priest could go in through the curtain and offer sacrifices in the Most Holy Place and then only once a year. (Lev 16:2-20; Hebrews 9:26). But at the very moment Jesus died the curtain was torn in two from top to bottom, showing that the barrier between man and God was destroyed forever. (Mark 15:38).

Because of Christ’s sacrifice for our sins, all those who love and follow Him can come into His Presence at any time. He has given us the right of access.

“Lord, thank you for paying such a high price to enable me to have unrestricted entry into Your Presence.”

Access to God’s throne is always open.

What a beautiful example of the truth of what Jesus did for us, immediately opening the way into the very Presence of God where we can be assured of His attention at any time.

The Revival started by William Miller in the early 1800s, and the subsequent formation of the Seventh Day Adventist Church was meant to be. It was a global awakening in Europe, Asia, South America, North America and elsewhere. Even children in Scandinavia were preaching the message of the Lord’s return. What a terrible disappointment they all had to bear!

If God’s people do not study the prophecies carefully, and accept what God has so plainly set out in His Word, especially Daniel and Revelation, there will be for many, another great disappointment as in Rev 10.

We firmly believe God allowed the Revival of the 1840’s to sift out His faithful, and turn the hearts of men everywhere to Himself as the Creator, and to the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, which is specifically a Memorial of His Creative Power.

Isn’t it interesting that Satan was very busy at this same time introducing the theory of evolution, to denigrate the Almighty Creator. (Charles Darwin brought out his Theory of Evolution in his book “Origin of Species” in the 1840s, and it has been accepted and taught as truth in most schools and universities today, even though it has not one thread of demonstrable truth in it.)

As never before in the history of this world are men going to have to face “a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation.” Daniel 12:1. The majority of professing Christians will be caught unawares. Let’s use what time we still have left to devote to earnest prayer and study to be prepared for the momentous scenes very soon to break upon our world. Any thinking Christian can fully appreciate the struggle the four angels are having to hold back the winds of strife as depicted in Revelation 7. How much longer can they hold?

Even Ellen White tells us to put the Bible first in all our studies as the “only rule of faith and practice.”

4SOP 413. “The Bible and the Bible only, is the standard of all doctrines, and the basis of all reforms.”

There is no excuse for anyone taking the position that there is no more truth to be revealed, and that our expositions of Scripture are without error. The fact that certain doctrines have been held as truth for many years by our people, is not a proof that our ideas are infallible. Review and Herald December 20, 1892

Even reading the Scriptures we need to take into account time and place. From Genesis to Revelation the writers of Scripture believed that Jesus' return and the restoration of Eden would happen in their day. Six thousand years have passed since Eve said:

Gen 4:1 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, **I have gotten a man from the LORD.**

She believed that Gen 3:15 was about to happen.

Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

The apostles also believed that Jesus' return and the restoration would occur in their day. Listen to Paul and Peter and John.

PAUL: Heb 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

Heb 1:2 **Hath in these last days** spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

1Th 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

1Th 4:17 **Then we which are alive and remain** shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

PETER: Act 2:13 Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.

Act 2:14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

Act 2:15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is *but* the third hour of the day.

Act 2:16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

Act 2:17 **And it shall come to pass in the last days**, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

JOHN: Rev 1:3 Blessed *is* he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: **for the time is at hand.**

Rev 22:20 He which testifieth these things saith, **Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. (That was nearly 2000 years ago, and these are just a few examples.)**

God has a plan and timetable which He has programmed. His plan will be exacted just as He has determined, when He is good and ready. To the Lord, time is not a problem. One day to Him is “as a thousand years.” To mortal man whose days are numbered time is very important and we all want to see the restoration in our day.

God has outlined His plan in the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation. We need to be studying these prophecies earnestly, to determine where we are in the stream of time. God “does nothing, without revealing His secrets to His servants the prophets.” Amos 3:7

TM 116 Study Revelation in connection with Daniel, for **history will be repeated.**

We are seeing today, all the signs He has given us that we are indeed at the “time of the end”. May we seriously study the Word to be prepared ourselves and do all we can to alert everyone within our sphere, to the imminent and momentous events about to transpire on our planet, the most climactic events to ever occur in the UNIVERSE, the conclusion of the Judgment of God, when every knee will bow and confess that God is Just and Fair and Righteous, A LOVING GOD, Who only wants Joy and Happiness for His Family.

We thank God for His Word, which is the only source of Truth, that has been trusted and proven for millennia. God’s Word is like an anvil. The hammers of hell have slammed against it for centuries, but the anvil of God’s Word stands firm and true still, and will remain so forever, while the hammers lie broken on the ground.

May the Lord bless every person who considers these great Truths from His Word.

Don and Naomi Menkens.

Phone: 0428100527

Email: donomi3544@gmail.com