FIRST POSTING OF A BOOK MANUSCRIPT

BEGINNING WITH THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE, WE WILL BE POSTING A SERIES OF ARTICLES WHICH ACTUALLY ARE PARTS OF A BOOK ENTITLED,

" THE SANCTUARY, THE ATONEMENT & THE FIT MAN "

BY PRINTING THESE ARTICLES AS THEY ARE POSTED, THE READER WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE THE WHOLE BOOK IN MANUSCRIPT FORM

IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THIS IN A 8.5 x 5.5 BOOKLET FORM, IT WILL BE SENT AT YOUR REQUEST, TO YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS POSTED IN THE COMMENTS SECTION OF THE ARTICLES.
INTRODUCTION

After preaching the imminent return of Jesus for over 170 years, His continuing delay is creating a credibility crisis and dilemma for believers in the Three Angels Message. We have pointed to the many signs in the world as a fulfillment of end-time Bible prophecies. When the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, our pulpits rang out with the news that the end of this world was very near. Christ was coming back very soon to destroy those who destroy the earth. That was over sixty years ago, yet we are still here.

What is causing the delay? Do we need more calamities or wars or crime in this world. Hardly. It must be our unreadiness for Christ’s coming that is causing the delay.

In this book we will search out the reason why we are still here. It is not because Christ has no faithful followers on the earth. No doubt Christ has His ‘seven thousand’ in Israel today who are sincerely seeking to prepare their lives for His coming. So where is the problem? Inspiration indicates that it lies in our limited understanding of the great truth that gives reason for our existence as a church. That truth is Daniel 8:14. The Lord’s messenger tells us that this truth, as expanded in the Three Angels Message, is the most solemn, the most important message ever given to mortals. That transcends even the glorious messages heralded by the Apostle Paul and the other apostles. See 9 Testimonies p.19.

Great Controversy p.409 & 423 tell us that “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.’ “The subject of the sanctuary was the key which unlocked the mystery of the disappointment of 1844. It opened to view a complete system of truth, connected and harmonious, showing that God’s hand had directed the great advent movement, and revealing present duty as it brought to light the position and work of His people.” And we are also told that “God had committed to His people a work to be accomplished on earth. The third angel’s message was to be given, the minds of believers were to be directed to the heavenly sanctuary, where Christ had entered to make atonement for His people.” Evangelism p.695.

What is it in Daniel 8:14 that we have been missing? How will a fuller understanding of this truth prepare us as individuals and as a church for the close of probation and the second coming? We are told in 5 Testimonies p.575 that “All need to become more intelligent in regard to the work of the atonement, which is going on in the sanctuary above. When this grand truth is seen and understood, those who hold it will work in harmony with Christ to prepare a people to stand in the great day of God, and their efforts will be successful.” So by deduction, we can say that the reason we as a people have not been prepared for the end-time events and Christ’s coming is because this grand truth has not been clearly seen and understood.

Until we thoroughly understand this grand truth and cooperate with Christ in His work of cleansing the sanctuary, ten thousand evangelistic efforts and hundreds of thousands of baptisms, as wonderful and important as they may be, will not bring Christ down to earth for the redemption of His people. So what needs to happen? Note the following:

“We are not called to worship and serve God by the use of the means employed in former years. God requires higher service now than ever before. He requires the improvement of the heavenly gifts. He has brought us into a position where we need higher and better things than have ever been needed before. The slumbering Church must be aroused, awakened out of its spiritual lethargy, to a realization of the important duties which have been left undone. The people have not entered into the holy place, where Jesus has gone to make an atonement for his children “ RH Feb.25, 1890.

“God’s people are now to have their eyes fixed on the heavenly sanctuary, where the final ministration of our great High Priest in the work of the judgment is going forward,--where He is interceding for His people. Evangelism p.223.
CHAPTER ONE

TWO CLEANSINGS OF THE TEMPLE

Jesus had recently returned from His painful ordeal in the wilderness of temptation where He had gone shortly after His baptism to be alone in contemplation of the mission for which He had come to earth. During that time He suffered a long fast, after which Satan came to Him with his almost overpowering temptations. He was weak and emaciated from this ordeal. Inspiration tells us that “John, one of the new disciples, had searched for Christ and had found Him in His humiliation, emaciated, and bearing the marks of great physical and mental distress. Jesus, unwilling that John should witness His humiliation, had gently yet firmly dismissed him from His presence. He wished to be alone; no human eye must behold His agony, no human heart be called out in sympathy with His distress.” Bible Commentary, Volume 5, p.1132.

But after having regained His strength from this ordeal, He was once again united with His disciples. It was not long after, that the Jews Passover was at hand, and He made His way with His disciples to Jerusalem to attend the feast. Jesus had not yet publicly declared His mission, and thus was able to mingle with the other worshippers without attracting special attention. At this special occasion, the coming of the Messiah was often discussed among the people, especially since John the Baptist had heralded the message of His imminent appearance. But it was the hope of national greatness and deliverance from the Roman oppression that inspired the enthusiasm of the majority of both rulers and people. When Jesus entered the courts of the temple, He heard sounds that were more like a cattle market than a place where God was to be worshipped. There were the angry voices of sharp cattle marketers and the chinking of coins as foreign currency was being exchanged for temple money. He beheld it all as He stood upon the steps of the temple court. Power, authority and holy indignation were revealed in His countenance and every eye was suddenly riveted upon Him. His glance seemed to burn into their very souls. All sounds were hushed and there was a moment of awful silence when His voice was heard reverberating through the temple, saying, “Take these things hence; make not My Father’s house an house of merchandise.”

In terror and confusion, the guilty throng fled from His presence, taking their merchandise with them. A solemn silence replaced the noisy cattle market. The Lord of the temple had cleansed the temple that was reared in His honor.

THE TEMPLE AN OBJECT LESSON

The temple at Jerusalem was designed to be an object lesson for God’s people. When God instructed Moses to build the first tabernacle, He gave him a view of a model of the heavenly sanctuary. All that pertained to the sanctuary, whether the furniture and its layout, or the services carried on throughout the year—all were modeled after the sanctuary in heaven. When Moses was about to make the tabernacle, God commanded him, saying, “See that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed thee in the mount.” Hebrews 8:5. And it is by observing what took place in the earthly tabernacle that we get a clear view of what takes place in the heavenly sanctuary. “What was done in type in the ministration of the earthly sanctuary is done in reality in the ministration of the heavenly sanctuary.” Great Controversy p.420.

When Jesus cleansed the temple, He was revealing something of deep significance “In cleansing the
temple from the world's buyers and sellers, Jesus announced His mission to cleanse the heart from the defilement of sin, —from the earthly desires, the selfish lusts, the evil habits, that corrupt the soul.” Desire of Ages p.161. That is what the sanctuary services are all about. There is a process of continual cleansing from sin that goes on throughout the year, ending with the cleansing of the sanctuary itself on the great day of atonement.

There is also a deep significance in the fact that there were two cleansings of the temple, once at the beginning of His ministry and the other at the close of His ministry. This has a special parallel to what Christ does in His ministry in the heavenly sanctuary as we shall see.

As we take a closer look at the parallels between the earthly and the heavenly, we can see the similarities in all aspects of the sanctuary service, especially the cleansing from sin that was made on a daily and yearly basis. Great Controversy p.421 shows that “As anciently the sins of the people were by faith placed upon the sin offering and through its blood transferred, in figure, to the earthly sanctuary, so in the new covenant the sins of the repentant are by faith placed upon Christ and transferred, in fact, to the heavenly sanctuary.”

This transfer of sin from the sinner to the earthly sanctuary caused the sanctuary to become unclean. That is why there was a special day in Israel, the day of atonement, when the sanctuary was cleansed from all the sins that had accumulated there throughout the year. “And he shall make an atonement for the holy place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness.” Leviticus 16:16. Likewise, the heavenly sanctuary also becomes defiled by the sins that have been transferred there, and God has appointed a day, brought to view in Daniel 8:14, when the heavenly sanctuary is to be cleansed.