



**THE BLAZING TRAIL**  
**VOLUME 5**  
*Jesus our Heavenly High Priest*

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*Jesus our Heavenly High Priest*

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# WELCOME



## JESUS ENTERS HIS HEAVENLY MINISTRY

Welcome to Volume 5 of *The Blazing Trail*. We have come a long way on our spiritual journey receiving Jesus' earthly ministry into our lives, following His sufferings, death and resurrection into victorious life, and His return to His Father's heavenly throne.

Now rejoicing in Jesus' liberating cross in freedom from sin, we are about to journey towards God's glorious temple, "...the temple which is in heaven..." *Revelation 14:17* - And entering this sacred place we shall receive Jesus temple ministry into our lives. - "The LORD is in His holy temple, The LORD's throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men." *Psalm 11:4*

Indeed, quite remarkably God's heavenly temple is the spiritual hub of the universe, and during Old Testament times, God gives an earthly copy of the heavenly temple to the Israelite nation to connect heaven's temple to Planet Earth. This earthly copy, designed by God yet made by human hands, is called a sanctuary that reveals God's rescue mission to Old Testament lives.

And so as we continue our temple journey we shall explore an understanding of the earthly sanctuary that leads toward an understanding of the heavenly temple where Jesus ministers as our High Priest. Yes! As you are reading this, Jesus is ministering as our High Priest and this is the spiritual focus of Volume 5 of *The Blazing Trail*.

## A RETURN TO MOUNT SINAI

Returning to Old Testament times, we find God's people, the Israelite nation, camping in the Sinai wilderness. This multitude of people has recently been set free from Egyptian slavery. Descending upon Mount Sinai, God has spoken His law of Ten Commandments to His people assembled upon the Sinai plain.

"And God spoke all these words, saying: 'I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.'" *Exodus 20:1-2*

## SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

1. *“You shall have no other gods before Me.”*
2. *“You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.”*
3. *“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.”*
4. *“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.” Exodus 20:3-11*

## ETHICAL AND MORAL CONDUCT BETWEEN HUMANS

5. *“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.”*
6. *“You shall not murder.”*
7. *“You shall not commit adultery.”*
8. *“You shall not steal.”*
9. *“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”*
10. *“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor’s.”*

*“Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. Then they said to Moses, ‘You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die.’ And Moses said to the people, ‘Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin.’ So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was.*

*“Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: “You have seen that I have talked with you from heaven. You shall not make anything to be with Me—gods of silver or gods of gold you shall not make for yourselves. An altar of earth you shall make for Me, and you shall sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your*



*peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen. In every place where I record My name I will come to you, and I will bless you.”” Exodus 20:12–24*

Now upon the mountain summit, Moses meets with God, and God writes His Ten Commandments of law upon two stone tablets, engraved with His finger of divine sovereignty.

Thus the Ten Commandments, proceeding from God, stand as His everlasting covenant of redeeming love law towards all humanity. Yes, His law is His covenant to guide humanity in the ways of righteous living, forming a spiritual relationship between God and humankind.

But astoundingly, below the mountain in the Israelite’s encampment, God’s law has already been wilfully transgressed, with grievous sin breaking the sacred precepts of the first and second commandments.

*“Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, ‘Come, make us gods that shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’ And Aaron said to them, ‘Break off the golden earrings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.’ So all the people broke off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron. And he received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf. Then they said, ‘This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!’” Exodus 32:1–4*

What a sorry sight for God to behold! But what does God behold upon the Plain of Wilful Sin in our day?

*“And the LORD said to Moses, ‘Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves. They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf, and worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!’ And the LORD said to Moses, ‘I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked people! Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation.’*

*“Then Moses pleaded with the LORD his God, and said: ‘LORD, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people whom You have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, “He brought them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth”?*

*“Turn from Your fierce wrath, and relent from this harm to Your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, “I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.”*

*“So the LORD relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people. And Moses turned and went down from the mountain, and the two tablets of the Testimony were in his hand. The tablets were written on both sides; on the one side and on the other they were written. Now the tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God engraved on the tablets.” Exodus 32:7–16*

*“So it was, as soon as he came near the camp, that he saw the calf and the dancing. So Moses’ anger became hot, and he cast the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain. Then he took the calf which they had made, burned it in the fire, and ground it to powder; and he scattered it on the water and made the children of Israel drink it.” Exodus 32:19–20*

*“Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses said to the people, ‘You have committed a great sin. So now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.’” Exodus 32:30*

And so once more, God calls Moses up to the mountain summit. This time, God instructs Moses to cut a pair of tablets from stone, and bring them up to the summit.

*“So he cut two tablets of stone like the first ones. Then Moses rose early in the morning and went up Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him; and he took in his hand the two tablets of stone.” Exodus 34:4*

*“Then Moses went up into the mountain, and a cloud covered the mountain. Now the glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. The sight of the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel. So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up into the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.” Exodus 24:15–18*

God’s holy presence is concealed in a protecting cloud of glory, and Moses comes before Him, interceding on behalf of the Israelite people to bring them back into God’s divine favour. And so astoundingly, *“...the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.” Exodus 33:11* - *“So he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water...” Exodus 34:28*

*“Then Moses returned to the LORD and said, ‘Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! Yet now, if You will forgive their sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written.’ And the LORD said to Moses, ‘Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book. Now therefore, go, lead the people to the place of which I have spoken to you. Behold, My Angel shall go before you. Nevertheless, in the day when I visit for punishment, I will visit punishment upon them for their sin.’” Exodus 32:31–34*

Yes, God is most loving, merciful, and kind, and yet His divine justice draws a line between good and evil. And thus His fair judgment proceeds to quell the surging tide of evil, to preserve humanity’s long term survival.

So sin has to be confronted and judged with chastening reproof, lest sin run rampant, out of control, corrupting all that is good, destroying people's lives piece by piece.

For each of us today, in the 21st century, an urgent choice is right before us. Which side shall we stand for? God's good or Satan's evil? You see, God's line between good and evil is concise and clear, there can be no complacency or compromise. *"Who is the man who desires life, And loves many days, that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil, And your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it."* Psalm 34:12-14 - *"...choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."* Joshua 24:15

Although God's original tablets of law lay strewn upon the jagged rocks of human sin in the Sinai wilderness, most graciously God engraves His Ten Commandments of law upon the new stone tablets hewn by humanity's sin bearing hands.

You see, all humans have transgressed God's Ten Commandments, in one way or another, small or large. And yet, God longs to rewrite his law of guiding love upon the tablets of our stony hearts, in newness of spiritual life. *"But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people"* Jeremiah 31:33 - *"Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh..."* Ezekiel 11:19

During Moses' meeting with God on the clouded mount, God gives Moses additional laws. These laws are divided into two classes: Ceremonial laws for spiritual observance; and Societal laws to govern the twelve tribes and mixed multitude of multicultural people who joined the mass exodus out of Egypt.

And most importantly, God gave health laws to maintain vital wellness among the millions of people living in the city encampment. *"So you shall serve the LORD your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you. No one shall suffer miscarriage or be barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days."* Exodus 23:25-26

And now, as if God has saved the very best till last, with merciful forgiving love for His chosen people, God says to Moses, *"...let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them."* Exodus 25:8

With longing desire, God unfolds the plans to Moses, complete with detailed instructions to make a special dwelling place, called the sanctuary or tabernacle. This unique building will resemble a large tent and be the Holy sanctuary, a sacred place for God's presence to dwell in the midst of His people.

## PATTERN OF GOD'S HEAVENLY TEMPLE

*"Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 'Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering. From everyone who gives it willingly with his heart you shall take My offering. And this is the offering which you shall take from them: gold, silver, and bronze; blue, purple, and scarlet thread, fine linen, and goats' hair; ram skins dyed red, badger skins, and acacia wood; oil for the light, and spices for the anointing oil and for the sweet incense; onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod and in the breastplate. And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it.'" Exodus 25:1-9*

Remarkably, the plans or pattern for the earthly sanctuary and all the spiritual symbolic furnishings to reside within the sanctuary, are a sacred copy of God's heavenly temple, "... who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, 'See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.'" Hebrews 8:5

And so by God's masterful design, the heavenly temple will cast its spiritual shadow over the earthly sanctuary in spiritual symbolisms. "Your way, O God, is in the sanctuary; Who is so great a God as our God?" Psalm 77:13 - "Honor and majesty are before Him; Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary..." Psalm 96:6

Erected in the midst of the Israelite encampment, the earthly sanctuary shall enfold God's Holy presence and unfold His rescue plan of salvation before His people, connecting heaven to earth and earth to heaven.

## BUILDING AND ERECTING THE SANCTUARY

As Moses descends from the mount, he carefully carries the sacred stone tablets in his hands. These two stone tablets inscribed by the very finger of God, explain the Ten Commandments for living a holy life. These tablets will be placed in the Sanctuary tent.

Now joyful excitement fills the encampment as people of all ages bring their offerings to Moses, every kind of costly material needed to make the Sanctuary, the furnishings, and holy garments for the priests.

Where did all this costly material come from? Well simply, when the Israelites were liberated from slavery, in just recompense for their long years of hard labour, they took with them rich spoils from Egypt.

*"So I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My wonders which I will do in its midst; and after that he will let you go. And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and it shall be, when you go, that you shall not go empty-handed. But every woman shall ask of her neighbor, namely, of her who dwells near her house, arti-*

*cles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing; and you shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians.” Exodus 3:20–22*

And so work commences on the building of the sanctuary tent and the crafting of the sacred furnishings to reside within. Craftsmen from among the tribes, chosen and blessed with God’s creative spirit, skilfully create and build exactly to God’s artistic designs given to Moses upon the mount.

*“And Moses said to the children of Israel, ‘See, the LORD has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom and understanding, in knowledge and all manner of workmanship, to design artistic works, to work in gold and silver and bronze, in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of artistic workmanship. And He has put in his heart the ability to teach, in him and Aholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. He has filled them with skill to do all manner of work of the engraver and the designer and the tapestry maker, in blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine linen, and of the weaver—those who do every work and those who design artistic works.” Exodus 35:30–35*

Directed by Moses’ spiritual oversight, weeks and months of holy labour go by until all is perfectly complete.

*“Thus Moses did; according to all that the LORD had commanded him, so he .did. And it came to pass in the first month of the second year, on the first day of the month, that the tabernacle was raised up.” Exodus 40:16–17*

The sacred sanctuary tent is raised up in the midst of the Israelite encampment, and all the spiritual furnishings are placed within the tabernacle, just as God instructed Moses. *“And he raised up the court all around the tabernacle and the altar, and hung up the screen of the court gate. So Moses finished the work.” Exodus 40:33*

## **GOD’S GLORY FILLS THE SANCTUARY TABERNACLE**

Summoned by Moses, the multitude of people gathers before the sanctuary court. A reverent hush stills the congregation. Now before their very eyes a wonderful phenomenon begins to unfold.

The cloud of the Lord’s guiding presence hovering above the encampment begins to drift towards the sanctuary and, *“...the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys. But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up. For the cloud of the LORD was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.” Exodus 40: 34– 38*



Now the time has arrived for us to visit the earthly sanctuary, and with humble reverence, enter into the Lord's abiding presence.

## ENTERING THE ISRAELITE'S ENCAMPMENT

Seeming like just a moment in time, we find ourselves standing in the wilderness of Sinai and there before us we behold the Israelite encampment.

Entering the sprawling camp, we make our way through a maze of alleyways running the length and breadth of the tent city. Everything is orderly and clean, just as God directed Moses to teach the people. Rising above the sea of pitched roofs we see twelve tribal flags fluttering in the gentle breeze. And stretching behind each flag are rows of multi coloured tents. *"The children of Israel shall pitch their tents, everyone by his own camp, everyone by his own standard, according to their armies..." Numbers 1:52*

Everywhere people are busy about their daily activities. As we near the sanctuary, also called the *"...tabernacle..."* we see the Levite tribal standard blending into the spiritual compound, *"...but the Levites shall camp around the tabernacle of the Testimony, that there may be no wrath on the congregation of the children of Israel; and the Levites shall keep charge of the tabernacle of the Testimony."* Numbers 1:53

God has chosen the Levite tribe to minister before Him in the sanctuary, with Aaron, Moses' older brother, chosen by God as High Priest and Aaron's sons as supporting priests. The remaining members of the Levite tribe have the responsibility to maintain the sanctuary and serve the needs of the ministering priests.

## ENTERING THE SANCTUARY COURT

And now we behold the tabernacle tent rising up before us within the court, glorifying God in true magnificence! Facing eastward, the tabernacle stands in an open space called the court.

As we approach the court, we notice a curtain wall, *"...made of fine woven linen."* The beautiful curtains are suspended from bronze pillars linked together by bronze sockets, silver hooks, and bands. Very importantly we notice that the curtain wall is like a protective fence surrounding the tabernacle tent, for within the court is holy ground.

Now passing through a gate on the eastern front of the surrounding court we enter within. *"For the gate of the court there shall be a screen twenty cubits long, woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, made by a weaver. It shall have four pillars and four sockets."* Exodus 27:16



## AARON'S SANCTUARY TOUR

Aaron greets us, and explains that his role as High Priest represents the future heavenly ministry of the Son of God: Far into the future, after His sacrificial death and risen life, the Son of God shall enter the heavenly temple as humanity's High Priest.

*"We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man." Hebrews 8:1-2 - "For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us..." Hebrews 9:24 - Jesus Christ the Son of God, as Minister and High Priest in the heavenly temple, shall become the mediator between God the Father and repentant humanity.*

And so representing the Son of God in the earthly sanctuary, Aaron serves as the symbolic mediator between God and the Israelite people. *"It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered..." Hebrews 9:9 - "Now take Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister to Me as priest, Aaron and Aaron's sons: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar." Exodus 28:1*

## AARON'S PRIESTLY GARMENTS

And now Aaron draws our attention to his priestly garments. You see, upon the mount, God also instructed Moses on the design and making of the sacred priestly garments. *"And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty." Exodus 28:2*

Could Aaron's priestly garments also have symbolic meaning? Yes! The intricate handiwork of Aaron's holy garments reflects God's exalted glory and reveal the beauty of His divine character.

Of course, ministering as High Priest before the people, every aspect of Aaron's life must also reflect the essence of true holiness. Wearing the special priestly garments is a daily reminder of his responsibility before the Israelite nation.

Upon his head Aaron wears a white linen turban. Fixed to the front of the turban is a gold plate with the engraved words, *"...HOLINESS TO THE LORD." Exodus 28:36 - "So it shall be on Aaron's forehead, that Aaron may bear the iniquity of the holy things which the children of Israel hallow in all their holy gifts; and it shall always be on his forehead, that they may be accepted before the LORD." Exodus 28:36 - "This is what the LORD spoke, saying: 'By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.'" Leviticus 10:3*

Aaron wears a blue robe over a white linen garment. A magnificent blue, the robe is also beautifully decorated around the hem with golden bells and pomegranates of

blue, purple, and scarlet. When Aaron ministers in the tabernacle, the bells move and tinkle - floating upon the air, the tinkling drifts beyond the tabernacle and over the encampment, reminding the people that Aaron is accepted before God.

*“And it shall be upon Aaron when he ministers, and its sound will be heard when he goes into the holy place before the LORD and when he comes out, that he may not die.” Exodus 28:35*

Now over his blue robe, Aaron wears a type of vest called an, “...ephod...” made of, “...gold, blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, artistically worked.” Exodus 28:6

Aaron tells us that these colours have symbolic meaning, and the same colours are woven into the beautiful tabernacle curtains: Blue symbolises the perfection of God’s law; while scarlet symbolises sin. The colour purple, being a blend of blue and scarlet, symbolises God’s intervening mercy to deliver sinful humanity from their transgressions of His holy law.

Now the ephod or vest, has two shoulder pieces embroidered with gold. Set within these shoulder pieces are two onyx stones. And engraved upon these beautiful stones are the twelve tribal names of Israel. *“And you shall put the two stones on the shoulders of the ephod as memorial stones for the sons of Israel. So Aaron shall bear their names before the LORD on his two shoulders as a memorial. Exodus 28:12*

As Aaron mediates between the people and God, he bears the Israelites’ burdens upon his priestly shoulders. And just so today, God invites all to cast their burdens upon the Son’s High Priestly shoulders as he mediates in the heavenly temple on humanity’s behalf. *“Cast your burden on the LORD, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.” Psalm 55:22*

## **MOST SACRED ITEM**

Now Aaron focuses on the most sacred item of his priestly garments. Suspended from his shoulders by, “...two chains of pure gold like braided cords...” we see a square plate called, “...the breast plate of judgment.” *This is made of the same material and colours of the ephod. Exodus 28:13-15*

Placed around the breast plate of judgment is a border of glowing precious stones of the very same variety forming the twelve foundations of God’s heavenly city, the New Jerusalem. *“The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.” Revelation 21:19-20*

Encased in gold settings, 12 more stones on the breastplate of judgment are arranged in four rows, and like the two shoulder stones these bear the names of the 12 tribes of Israel also.

On the right and left sides of the 12 stones are two special stones of great brilliance. These very sacred stones are called, *“...the Urim and Thummim...”* - *“And you shall put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be over Aaron’s heart when he goes in before the LORD. So Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel over his heart before the LORD continually.” Exodus 28: 30*

Astoundingly, these two sacred stones, the Urim and Thummin also serve as communication channels between God and the high priest: In a most holy and practical way, when the High Priest consults with God to learn of His will on a specific question or matter, God answers by either lighting up the right stone for “yes” or clouding the left stone for “no”. For example, *“...the governor said to them that they should not eat of the most holy things till a priest could consult with the Urim and Thummim.” Nehemiah 7:65*

As a finishing flourish to the High Priestly garments Aaron wears a girdle or sash around his waist, beautifully embroidered in the colours of the ephod.

## **SUPPORTING PRIESTS**

Now Aaron’s supporting priests are his four sons - Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. And these men also wear holy garments befitting for their lower role of priestly ministry.

*“For Aaron’s sons you shall make tunics, and you shall make sashes for them. And you shall make hats for them, for glory and beauty.” Exodus 28: 40*

Everything about the priests’ garments impresses a sense of God’s glory and holiness. *“For I am the LORD your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy.” Leviticus 11:44*

## **SACRIFICE AND SIN**

Now taking a few steps into the sanctuary court, Aaron leads the way towards a bronze altar called, *“...the altar of burnt offering...” Exodus 35:16*

Aaron informs us this is where the offering of animal sacrifice begins in the sanctuary court. To us in our 21st century, animal sacrifice during Old Testament times may seem unusual and far distant in meaning. But Aaron assures us, for people living in Old Testament times, animal sacrifice reveals deep spiritual meaning, unfolding God’s rescue mission to Old Testament lives, freeing them from their bondage of sin.

You see, common to all generations of human lives even to our day, sin is the alien invader in our midst, the enemy and criminal perpetrator of our human soul. And sin's stealthy invasion into our world begins in the paradise garden of Eden, when Adam and Eve eat of the deathly fruit growing on the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam's and Eve's choice to experience the knowledge of evil, transgresses God's sacred law of protecting life and opens the way for sin to enter the once perfect world, seeping death throughout all human lives. You can read in depth about sin's stealthy invasion into our world in Volume One of *The Blazing Trail*.

*"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned..." Romans 5:12 - "...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..." Romans 3:23*

And so we have learned sin is the enemy invader, the transgressor of God's sacred law, *"...for sin is the transgression of the law."* *1 John 3:4 KJV* - *"...and sin is lawlessness."* *1 John 3:4* - Now we also learn the works of sin receive the payment of everlasting death as wages. - *"For the wages of sin is death..." Romans 6:23*

Invaded by sin, Adam's and Eve's minds, bodies and souls are imprisoned in a dungeon of inescapable death. Now with their lifeline severed from God they have no human way back to God. But God's glorious love mingled with His benevolent mercy, sets in motion a rescue mission like no other. A rescue mission of saving grace to free Adam's and Eve's imprisoned lives, even yours and mine, in our troubled world today. *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* *Romans 6:23*

And so, the rescue mission will unfold. For at the appointed time the Son of God, *"...Christ Jesus our Lord..."* joins His divine life to the fallen human race, and He bears humanity's wages of sin upon the altar of the cross. Simply, He pays our death penalty with His own sacrificed life. But, as Aaron explains to us from his Old Testament times, 4000 years shall pass until the ransom price from sin is paid in full by Jesus' liberating death.

And so until that destined time, God puts into motion a sacrificial system of animal sacrifice to reveal and unfold His rescue mission to Old Testament lives.

God's promised rescue from the bondage of sin begins in the Garden of Eden's fallen paradise, with the first animal sacrifice, the first death in the world. The Son of God brings a perfectly created lamb of the flock to Adam and Eve. Placing their hands upon the innocent lamb, Adam and Eve confess their guilt of sin, and symbolically their sin is transferred to the sacrificial lamb. Now symbolising Jesus' future sacrificial death upon the altar of the distant cross of the future, Adam slays the sin-bearing lamb.

Struck with deathly remorse, Adam and Eve now realise that in the stream of time their sin shall take the sinless life of their Creator. Yet God's rescue mission continues to flow in merciful love as the Son of God makes garments from the lamb's shed skin,

stained with symbolic blood in pardon from sin. Now, oh so tenderly, the Son of God clothes Adam's and Eve's naked bodies and destitute souls, in the symbolic garments of salvation.

*"Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them."*  
*Genesis 3:21 - "I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness..." Isaiah 61:10*

Thus bearing Adam's and Eve's sin upon His own sinless life, the Son of God becomes the symbolic lamb of sacrifice, symbolically slain from the beginning of our sinful fallen world, *"...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."* Revelation 13:8 - *"The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"* John 1:29 - *"...with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."* 1 Peter 1:18-19

And so through symbolic offerings of sacrifice, Old Testament lives gain an understanding of God's rescue mission, and receive into their repentant believing lives the promise of Jesus' literal sacrificial death, delivering and freeing them from sin and wages of everlasting death.

*"Your way, O God, is in the sanctuary..." Psalm 77:13 - "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'" John 14:6*

Yes, the one and only way back to the Father's embracing arms is through Jesus' sacrificial death in pardon from sin. And so please keep in mind, this is the symbolic focus of animal sacrifice in the earthly sanctuary ministry.

Now understandably some people may find animal sacrifice squeamish and may choose to pass over these narratives and that is quite alright.

## THE ALTAR OF SACRIFICE

Now Aaron turns our pondering thoughts toward the sacrificial altar made of enduring acacia wood overlaid with bronze. The altar is square with bronze horns on each corner, four horns in total, and on two sides we see bronze poles inserted through brazen rings. These bearing poles are to move the altar when the Israelites move to a new encampment. Bronze utensils are neatly stored beside the altar. *"Also you shall make its pans to receive its ashes, and its shovels and its basins and its forks and its firepans; you shall make all its utensils of bronze."* Exodus 27: 3

Aaron explains: The sacrificed animals are laid upon the grate of the altar and consumed with fire as a burnt offering to God; the four horns symbolising God's power to save are sprinkled with the atoning blood symbolising pardon for confessed sin.

## THE WASHING LAVER

And now we move on. In a direct line between the altar and tabernacle we come to a special washing basin called a “...laver...” and set on a solid base. The priests remove their footwear to prevent any soil or dirt being carried inside the sanctuary and wash their hands and feet. For a person must be clean from all earthly defilement when entering into God’s holy presence.

*“You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base also of bronze, for washing. You shall put it between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar. And you shall put water in it, for Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet in water from it. When they go into the tabernacle of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister, to burn an offering made by fire to the LORD, they shall wash with water, lest they die. So they shall wash their hands and their feet, lest they die.” Exodus 30: 18- 21*

## THE TABERNACLE EXTERIOR

And now, gleaming in the sunlight, the golden walled tabernacle stands just before us. Aaron explains the walls are made of acacia boards overlaid with gold, and coupled together by bars.

For God instructed Moses, *“The middle bar shall pass through the midst of the boards from end to end. You shall overlay the boards with gold, make their rings of gold as holders for the bars, and overlay the bars with gold.” Exodus 26: 28- 29*

Layer upon layer of animal skins line the tabernacle roof, providing complete protection from the wilderness weather. *“You shall also make curtains of goats’ hair, to be a tent over the tabernacle...” Exodus 26:7 - “You shall also make a covering of ram skins dyed red for the tent, and a covering of badger skins above that.” Exodus 26: 14*

Aaron explains the tabernacle is about 55 feet long (16.7 metres), 18 feet wide (5.5 metres) and 18 feet high (5.5 metres) and so ingeniously constructed that the entire tent building can be easily taken apart and reassembled on the Israelites’ wilderness journey.

## ENTERING THE TABERNACLE

And now with much reverence and awe, Aaron leads us towards the tabernacle entrance. Sweet smelling incense wafts from the tabernacle and we sense an atmosphere of spiritual power emanating from within.

We are greatly privileged, for only the consecrated priests may enter here and look upon the holy articles. Even their fellow Levites are not permitted to look upon these special furnishings, lest they be struck down with death.



When the tabernacle is about to be dismantled for transporting to a new encampment by men of the Levite tribe, the priests cover the sacred articles to protect their Levite tribesmen, for only then are these men permitted to move each sacred item. *“And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, when the camp is set to go, then the sons of Kohath shall come to carry them; but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die.” Numbers 4: 15*

We notice the entrance to the tabernacle is framed by five golden pillars. And attached to these pillars is a linen screen matching the colours of Aaron's Ephod. - *“You shall make a screen for the door of the tabernacle, woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, made by a weaver. And you shall make for the screen five pillars of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold; their hooks shall be of gold, and you shall cast five sockets of bronze for them.” Exodus 26:36-37*

## THE GLORIOUS INTERIOR

We enter through the opened screen into the tabernacle, and are instantly awed by the glorious interior. On the tabernacle's southern side, an exquisite lampstand burns brightly, casting a flickering light over the walls and ceiling.

Veils of *“...fine twine linen...”* drift over the ceiling and seem to be alive with a host of flying cherubim, artistically woven in gold and silver thread. Spiritually symbolic colours of blue, scarlet and purple weave through the veils, and tell again the story of God's salvation for sinful humanity: The perfection of God's law, tragically broken by a sinful choice, and then God's intervening mercy to restore fallen man to His law once again.

We turn to gaze at the exquisite lampstand, and we see there are six lamps branching from its golden shaft, three on either side. And at the top of the shaft burns a seventh lamp. The branches are beautifully wrought in ornamental flowers resembling lilies. Modelled by skilful craftsmanship, the lampstand is made of one solid piece of gold.

*“You shall also make a lampstand of pure gold; the lampstand shall be of hammered work. Its shaft, its branches, its bowls, its ornamental knobs, and flowers shall be of one piece.” Exodus 25:31*

Just as God's seventh day Sabbath never expires, the seven flaming lamps are never extinguished; they burn continuously and represent God's sacred number for completion and perfection.

The lamps are fuelled with pure olive oil, ordained as holy oil. *“And you shall command the children of Israel that they bring you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to cause the lamp to burn continually.” Exodus 27: 2* - The holy oil represents God's Holy Spirit, for, *“...God is Spirit...” John 4:24*, and the light from the lamps which are never extinguished symbolise God's eternal *“...light of life..”* - The Son of God said,

*“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” John 8:12 – “For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.” Psalm 36:9*

Now beholding the northern side of the tabernacle, we see a table overlaid with pure gold, with bearing poles inserted through rings on either side. A decorative moulding forms the outer rim. *“You shall also make a table of acacia wood; two cubits shall be its length, a cubit its width, and a cubit and a half its height. And you shall overlay it with pure gold, and make a molding of gold all around. You shall make for it a frame of a handbreadth all around, and you shall make a gold molding for the frame all around.” Exodus 25:23-25*

And on the table, arranged in two orderly rows, are twelve small loaves of bread representing the twelve tribes of Israel. *“And you shall take fine flour and bake twelve cakes with it. Two-tenths of an ephah shall be in each cake. You shall set them in two rows, six in a row, on the pure gold table before the LORD.” Leviticus 24:5-6*

The holy bread represents the sustaining life of God’s beloved Son, who is the bread of life. *“I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.” John 6: 48 -51*

Representing the Son’s future earthly life of holiness and purity, the holy bread laid upon the table is made of pure unleavened dough, having no leaven, another word for yeast.

For you see, in Bible times, all leavened bread was made by adding a lump of yesterday’s bread dough, or adding a spoonful of “starter” to the new day’s ingredients. Both the lump of dough and the starter are teeming with yeast organisms. As soon as the yeast organisms touch the new bread dough, they begin to spread and spread – just as a touch of sin spreads without check.

So the unleavened bread symbolises purity. For we know, and the Israelites were to remember, that the Son of God had no corruption in His life.

In another Bible, the New Living Translation, the showbread on the table is also called the *“...bread of the Presence...” Exodus 25:30*, reminding the Israelites that He who is *“...the bread of life...”* is ever present to supply their spiritual and temporal needs.

And the 12 loaves proclaim to the 12 tribes that their daily lives are dependent upon God’s sustaining power. *“And you shall set the showbread on the table before Me always.” Exodus 25:30* - Each Sabbath the showbread is exchanged for fresh loaves and the old loaves deemed holy are eaten by the ministering priests.

Now we move toward the centre of the tabernacle and before us stands a golden altar. The altar also has, “...a molding of gold all around...” and a horn on each corner.

But where is that sweet aroma wafting from? Ah, upon the altar we see burning incense. “You shall make an altar to burn incense on; you shall make it of acacia wood. A cubit shall be its length and a cubit its width—it shall be square—and two cubits shall be its height. Its horns shall be of one piece with it. And you shall overlay its top, its sides all around, and its horns with pure gold; and you shall make for it a molding of gold all around.” Exodus 30:1-3

“Aaron shall burn on it sweet incense every morning; when he tends the lamps, he shall burn incense on it. And when Aaron lights the lamps at twilight, he shall burn incense on it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations.” Exodus 30: 7- 8

The sweet smelling incense was a special formula or “...compound...” given by God, comprising healing and cleansing gum resins from plants. “Take sweet spices, stacte and onycha and galbanum, and pure frankincense with these sweet spices; there shall be equal amounts of each. You shall make of these an incense, a compound according to the art of the perfumer, salted, pure and holy. And you shall beat some of it very fine, and put some of it before the Testimony in the tabernacle of meeting where I will meet with you. It shall be most holy to you.” Exodus 30:34-36

The pure and holy incense wafts through the sanctuary entrance out into the court, then drifts over the surrounding encampment. Breathing in the sweet aroma, the people are constantly reminded of their ascending prayers mingling with God’s fragrance of merciful love, and He always hears their prayers, just as He always hears our prayers today.

## THE DRAPING VEIL

And now a surprise awaits us. For Aaron draws our attention to a beautiful veil draped behind the altar of incense.

This veil hangs from wall to wall across the centre of the tabernacle with an open space between the veil and the tented ceiling. Woven from fine linen threads of blue, scarlet and purple, the partition veil complements the ceiling. And yes, there are cherubim artistically woven in gold and silver.

These cherubim represent the heavenly angels who are ministering spirits sent forth by God to uplift fallen humanity in times of need. “Who makes his angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire...” Psalm 104:4 - “Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?” Hebrews 1:14 - “For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways.” Psalm 91:11

Now Aaron tells us the purpose of the veil: Suspended across the tabernacle from wall to wall, the veil divides the sanctuary into two rooms. The first room in which we are standing is called the “...Holy place...” and the second room behind the veil is called the “...most Holy place...” – “The veil shall be a divider for you between the holy place and the Most Holy.” Exodus 26:33

## MOSES MEETS WITH GOD

Aaron explains that apart from the ministering Levite priests, only Moses is permitted to enter into the first room of the sanctuary, the Holy place, and that is to meet with God’s spiritual presence, abiding within the second room, the Most Holy Place.

## INSIDE THE MOST HOLY PLACE

Inside the Most Holy place there is one item of furnishing that is most holy of all. Can you guess?

Remember when Moses received the sanctuary building plans on Mount Sinai, Moses was also instructed by God to make an ark of acacia wood, a wooden chest about four feet long (1.2 metres), and two and a half feet wide and high (.76 of a metre)?

*“And they shall make an ark of acacia wood; two and a half cubits shall be its length, a cubit and a half its width, and a cubit and a half its height. And you shall overlay it with pure gold, inside and out you shall overlay it, and shall make on it a molding of gold all around. You shall cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in its four corners; two rings shall be on one side, and two rings on the other side. And you shall make poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold. You shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, that the ark may be carried by them. The poles shall be in the rings of the ark; they shall not be taken from it. And you shall put into the ark the Testimony which I will give you.” Exodus 25:10-16*

Following God’s precise pattern, the ark was made.

And then covering the top of the open ark, Moses placed a special lid called the mercy seat. Mounted at the two ends of the mercy seat are two cherubim figurines one at each end. *“You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold; two and a half cubits shall be its length and a cubit and a half its width. And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work you shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat. Make one cherub at one end, and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it of one piece with the mercy seat. And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat.” Exodus 25: 17-20*

With exalted significance, the mercy seat represents God’s mercy for fallen humanity. The two cherubim, representing the angelic host, have one wing stretched

high over the mercy seat. The other wing, showing humility and reverence toward God, is folded against their body. Their heads are turned toward each other, and their faces looking down upon the ark. Their holy gaze resting upon the mercy seat symbolises the heavenly angels' reverence toward God's holy law, and their ever abiding interest in God's rescue mission to deliver humanity from sin.

God further instructs Moses, *"You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you. And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel."* Exodus 25:21-22

And Moses laid the Testimony, the Ten Commandments engraved upon two stone tablets, inside the ark, according to God's instruction.

And so Moses stands in the first room, before the partition veil, to receive spiritual instruction spoken directly from God. *"Now when Moses went into the tabernacle of meeting to speak with Him, he heard the voice of One speaking to him from above the mercy seat that was on the ark of the Testimony, from between the two cherubim; thus He spoke to him."* Numbers 7:89

Ponder that awesome meeting for a moment in time.

And thus the ark overlaid with gold, became the sacred storage chest for the Ten Commandments to reside. So, the ark and the Ten Commandments are called, *"...the ark of the testament..."* and at other times, *"...the ark of the covenant..."* Deuteronomy 10:8

## **GOD'S ABIDING PRESENCE WITHIN**

As we stand at the veil, we glimpse the inside of the Most Holy place. This second room of the sanctuary is shrouded in darkness, except for a faint light flickering from the burning lamps over the partition veil.

*"The LORD said He would dwell in the dark cloud..."* 1 Kings 8:12 - Within the shrouded darkness, above the mercy seat and between the two cherubim, dwells the glorious manifestation of God's abiding presence.

*"Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock; You who dwell between the cherubim, shine forth! Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, Stir up Your strength, And come and save us! Restore us, O God; Cause Your face to shine, And we shall be saved!"* Psalm 80:1-2

God's spiritual presence dwelling above the Cherubim, represents His ruling throne, ruling over heaven and earth. *"The LORD reigneth; let the people tremble: he sitteth between the cherubim; let the earth be moved."* Psalm 99:1 KJV

## ONLY HIGH PRIEST ENTERS THE MOST HOLY PLACE

Aaron informs us the High Priest is the only person permitted to enter behind the veil into the Most Holy place into God's abiding presence.

At times, the High Priest needs to prepare the ark for transportation, and the only other time he may enter the Most Holy Place is upon the annual Day of Atonement.

The Day of Atonement is a day consecrated by God to cleanse the sanctuary from sin. And so to learn about the meaning behind the sanctuary cleansing we shall follow the ceremonial consecration of Aaron and his sons, through to the daily ministry of the sanctuary, all leading to the yearly Day of Atonement. Every phase of the sanctuary ministry has symbolic significance for us in our lives today, especially the Day of Atonement for these end times of our world.

## THE PRIESTLY MINISTRY

As soon as the sanctuary is erected, Moses consecrates Aaron and his four sons to the holy priesthood. This means Aaron and his four sons are being set aside in a special way for their priestly ministry. On this grand occasion all, *"...the congregation was gathered at the door of the tabernacle of meeting."* Leviticus 8:4

According to God's precise instructions, Moses ceremonially washes Aaron and his sons with symbolic cleansing water. Next, Moses clothes Aaron in the sacred High Priestly garments and then anoints Aaron to his priestly ministry. *"And he poured some of the anointing oil on Aaron's head and anointed him, to consecrate him."* Leviticus 8:12

Now Moses clothes Aaron's four sons in their sacred priestly garments, and a bull is brought forward for a sin offering. Aaron and his sons place their hands upon the bull's head, and then Moses slays the bull. Taking blood from the sacrificed bull, Moses sprinkles the consecrating blood upon the altar. Now the altar is deemed holy for sacrifice.

Next, a ram is brought forward for a burnt offering and the priests lay their hands upon the ram. *"...Moses killed it. Then he sprinkled the blood all around on the altar. Leviticus 8: 19 - "Now the ram is burnt upon the altar as a burnt offering to the Lord." Exodus 29:18 - "And he brought the second ram, the ram of consecration. Then Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the ram, and Moses killed it. Also he took some of its blood and put it on the tip of Aaron's right ear, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot. Then he brought Aaron's sons. And Moses put some of the blood on the tips of their right ears, on the thumbs of their right hands, and on the big toes of their right feet. And Moses sprinkled the blood all around on the altar." Leviticus 8: 22-24*



The blood of consecration applied to the priest's ears, means they are not to listen to evil, but always keep themselves pure. The blood applied to their thumbs, means they are not to do any evil but always do what is right. And the blood applied to their big toes means not to walk in the way of evil but always walk in the way of God's righteousness.

*"Then Moses took some of the anointing oil and some of the blood which was on the altar, and sprinkled it on Aaron, on his garments, on his sons, and on the garments of his sons with him; and he consecrated Aaron, his garments, his sons, and the garments of his sons with him." Leviticus 8: 30*

Consecration of Aaron and his four sons to the priestly ministry continues for seven days symbolising sanctified completion. *"And you shall not go outside the door of the tabernacle of meeting for seven days, until the days of your consecration are ended. For seven days he shall consecrate you. As he has done this day, so the LORD has commanded to do, to make atonement for you. Therefore you shall stay at the door of the tabernacle of meeting day and night for seven days, and keep the charge of the LORD, so that you may not die; for so I have been commanded." So Aaron and his sons did all the things that the LORD had commanded by the hand of Moses.*" Leviticus 8:33-36

## **FIRST SIN OFFERING AND BURNT OFFERINGS**

Now arriving on the eighth day, sin offerings and burnt offerings are offered before God: First for the priests; next for the elders of Israel; and then for the whole congregation.

*"And to the children of Israel you shall speak, saying, "Take a kid of the goats as a sin offering, and a calf and a lamb, both of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering, also a bull and a ram as peace offerings, to sacrifice before the LORD, and a grain offering mixed with oil; for today the LORD will appear to you.""* Leviticus 9:3-4

And so in order, the sin offerings, and then the burnt offerings are presented before God.

*"Then Aaron lifted his hand toward the people, blessed them, and came down from offering the sin offering, the burnt offering, and peace offerings. And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of meeting, and came out and blessed the people. Then the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people, and fire came out from before the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the fat on the altar. When all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces."* Leviticus 9:22-24

## **DAILY MINISTRY BEGINS**

God's consuming fire signals His acceptance and approval of the burnt offerings, and so daily ministry in the court and in the holy place of the tabernacle begins. Now this involves several different offerings at various times but the most important daily

offerings are the morning and evening sacrifices. *“Now this is what you shall offer on the altar: two lambs of the first year, day by day continually. One lamb you shall offer in the morning, and the other lamb you shall offer at twilight” Exodus 29:38-39*

Day by day, the evening and morning sacrifices consecrate the people to God, reminding them their lives are constantly dependent upon the Son’s future atoning sacrificial blood to pardon their sin.

And so at the time of the evening and morning sacrifice, the people turn toward the sanctuary and bow their heads in reverent worship. Becoming known as the “daily”, the morning and evening sacrifices become the centre of the Israelite’s worship and devotion, of spiritual importance to their lives.

What is the significance for us today? The pattern for our own daily worship, both morning and evening, is looking toward Jesus who is ministering in the heavenly temple as our High Priest, presenting our prayers before our heavenly Father.

Now within the sanctuary court, a perfect lamb without spot or blemish represents the Son of God, and is brought before the altar of sacrifice. Slain in sacrifice, the lamb’s shed blood symbolises Jesus’ future shed blood in atonement for sin. *“For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.” Leviticus 17:11*

Meanwhile, the priest ministering in the holy place burns incense upon the golden altar standing before the veil. The sweet aroma of incense drifts over the veil into the Most Holy place and permeates the mercy seat, where between the two gold cherubim dwells God’s spiritual presence. The incense symbolises the Son’s intervening righteousness to bring the repentant worshipper before God the Father.

In the same motion of time, the interceding incense drifts from the holy place out over the court to the worshipping people in the encampment. Reverently looking toward the holy place, the people search their lives for any sin they may have committed. Then with prayers of repentance they confess their sin and again commit their lives to God.

The worshippers’ sorrowful prayers intermingle with the cloud of intercessory incense, and through the shed blood of the sacrificial sin offering, forgiveness is granted.

And so through faith and belief in the Son of God, who in future times shall fulfil the symbolism of sacrifice with His own life, the congregation is accepted by God.

Over decades of time, countless animals are slain in sacrifice, but this is vitally important to repeatedly remind the people that Jesus’ future and literal sacrificial death is needed to save their souls.

Surely the sins of mankind must bear the costly burden, for countless deaths of innocent animals sacrificed for sin. Yet shadowed in each mournful death is the

merciful love of God to save lost humanity. And rising above all animal sacrifice is the uncountable cost of the Father's and Son's own sacrificing lives, even unto the death of the Father's precious beloved Son, the one and only sacrificial lamb of the divine flock: He who died our everlasting death, that we might receive His everlasting life. *"For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly."* Romans 5:6

## THE INDIVIDUAL SIN OFFERING

And so God beholds the encampment bustling with family life, yet He longs for a spiritual relationship with each individual person.

For those who also desire a spiritual relationship with God, there is a special process for pardon and forgiveness: An individual selects a perfect kid goat without blemish as a sacrificial sin offering - perhaps the most precious pet kid of the family's goat herd. Thus sacrificial offerings for personal sin can be a mournful experience.

Yet no more so than God the Father in giving up His precious only begotten Son to sacrificial death, to save lost humanity from the depths of degrading sin. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* John 3:16 - *"He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"* Romans 8:32

*"...If anyone of the common people sins unintentionally by doing something against any of the commandments of the LORD in anything which ought not to be done, and is guilty, or if his sin which he has committed comes to his knowledge, then he shall bring as his offering a kid of the goats, a female without blemish, for his sin which he has committed. And he shall lay his hand on the head of the sin offering, and kill the sin offering at the place of the burnt offering."* Leviticus 4:27-29

As an individual person confesses, their sin is symbolically transferred to the innocent and sinless kid goat. And now by the person's own hands, the kid goat is slain in sacrificial death. Shadowed in this symbolic offering, the repentant person realises their sin shall take the sin bearing life of the Son of God in future sacrificial death, making literal blood atonement for sin.

*"...the priest shall burn it on the altar for a sweet aroma to the LORD. So the priest shall make atonement for him, and it shall be forgiven him."* Leviticus 4:30-31 - *"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* 1 John 1:8-9 - *"...the blood of Jesus Christ...cleanses us from all sin."* 1 John 1:7

## A LIFE WITHOUT BLEMISH

Why is it so important for the lamb or kid of a goat to be without blemish or defect?

Simply to represent the Son of God, “...as of a lamb without blemish and without spot...” Thus the sacrificial animal must be faultless. This example teaches the repentant person that they also are to present their lives before God as a living sacrifice acceptable to Him. *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.” Romans 12:1*

Yes above all, in the sacrificial system given to humanity, God desired holiness through obedience to His law, not an endless round of animal sacrifice to make atonement for sin. *“Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.” 1 Samuel 15:22*

## **SIN TRANSFERRED INTO THE SANCTUARY**

When a sin offering is made for the priests, or the whole congregation, some of the shed blood is taken into the holy place and sprinkled before the veil. The horns on the altar of incense are also touched with the atoning blood.

*““Then the anointed priest shall take some of the bull’s blood and bring it to the tabernacle of meeting. The priest shall dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle some of the blood seven times before the LORD, in front of the veil of the sanctuary. And the priest shall put some of the blood on the horns of the altar of sweet incense before the LORD, which is in the tabernacle of meeting; and he shall pour the remaining blood of the bull at the base of the altar of the burnt offering, which is at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.”” Leviticus 4:5-7*

And so through the shed blood of the sin offering, sin is symbolically transferred into the Holy place of the tabernacle and as mediator before the people, the priest also symbolically bears their confessed sin into the Holy place.

What happens to all this confessed sin?

Over days, weeks and months, the sanctuary becomes polluted with the symbolic accumulated sins of the people. And this leads to the great Day of Atonement, the yearly cleansing of the sanctuary from sin.

You see through the shed blood of the sin offering, forgiveness is granted, but the repentant people are not entirely released from the penalty of the transgressed law. No, no.

Another step is needed and that is for the priest to make a yearly atonement for the people’s sins in the Most Holy place by sprinkling atoning blood on the mercy seat, above the law residing in the ark. Thus with this reconciling, atoning connection between God’s mercy and His sacred law, the law breaker is released from the law’s broken precepts shattered in their lives.

And so very simply, the cleansing act of atonement is God's ultimate deliverance to blot out sin from a repentant person's life that they might stand before God guiltless as if they had not transgressed His law of righteous life at all.

## THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

And this atoning promise of release from the transgressed law is symbolised in the earthly sanctuary on the great Day of Atonement. God said to Moses:

*“This shall be a statute forever for you: In the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, whether a native of your own country or a stranger who dwells among you. For on that day the priest shall make atonement for you, to cleanse you, that you may be clean from all your sins before the LORD. It is a sabbath of solemn rest for you, and you shall afflict your souls. It is a statute forever.*

*And the priest, who is anointed and consecrated to minister as priest in his father's place, shall make atonement, and put on the linen clothes, the holy garments; then he shall make atonement for the Holy Sanctuary, and he shall make atonement for the tabernacle of meeting and for the altar, and he shall make atonement for the priests and for all the people of the assembly. This shall be an everlasting statute for you, to make atonement for the children of Israel, for all their sins, once a year.’ And he did as the LORD commanded Moses.” Leviticus 16:29-34*

Indeed, the Day of Atonement is a solemn time.

Leading up to this sacred day, the priests and the entire encampment humble themselves before God, fasting and confessing their sins, faults and failures. Differences are resolved, sins forgiven. Spiritual renewal lifts the people to a higher plain of holiness. Yet still the people enter into the Day of Atonement with trepidation.

## AARON ENTERS THE MOST HOLY PLACE

You see, as mediator for the people, the High Priest must enter behind the veil into the Most Holy place, right into the very spiritual presence of God. Not one scent of sin must accompany the priest into the Most Holy place.

If the priest or the congregation hold onto any secret sin and those sins remain unconfessed, this would mean the serious consequence of death for the priest who is to enter into God's presence, and perhaps the consequences will spread into the congregation. And so with apprehension, at the appointed time on the Day of Atonement, the gathering people assemble before the sanctuary.

Meanwhile Aaron the High Priest makes holy preparations. *“He shall put the holy linen tunic and the linen trousers on his body; he shall be girded with a linen sash, and*

*with the linen turban he shall be attired. These are holy garments. Therefore he shall wash his body in water, and put them on.” Leviticus 16:41*

Then Aaron takes, “...from the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats as a sin offering, and one ram as a burnt offering.” Leviticus 16:5

And for himself and his household, Aaron brings, “...a young bull as a sin offering.”

“And Aaron shall bring the bull of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make atonement for himself and for his house, and shall kill the bull as the sin offering which is for himself.” Leviticus 16:11

Aaron slays the bull, and with humble fervent prayer he offers the bull before God as a sin offering.

Now Aaron enters the first room, the Holy place. “Then he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from the altar before the LORD, with his hands full of sweet incense beaten fine, and bring it inside the veil. And he shall put the incense on the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of incense may cover the mercy seat that is on the Testimony, lest he die.” Leviticus 16:12-13

The protecting cloud of intercessory incense envelops the mercy seat. Now bowing his head, Aaron reverently enters behind the veil into the Most Holy place and with blood from the bull he makes atonement for himself over the mercy seat. “He shall take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle it with his finger on the mercy seat on the east side; and before the mercy seat he shall sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times.” Leviticus 16:14 - You may remember the number seven represents perfection and completion.

Meanwhile outside the court, fervent prayers for Aaron’s life ascend from the people and intermingle with the intercessory incense. With sighs of relief, the praying people behold Aaron reappearing through the sanctuary entrance and Aaron fetches two goats.

“He shall take the two goats and present them before the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. Then Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats: one lot for the LORD and the other lot for the scapegoat. And Aaron shall bring the goat on which the LORD’s lot fell, and offer it as a sin offering.” Leviticus 16:7-9

“Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering, which is for the people, bring its blood inside the veil, do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and before the mercy seat. So he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions, for all their sins; and so he shall do for the tabernacle of meeting which remains among them in the midst of their uncleanness.

‘There shall be no man in the tabernacle of meeting when he goes in to make atone-



*ment in the Holy Place, until he comes out, that he may make atonement for himself, for his household, and for all the assembly of Israel.” Leviticus 16:15-17*

So again, Aaron enters the Most Holy place and sprinkles the atoning blood over the mercy seat. Droplets of atoning blood sprinkle upon the mercy seat, above the sacred law in the ark and with that holy symbolic connection atonement is made for the sins of the people and the first room, the Holy place.

Thus we behold in the earthly Day of Atonement how God’s bountiful mercy and delivering love intervenes to save the guilty transgressor of His law: The holy law enshrined in the ark; the mercy seat above; God’s interceding presence; manifesting His saving grace to save sinful human life.

*“Mercy and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed.” Psalm 85:10*

## **SIN PLACED UPON THE SCAPEGOAT**

Now Aaron moves from the Most Holy Place into the Holy place and makes atonement upon the altar of incense.

*“And he shall go out to the altar that is before the LORD, and make atonement for it, and shall take some of the blood of the bull and some of the blood of the goat, and put it on the horns of the altar all around. Then he shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times, cleanse it, and consecrate it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel. And when he has made an end of atoning for the Holy Place, the tabernacle of meeting, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat.” Leviticus 16:18-20*

The live goat, the second goat, is also a sin offering but with a vast difference.

For you see Aaron transfers all polluted sin from the sanctuary onto the goat, and then an appointed person leads the living goat into a wilderness land. Bearing the sins of the people from the cleansed sanctuary, the live goat becomes their “...scapegoat...” for sin.

*“Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, confess over it all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions, concerning all their sins, putting them on the head of the goat, and shall send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a suitable man. The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to an uninhabited land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness.” Leviticus 16:21-22*

The scapegoat represents Satan, for at the end of this sinful world he must bear all the sins of the world from Adam to the last person born upon Planet Earth. Being the originator and multiplier of sin, Satan bears the full penalty which ultimately ends in ashes of everlasting death. At that time Planet Earth is entirely cleansed and purified from sin.

## BODIES DISPOSED OUTSIDE THE CAMP

Meanwhile as the scapegoat is led away into the wilderness bearing the sins of the encampment, Aaron offers the ram as a burnt offering before God.

Remember Aaron took. *“... from the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats as a sin offering, and one ram as a burnt offering.”* Leviticus 16:5

*“Then Aaron shall come into the tabernacle of meeting, shall take off the linen garments which he put on when he went into the Holy Place, and shall leave them there. And he shall wash his body with water in a holy place, put on his garments, come out and offer his burnt offering (the ram) and the burnt offering of the people, and make atonement for himself and for the people.”* Leviticus 16: 23-24

*“The fat of the sin offering he shall burn on the altar. And he who released the goat as the scapegoat shall wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and afterward he may come into the camp.*

*‘The bull for the sin offering and the goat for the sin offering, whose blood was brought in to make atonement in the Holy Place, shall be carried outside the camp. And they shall burn in the fire their skins, their flesh, and their offal. Then he who burns them shall wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and afterward he may come into the camp.’* Leviticus 16:25-28

As the bodies of the bull and goat (the sin offerings) are disposed outside the camp, the yearly Day of Atonement comes to a close. The following day ushers in a new year of daily sacrifice and again the confessed sins of the people are transferred into the holy place until the next Day of Atonement *“...once a year...”*

And so ending our tour of the Old Testament sanctuary, ending with the Day of Atonement, in these closing moments, can you see how the Old Testament sacrificial experience was God’s rescue mission to the people of those times?

## END OF ANIMAL SACRIFICES

And so with spiritual foresight we continue to move forward, 4000 years from the first sacrificed lamb in the Garden of Eden, through Old Testament times and the symbolic sacrificial system, to New Testament times.

Jesus is about to take His last breath of life upon the altar of the cross. In this converging moment of Old and New Testament times, the symbolic Passover lamb is about to be sacrificed by the High Priest ministering in the Jerusalem temple.

And now, at the very moment of Jesus’ last breath, a mighty quake rocks the earth and the veil dividing the holy place and Most Holy place in the Jerusalem temple is supernaturally torn in two from top to bottom. During the shaking of Jesus’ Passover death, the symbolic Passover lamb escapes from death to life.

*“And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split...” Matthew 27:50–51 - “For indeed Christ our Passover, was sacrificed for us.” 1 Corinthians 5:7*

This momentous event signals an end to the Old Testament covenant of animal sacrifice, 4000 years of symbolic sacrifice have literally been fulfilled in Jesus’ sacrificial death as *“...the Lamb of God...”*

*“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” John 1:29 - “...with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” 1 Peter 1:19 - “...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” Revelation 13:8*

## THE OLD AND NEW COVENANTS

And so with Jesus’ literal sacrificial death upon the cross, the transition from the Old Testament covenant to the New Testament covenant begins.

A covenant is simply a binding agreement made between two participants who agree to uphold and fulfil that which they have promised toward each other.

For example, the first covenant agreement was made between God and the Israelite people at the base of Mount Sinai, prior to God speaking His law of Ten Commandments from the fiery mount. Below is the first covenant agreement:

*“So Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, ‘All the words which the LORD has said we will do.’ And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD. And he rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he sent young men of the children of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. And Moses took half the blood and put it in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, ‘All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient.’ And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, ‘This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words.’” Exodus 24:3–8*

*“Therefore not even the first covenant was dedicated without blood. For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, ‘This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you.’” Hebrews 9:18–20*

Yet the symbolisms of the Old Testament covenant through animal sacrifice to take away sin was fading away, heralding *“...better promises...”* of Jesus’ literal sacrificial death upon the cross.

*“For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.” Hebrews 10:4 - “In that He says, ‘A new covenant,’ He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.” Hebrews 8:13*

Thus the dawning of the New Testament covenant is “...established on better promises...” where we are spiritually sprinkled with Jesus’ new covenant blood “...for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ...” 1 Peter 1:2

*“But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.” Hebrews 8:6*

*“Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them’ (which are offered according to the law), then He said, ‘Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.’ He takes away the first that He may establish the second. By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” Hebrews 10:8–9*

*“And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.” Hebrews 9:15*

## **TRANSITION TO THE HEVENLY TEMPLE**

As the Israelites of the Old Testament covenant were called to enter into the earthly sanctuary experience, those living in the New Testament covenant are called to enter into the heavenly temple experience.

*“...We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.” Hebrews 8:1–2*

*“For He looked down from the height of His sanctuary; From heaven the Lord viewed the earth, To hear the groaning of the prisoner, To release those appointed to death...” Psalm 102:19–20*

Yes, bearing our sins and dying upon the sacrificial cross in our place, Jesus paid the ransom price to deliver us from our imprisonment of sin, but in victorious risen life there is much more for Him to accomplish for our salvation, and that is to connect our earthly lives to His heavenly High priestly life.

## **TWO TEMPLE ROOMS - TWO MINISTERING ERAS**

Spanning generations of New Testament times to our very day, Jesus’ High priestly ministry is divided into two ministering eras of heavenly time.

The first era commences when Jesus enters the first room of the heavenly temple called the holy place. Then further down the stream of heavenly time Jesus moves from

the holy place and commences His second era of high priestly ministry in the Most Holy place, the second room of the heavenly temple.

Today in the 21st century we are living in the second era of Jesus' high priestly ministry. *"Seeing then that we have a great high Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession."* Hebrews 4:14

Now let us follow Jesus' sacrificial footsteps from the liberating cross into His High Priestly ministry in the heavenly temple. Yes, let us enter into the literal heavenly temple experience and receive Jesus' literal High Priestly ministry into our lives.

## JESUS OUR HEAVENLY FORERUNNER

In Bible times, a forerunner was a messenger who ran ahead of the war chariots, making a way for the coming king and his advancing army. As our priestly forerunner Jesus has gone ahead of us into the heavenly temple, into the presence of God the Father. *"... where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever..."* Hebrews 6:19-20

As Jesus ministers in the heavenly temple, His atoning life blood sacrificed upon the cross connects with His atoning High Priestly ministry, and this connection embraces our lives in complete atonement, cleansing our soul temple from sin.

And yet the overarching mission of His priestly ministry is to reunite our repentant forgiven lives to God the Father and to Jesus Himself, God's only begotten Son. Ministering on our behalf, Jesus intercedes for us, making a way for us to enter into a sanctified spiritual relationship with our Father God. *"Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming..."* Says the LORD of hosts." Malachi 3:1 - *"I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple."* Isaiah 6:1

*"For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another - He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation."* Hebrews 9:24-28

## MINISTERING IN THE HOLY PLACE

Appointed and anointed by His Father God, Jesus begins His first era of High Priestly ministry in the holy place, the first room of the heavenly temple.

*“So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.’ As He also says in another place: ‘You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.’” Hebrews 5:5-6*

*“And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, called by God as High Priest ‘according to the order of Melchizedek...” Hebrews 5:9-10*

## **EARTHLY SHADOW MEETS THE HEAVENLY REALITY**

We have seen the Old Testament earthly Sanctuary was a shadow copy of God’s original temple in heaven, *“...who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, ‘See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.’” Hebrews 8:5*

*“For a tabernacle was prepared: the first part, in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary; and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron’s rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; (the Ten Commandments) and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.” Hebrews 9:2-5*

Now recorded in the book of Revelation of New Testament times, we behold in the heavenly temple’s holy place the original altar of incense, and the original burning lamps. In the Most Holy place, we behold God’s original Ark of the Covenant.

But most importantly, we behold Jesus the Son of man, clothed in His High Priestly garments, ministering as our heavenly High Priest.

*“Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire...” Revelation 1:12-14*

*“Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.” Revelation 8:3*

*“Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.” Revelation 11:19*

And so we see the earthly sanctuary of symbolism blends with the literal heavenly temple, where both enfold and unfold each other in one reality of saving grace.



## JESUS OUR INTERCESSORY HIGH PRIEST

Just as the Old Testament priests ministering in the earthly sanctuary were spiritually connecting the Israelite people to God, Jesus our heavenly High Priest ministers in the heavenly temple, connecting us to God the Father. This mediating and connecting theme flows throughout Jesus' ministry in the holy place and continues onward through His ministry in the Most Holy Place to us today.

*"For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus..." 1 Timothy 2:5 - Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6 - "And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved." Acts 2:21*

*"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12*

Yes, mediating on our behalf through His divine and human priesthood, Jesus' all-encompassing righteousness enfolds us in a spiritual relationship with our Father God. So with our humanity connected to the Father's and Son's divinity, we continue our daily sanctifying walk, kept under the priestly umbrella of Jesus' temple ministry.

*"It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us." Romans 8:34*

*"...by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant. Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood.*

*"Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.*

*"For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever." Hebrews 7:22-28*

## JESUS HELPS US IN OUR TRIALS

Our sin-drenched world presents daily trials and temptations to earth's global population.

Jesus understands; He experienced far more trials and temptations during His earthly life time than any human ever born. Just so, Jesus' High Priestly ministry aids us in our own trials and temptations.

*"Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a*

*merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.” Hebrews 2:17-18*

*“Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:14-16*

## **IF WE FALL INTO UNINTENTIONAL SIN**

At times as we walk the spiritual path of our temple experience, we may be caught off guard and enticed by unintentional sin.

But rest assured, we are not cast off in despair. Acknowledging and confessing our sin, we look again to Jesus ministering in the heavenly temple, advocating on our behalf before God the Father. Receiving Jesus’ covering righteousness, in the place of our confessed sin, we are reconnected to our faithful and just heavenly Father as if we had not sinned.

*“My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.” 1 John 2:1-2 - “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus...” 1 Timothy 2:5 - “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9*

Yet, if Jesus were not our advocate and mediator, reconciling us again to God the Father, we would be hopelessly lost, our lives forever cut off. Such is the vital importance of Jesus’ interceding High Priestly ministry mediating on our behalf.

*“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand.” Psalm 37:23-24 - “Direct my steps by Your word, And let no iniquity have dominion over me.” Psalm 119:133 - “...looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...” Hebrews 12:2*

## **HEAVENLY TEMPLE CONNECTED TO OUR HUMAN TEMPLE**

Now we behold another temple phenomenon, as Jesus’ Spirit presence proceeds from his High Priestly ministry and, amazingly, dwells in our human temple of mind, body and spirit.

*“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price;*

*therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31*

*"But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His." Romans 8:9 - "For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father." Ephesians 2:18 - "But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him." 1 Corinthians 6:17 - "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God." Romans 8:14 - "And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!'" Galatians 4:6*

## **PRAYER CONNECTS US TO JESUS**

Now the Spirit reality grows broader and deeper, as our prayers connect to Jesus' High Priestly Spirit. *"For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ..." Philippians 1:19*

*"...praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints..." Ephesians 6:18 - "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." Romans 8:26 - "Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." 2 Corinthians 3:17*

Aiding our human weakness, Jesus' Spirit breathes life into our prayers. Thus imbued with Jesus' empowering Spirit, our prayers ascend into the heavenly temple and mingle with the intercessory incense wafting from the golden censer. *"Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne." Revelation 8:3*

*"In my distress I called upon the LORD, And cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry came before Him, even to His ears." Psalm 18:6 - "When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the Lord; And my prayer went up to You, Into Your holy temple." Jonah 2:7 - As Jesus ministers before the golden altar of incense, our prayers intermingle with His interceding grace and come before our Father God. Then, answers to our prayers descend from the Heavenly temple, returning to us according to our Fathers will and holy purpose for our lives.*

Our all-knowing, all-seeing heavenly Father beholds what is best for our lives, so we need not fear, for the power of prayer anchors our souls to Jesus' High Priestly ministry, delivering hope in times of need.

*"This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil..." Hebrews 6:19*

*“Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.” Hebrews 10:19–23*

Indeed, without Jesus’ High Priestly ministry anchoring our souls in heaven’s harbouring temple, we would be relentlessly tossed upon the raging seas of life, dashed upon the jagged rocks of everlasting death.

Thanks be to God the Father and His Only Begotten Son for their ever-sheltering temple care. *“Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.” Psalm 100:1–5*

## **JESUS ENTERS THE MOST HOLY PLACE**

Now we arrive at the predestined appointed time, for Jesus to move from the holy place into *“...the most holy place...”* and commence His second era of High priestly ministry in the second room of the heavenly temple.

As we know, the Old Testament yearly Day of Atonement was to symbolically cleanse the earthly sanctuary from sin. And as we also understand, God told Moses the earthly sanctuary and the symbolic ceremonies were a pattern, a copy of the heavenly. Thus, there must be an appointed time for cleansing of the literal heavenly sanctuary to begin.

And this time, the true sacrifice, the literal Lamb of God who was crucified upon the cross, will sprinkle the virtues of His atoning blood upon the heavenly mercy seat over the Ten Commandments and thus cleanse the heavenly temple from confessed sin.

*“For a tabernacle was prepared: the first part, in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary; and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron’s rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.*

*“Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services.*

*“But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people’s sins committed in ignorance; the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing.*

*“It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience - concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation.*

*“But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” Hebrews 9:2-14*

## **THE ANGEL SAID “...2300 DAYS...”**

*“Your way, O God, is in the sanctuary; Who is so great a God as our God?” Psalm 77:13 - “Honor and majesty are before Him; Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.” Psalm 96:6*

You may be asking, “How do we know there is an appointed time for the cleansing of the heavenly temple to begin?

Let us start in the book of Daniel, our first introduction to the heavenly sanctuary cleansing. God sends the angel Gabriel to Daniel, to reveal to him a vision of future events coming in the world. In the midst of the vision, Daniel hears these words, *“For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.” Daniel 8:14.* Meaning after 2300 days, cleansing of the sanctuary shall commence.

At first glance 2300 days seems such a short time, just a little more than six years. So how can we be certain the angel Gabriel was referring to the heavenly sanctuary, and not to an earthly sanctuary? We need to map out an historical trail.

At the time of Daniel’s vision, the original earthly sanctuary built in the structure of a tent, no longer exists. Thus the 2300 days cannot apply to the non-existent sanctuary tent.

But the original earthly sanctuary was replaced by the magnificent temple built by King Solomon in Jerusalem city. Then could the temple King Solomon built at Jerusalem fit the time line of 2300 days?

Well, at the time of Daniel's vision and for decades after, the once magnificent temple at Jerusalem lies in ruins, destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian army. Thus, King Solomon's destroyed temple does not fit the time line of the 2300 day prophecy either.

But wait a minute. The Jerusalem temple's time line picks up again, still in Old Testament times, when the Jews return to ransacked Jerusalem and rebuild the derelict temple. Yet tragically, in the year AD 70 of New Testament times the rebuilt temple at Jerusalem is utterly destroyed by Titus' Roman army, and the temple remains destroyed to our day in the 21st century.

So the non-existent sanctuary tent and the erased temple at Jerusalem city are both obsolete to the time prophecy of *"...two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed."*

Then to what sanctuary or temple could the 2300 day prophecy possibly refer to? Clearly we are left with only one temple, and that is the heavenly temple, also known as the heavenly sanctuary. *"For He looked down from the height of His sanctuary: From heaven the Lord viewed the earth. Psalm 102:19"*

Seeking answers to the meaning of the 2300 days, the next revealing way mark is to recognise that in symbolic prophecy one day represents one literal year.

Or written another way: 1 prophetic day = 1 literal year. Yes amazingly true, but how do we know this?

## **ONE PROPHETIC DAY = ONE LITERAL YEAR**

Biblical evidence of one prophetic day representing one literal day is seen during the Israelites' wilderness journey. Let's take a look.

Arriving on the borders of Canaan, the promised land, a spy is chosen from each of the 12 tribes, to spy out the fortifications of the heathen land ahead. This survey of the lands ahead was to last 40 days. Tragically, ten spies return with their faithless reports and the Israelites refuse to believe that God's supernatural power will overthrow the heathen's fortifications and possess the promised land of Canaan. Thus, reaping their unbelief, God turns the Israelite nation back into the wilderness to wander 40 years.

*"According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, for each day you shall bear your guilt one year, namely forty years, and you shall know My rejection."* Numbers 14:34

Now another example of one prophetic day representing one literal year is recorded in the book of Ezekiel. *"And when you have completed them, lie again on your right side; then you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days. I have laid on you a day for each year. Ezekiel 4:61"*



And so according to the biblical rule of calculating prophetic time, the 2300 days as explained to Daniel by Gabriel the leading angel of heaven, are 2300 literal years.

## THE TIME OF THE END

Let us explore the prophetic message given to Daniel, for this reveals the second way mark involving time and the 2300 years.

*“And he said to me, ‘For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.’ Then it happened, when I, Daniel, had seen the vision and was seeking the meaning, that suddenly there stood before me one having the appearance of a man. And I heard a man’s voice between the banks of the Ulai, who called, and said, ‘Gabriel, make this man understand the vision.’ So he came near where I stood, and when he came I was afraid and fell on my face; but he said to me, ‘**Understand, son of man, that the vision refers to the time of the end.**’” Daniel 8: 14–17*

And so in the words, “...the vision refers to the time of the end...” we determine the second waymark in prophetic time, as Gabriel proclaimed the cleansing of the sanctuary shall commence at an appointed time during “...the time of the end.”

In Volume 6 of The Blazing Trail we shall explore “...the time of the end...” and understand why this time of the end begins in 1798 and continues to the end of the world at Jesus’ second coming. But for now, we need a clear understanding of the 2300 literal years and the sanctuary, temple cleansing. This is vitally important for our lives today.

## THREE KINGS - THREE DECREES

Now we continue on to discover our third waymark on the prophetic trail, with another question: When do the 2300 literal years actually begin?

Biblical scholars agree and affirm, the command given to the Jews to restore and build Jerusalem marks the beginning of the 2300 year prophecy. *“Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, (Jesus) There shall be seven weeks (49 years) and sixty-two weeks; (434 years) The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.” Daniel 9:25*

And so if we discover when the command is given to the Jews to “...restore and build Jerusalem...” we can mark the exact beginning of the 2300 years and where these years end, down the stream of prophetic time.

World history and biblical history also agree and confirm that the “...command to restore and build Jerusalem...” is given by three decrees issued by three kings of Persia.

The first decree is issued by King Cyrus to rebuild the temple.

*“In the first year of King Cyrus, King Cyrus issued a decree concerning the house of God at Jerusalem: ‘Let the house be rebuilt, the place where they offered sacrifices; and let the foundations of it be firmly laid, its height sixty cubits and its width sixty cubits...”* Ezra 6:3

And foretold by the angel Gabriel, restoring and rebuilding of Jerusalem’s broken walls shall be fraught with difficulties. *“The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times...”* Daniel 9: 25

Consequently, when King Darius, the second king, comes to the throne He issues a second decree to enforce King Cyrus’ original decree, *“And may the God who causes His name to dwell there destroy any king or people who put their hand to alter it, or to destroy this house of God which is in Jerusalem. I Darius issue a decree; let it be done diligently.”* Ezra 6:12

Following King Darius, a third decree is issued by King Artaxerxes, the third king.

*“Artaxerxes, king of kings, To Ezra the priest, a scribe of the Law of the God of heaven: Perfect peace, and so forth. I issue a decree that all those of the people of Israel and the priests and Levites in my realm, who volunteer to go up to Jerusalem, may go with you.”* Ezra 7:12-13

Thus under the umbrella of the three decrees proclaimed by the three kings, the ransacked temple and broken down walls of Jerusalem city, destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylonian army, are rebuilt.

*“So the elders of the Jews built, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they built and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the command of Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.”* Ezra 6:1

## **BEGINNING OF THE 2300 PROPHETIC YEARS**

Yes, in one accord, Bible commentators and historians agree, *“...the command to restore and build Jerusalem...”* reaches its ultimate climax when Artaxerxes issues the third and final decree in the autumn of 457 BC. And so 457 BC marks the beginning of the 2300 literal years.

Then let us do a little calculation. Counting down from 457 BC to the beginning of AD 1 there are 456 years, leaving 1844 years left over. Now counting the remaining 1844 years upwards from AD 1 we come to the end of the 2300 years in the northern hemisphere autumn of AD 1844.

## WILLIAM MILLER AND THE 2300 YEAR PROPHECY

Now we are going to follow the trail from 1844, and find out why “...cleansing of the sanctuary...” at the end of 2300 prophetic days (2300 literal years), is so vital for our understanding.

For more than 20 years leading up to 1844 a man called William Miller, a farmer in the United States of America, earnestly studies the 2300 day prophecy recorded in the book of Daniel. Using the biblical rule for interpreting bible prophecy, one day is equal to one year, Miller comes to the conclusion that the 2300 days are 2300 literal years, calculated to end in the year 1844 and “...then shall the sanctuary be cleansed...”

But Miller and his associates of the time, believe the cleansing of the sanctuary means the cleansing of Planet Earth with fire at Jesus’ second coming.

*“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?” 2 Peter 3:10–12*

Oblivious to his mistaken application, William Miller continues his bible study and around 1831 begins to preach Jesus’ imminent return to cleanse and purify the earth with fire.

With growing anticipation, an advent movement swells in the United States and flows over the world. Members of Protestant churches join the great proclamation of Jesus’ imminent return. Yet the careless remain in their churches and ridicule the movement. Others sell lands and property; more abandon their jobs and look forward to entering heaven’s blissful abode.

Days pass into weeks, weeks pass into months, and months pass into years. And yet Jesus has not returned. In place of an earthly cleansing a great disappointment floods the earth, testing every believer’s faith in God.

But God’s prophetic hand is still upon the advent movement. At times God works in mysterious ways His wonders to perform, even to turn a misapplication into a revelation of enlightenment.

For you see, far back in the century AD 1 God beholds the future disappointment of the advent movement and reveals this testing time to the apostle John, as recorded in the book of Revelation. The beginnings of this prophetic movement is a sweet experience like honey in the mouth but turns to bitter disappointment in the stomach, vexing mind, body and soul.

*“So I went to the angel and said to him, ‘Give me the little book.’ And he said to me, ‘Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth.’ Then I took the little book out of the angel’s hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter. And he said to me, ‘You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings.’” Revelation 10:9–11*

Yes, at this time of great disappointment in 1844, the precise meaning of the 2300 day prophecy is not fully understood. Yet in a short while when the prophecy is fully understood, believers who accept the message of the heavenly temple cleansing must “...prophesy again...” and preach this biblical truth to the world, even to our day.

Meanwhile as the great disappointment continues to sweep over the advent movement, many disheartened people ridiculed by unbelievers, give up their faith and return to the ways of the world. Still others retreat to their churches and give up all belief in any cleansing of any sanctuary whether on earth or in heaven.

But a sweet experience returns to the lives of those remaining faithful to God. Again, the faithful few earnestly search the scriptures and in tearful prayer seek God to reveal where they had gone wrong in their prophetic reckoning. Describing this trying, testing time the following is a quote from the Seventh Day Adventist newspaper, The Review and Herald June 23, 1921.

**Quote:** “This prophetic period came to its close on October 22 1844. The disappointment to those who expected to meet their Lord on that day was great. Hiram Edson, a careful Bible student in mid-New York state, describes what took place among the company of believers of which he was a part:

‘Our expectations were raised high, and thus we looked for our coming Lord until the clock tolled twelve at midnight. The day had then passed, and our disappointment had become a certainty. Our fondest hopes and expectations were blasted, and such a spirit of weeping came over us as I never experienced before. It seemed that the loss of all earthly friends could have been no comparison. We wept and wept, till the day dawned.

‘I mused in my heart, saying: “My advent experience has been the brightest of all my Christian experience...Has the Bible proved a failure? Is there no God, no heaven, no golden city, no Paradise? Is all this but a cunningly devised fable? Is there no reality to our fondest hopes and expectations?”

‘I began to feel there might be light and help for us in our distress. I said to some of the brethren: “Let us go to the barn.” We entered the granary, shut the doors about us, and bowed before the Lord. We prayed earnestly, for we felt our necessity. We continued in earnest prayer until

the witness of the Spirit was given that our prayers were accepted, and that light should be given – our disappointment explained, made clear and satisfactory.

‘After breakfast I said to one of my brethren, “Let us go and see and encourage some of our brethren.” We started, and while passing through a large field, I was stopped about midway of the field. Heaven seemed open to my view, and I saw distinctly and clearly that instead of our High Priest coming out of the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary to this earth on the tenth day of the seventh month, (Jewish calendar) at the end of the 2300 days, He, for the first time, entered on that day into the second apartment of that sanctuary, and that He had a work to perform in the most holy place before coming to the earth...” <https://adventistdigitallibrary.org/islandora/object/adl:353166/datastream/PDF/view> retrieved 19 May 2025

On that autumn day of 1844, the vision given to Hiram Edson points us back to the Bible, to John’s vision during AD 1. John recorded that the Most Holy place in the heavenly temple is opened before his view, pointing forward to the autumn of 1844 and thus John proclaims, *“Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple.” Revelation 11:19*

Yes, exactly as God prophesied through Daniel in Old Testament times, the appointed time fully arrives to cleanse the heavenly temple from all believers’ confessed and unconfessed sin. *“For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.” Daniel 8:14*

## VITAL QUESTIONS

Yet unlike the symbolic cleansing of the Old Testament earthly sanctuary, known as the Day of Atonement - a process started and finished within one day and only once a year - the cleansing of the heavenly temple involves an additional process in the Most Holy Place that continues for decades of time. This additional process involves an Investigative Judgment. Then what is the Investigative Judgment leading to our day and what does this mean for you and I?

Well, in the year 1844, a lengthy investigation commences in the heavenly temple, into the lives of every person who has accepted Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, throughout all generations of earthly time. Yes, the investigation begins with the first man and first woman in the Garden of Eden’s fallen paradise and proceeds to each living believer in our 21st century space and time.

You see, this investigation of believers, seeks to answer vital questions about each person’s life, and the answers will determine each person’s spiritual destiny.

Each precious believer's life, whether those laid to rest in death or those living today, is openly revealed in the heavenly temple court, and investigated.

Searching questions are asked: Has this believer remained faithful to the spiritual understanding they have received from God during his or her life time? Or has this person chosen to lapse back into intentional sin, living a worldly lifestyle, falling away from a spiritual relationship with God the Father and His beloved Son, *"...who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts."* *1 Corinthians 4:5?* - Or shall the believing person be found faithful and worthy of receiving immortal life when Jesus returns at His second coming?

And so let us consider why this investigation is so vitally important to God's universe and to our earthly lives today? You see, when Jesus comes again to take the saved of earth home to the heavenly mansion, any person who has chosen to hold onto sin in their lives cannot be permitted to enter into heaven's sinless paradise.

Remember Lucifer's lawlessness in heaven? Lucifer transgressed God's universal law and sin entered heaven's law abiding paradise, God's capital life centre of the universe.

*"“You (Lucifer) were perfect from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you. By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned: Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God...”* *Ezekiel 28:15-16* - *“Whoever commits sin transgresses the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”* *1 John 3:4 KJV* - *“Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.”* *1 John 3: 4*

Lawlessness begins to seep from Lucifer's sinful life into heaven's sacred abode. Setting a deceitful, cunning ploy, Lucifer spreads assassinating lies about God's character and deceives a third of the heavenly host, angels who serve in God's universal government.

Now with God's abiding law of love cast out from their fallen lives, Lucifer and his rebelling dark force make all-out war against God's governing authority. But defeated by the Son of God and His faithful law-abiding angels, Lucifer and his lawless dark force are cast out of heaven. And with this casting out of lawless rebellion, God will never allow the lawlessness of sin to re-enter or infiltrate heaven ever again. *“For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, Nor shall evil dwell with you.”* *Psalms 5:4*

And thus, an investigation is necessary into every person's life who has ever accepted God's saving grace and has their name written in heaven. Yes, Jesus proclaims, *“...rejoice because your names are written in heaven...”* *Luke 10:20*

Only those willingly abiding in God's loving commandments of righteous life are counted worthy to enter heaven's sinless eternal abode.



*“Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gate into the city. But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.” Revelation 22: 14-15*

Let us pause for a moment of spiritual uplift and ponder the purity and joy of heaven, free of all corrupting lawlessness of sin. What a beautiful reality awaits faithful believers, “... as it is written: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” 1 Corinthians 2:9

## **ACCORDING TO THE STANDARD OF GOD’S LAW**

Truly our God abounds with merciful love toward all, and yet equal to His character of love, God is a God of justice and judgment to contain and eradicate the evils of sin.

*“Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgement has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.” Revelation 14:7*

Thus, whether we face judgement during cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary, or face judgement at the final cleansing of Planet Earth from sin, the record of every human life is summoned before God’s judgement throne to give an account for deeds in their lives.

*“For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.” Ecclesiastes 12:14 - Jesus said, “But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.” Matthew 12:36-37*

*“But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.” Romans 14:10 - “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” 2 Corinthians 5:10*

*“For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son...” John 5:22 - “...because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.” Acts 17:31 - “And you shall swear, ‘The LORD lives, ’ In truth, in judgment, and in righteousness...” Jeremiah 4:2 - “Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face.” Psalm 89:14*

The Son’s righteous judgment is governed by the spiritual standard of His Father’s ethical and moral law, the Ten Commandments residing in the heavenly temple’s Most Holy Place. Believers must want to rise and live in this holy standard. Not by their own power but through God’s empowering spirit abiding within each believer, “...being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it

*until the day of Jesus Christ...” Philippians 1:6 - “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13 - “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.” Ecclesiastes 12:13 KJV*

*“So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.” James 2:12 KJV - Remember the law of liberty is God’s universal law, the law spoken in the words of the Ten Commandments, exalted in the Most Holy place of the heavenly temple, the residing court room of God’s love, mercy, justice, and judgment. - “And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament...” Revelation 11:19*

Such is the solemnity of the judgment hour. And quite naturally some believers may feel uncomfortable realising that every behaviour, every word, every thought of life is being judged in heaven. Be assured this discomfort is a step on the journey of character growth and development. You see, not one person born into this world, except Jesus, has ever been free of sin; we all inherit the fallen human nature, with weaknesses toward sin. Then the next step, is realising and accepting we have sinful behaviours, words and thoughts, and asking for forgiveness through prayer. Follow through with believing by faith that Jesus cleanses us with His sacrifice, and the discomfort disappears. We can accept that we will be judged by God’s merciful love and we continue our character growth journey free of wilful condemning sin. *“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.” Romans 8:1*

## **PREPARATIONS FOR INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT**

Now in heavenly vision, the prophet Daniel of Old Testament times beholds holy preparation for the investigative judgment to commence in the temple’s Most Holy place.

*“I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire; A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, And the books were opened.” Daniel 7:9-10*

You may know the Ancient of Days is God the Father, as the Bible informs us: *“Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.” Psalm 90:2*

Ministering before God the Father’s eternal throne, multitudes of heavenly angels shall attend the court of investigative judgment, *“...thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him...” Daniel 7:10*

## JESUS ENTERS THE MOST HOLY PLACE

And now Daniel beholds a phenomenal sight, as Jesus the Son of Man moves from the temple's holy place into the Most Holy Place, and is brought near before His Father's throne. *"I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him..." Daniel 7:13*

Continuing His High Priestly ministry as mediator and advocate in the Most Holy place, Jesus is about to commence literal atonement to cleanse the heavenly temple from believers' confessed sin.

*"For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another— He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation." Hebrews 9:24-28*

## HEAVENLY BOOKS OPENED

All is in heavenly order and hushed solemnity fills the Most Holy Place. Investigative judgment is announced in the convening court and ministering angels open the heavenly books of record.. *"The court was seated, And the books were opened." Daniel 7:9-10 - "...And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books." Revelation 20:12*

The apostle Paul also speaks about the "...Book of Life..." when he says, *"...my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life." Philippians 4:3 - While the apostle John informs us, "...only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life..." shall enter the heavenly New Jerusalem. "But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life." Revelation 21:27*

## BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Recorded throughout earth's fallen ages, the righteous deeds of God's believing people are faithfully written in another special book, called the book of remembrance.

*"Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, And the LORD listened and heard them; So a book of remembrance was written before Him For those who fear the LORD And who meditate on His name." Malachi 3:16 - "You number my wanderings;*

*Put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not in Your book?" Psalm 56:8 - "For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister." Hebrews 6:10*

## **CONFESSED AND UNCONFESSED SIN**

Yes, every detail of a person's life is recorded in the heavenly books: good deeds; bad deeds; confessed sin; triumphs over sin; sufferings; and sacrifices made in the service of God.

But equally recorded in the Book of Life are the lurking unconfessed sins that separate our lives from God's holy presence.

*"Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear." Isaiah 59:1-2 - "Behold, it is written before Me: ...Your iniquities and the iniquities of your fathers together,' Says the LORD..." Isaiah 65:6-7*

Yet take heart, for during the investigative judgement Jesus continues His intercessory ministry to bridge our abyss of separating sin. *"This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." Hebrews 6:19-20*

*"...It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us." Romans 8:34 - "...being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ..." Philippians 1:6*

*"Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them." Hebrews 7:25*

## **PROOF OF LITERAL BLOOD ATONEMENT**

Now we pause a moment to inhale a deep spiritual breath, for we are about to behold a discovery that exceeds all biblical discoveries and all earthly symbolic atonement. Ready?

An unusual archaeological dig has provided proof that Jesus' blood flowed from the crucifixion cross and, astoundingly, sprinkled onto the mercy seat, over God's Ten Commandments hidden in a cavern deep below the cross. Did you catch the significance? That's right, Jesus' blood made literal atonement for sin. You may wonder how this could possibly be.

Well, you may remember mentioned elsewhere in Volume 3 of *The Blazing Trail*, a miraculous discovery is made by Ron Wyatt an American biblical archaeologist, now laid to rest in death.

Directed by God's guiding providence, Ron finds the crucifixion site at Jerusalem, and while investigating the long rocky escarpment he discovers a crucifixion cross-hole cut into the rock about 13 inches (33 cm) square and 3 feet (nearly 1 metre) deep. A limestone plug covers the hole, cut to fit, with finger grips each side for easy removal.

Miraculous discoveries continue to unfold. *"Truth shall spring out of the earth, And righteousness shall look down from heaven."* Psalm 85:11

On January 6, 1982, after gruelling hard labour tunnelling inch by inch into the hillside underneath the escarpment, Ron breaks through the rock into an underground cavern. He crawls through the narrow entrance.

**Quote:** "Ron continued to shift aside more rocks and wood, and then found a limestone casing, with a removable lid. The lid had cracked across and had been partially moved to one side. Ron shone his flashlight down through the crack and saw a chest of beaten gold. Ron knew he was looking at the Ark of the Covenant, first introduced in Exodus 25." <https://drrichardkent.org/biblical-archeology/the-ark-of-the-covenant/ron-wyatt-discovered-the-ark-of-the-covenant-on-january-6th-1982/> retrieved 18 May 2025

Yet there is more, for on a return visit to confirm his earlier discovery, Ron's flashlight reveals a dark substance upon the mercy seat and he notices in the cavern ceiling a vertical split in the rock. But what could this mean? Investigation continues.

You may remember when Jesus died upon the cross to save us from sin *"...which He purchased with His own blood."* Acts 20:28 - upon His last exhaling breathe, a mighty earthquake rocks the crucifixion site. - *"And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split..."* Matthew 27:50-51

Later that Friday afternoon, upon Pilot's command, a Roman soldier arrives at the crucifixion site. Although finding Jesus dead upon the cross, the soldier thrusts his spear into Jesus' side. Blood and water gushes from Jesus' pierced wound spilling upon the rocky escarpment.

*"This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood..."* 1 John 5:6

From the foot of the cross we fast forward to the 20th century.

Deep below the crucifixion site, in the dark cavern, Ron Wyatt is overwhelmed with amazement. For Ron realises that from the sacrificial cross, directly above the cavern, Jesus' literal atoning blood in pardon for humanity's confessed sins, ran down the split

rock, and sprinkled upon the mercy seat over the Ten Commandments residing in the earthly Ark of the Covenant “....sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ...” 1 Peter 1:2

And with that literal sprinkling of Jesus’ blood upon the mercy seat in the cavern, Old Testament symbolic atonement comes to a fulfilled end.

Yet ascending from that earthly cavern, the trail of literal atonement continues.

You see, the spiritual virtues of Jesus’ atoning blood enter into the heavenly temple with His risen life. Now ministering in the Most Holy Place, Jesus makes heavenly atonement upon the heavenly mercy seat over God’s Ten Commandments residing in heaven’s Ark of the Covenant.

Thus in the investigative judgment, we receive Jesus’ complete atonement blotting out our sins from heaven’s sacred temple; our forgiven lives are restored to God’s holy law as if we had not sinned, “...that the righteous requirements of the law might be fulfilled in us...” Romans 8:4

*“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more than, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son; mucho doubt more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.” Romans 5:6-11 KJV*

Now returning to the earthly cavern, an intriguing question comes to mind. How did the Ark of the Covenant come to be precisely placed in the underground cavern known as Jeremiah’s grotto?

Well, 600 years before Jesus’ crucifixion upon the cross, King Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylonian army lay siege to Jerusalem city. To prevent the Ark of the Covenant falling into enemy hands, the Ark and other sacred temple items were secretly hidden in a cavern outside of Jerusalem’s northern wall.

Thus by God’s miraculous foresight and guiding providence, the cross and the Ark come into exact alignment for Jesus’ literal blood atonement to sprinkle upon the mercy seat.

Yet another thoughtful question arises: Could the dried blood upon the symbolic mercy seat be a remnant sprinkling of animal blood from the Day of Atonement during Old Testament times? Well, Ron took a sample of dried blood from the mercy seat to an Israeli laboratory.

More miracles begin to unfold. The sample of blood is indeed of human origin but with two remarkable differences.



Firstly, upon examination the sample of blood, though nearly 2000 years old was still alive.

Secondly, and most astounding of all, under the microscope, the blood sample revealed only 24 chromosomes in total, not the normal 46 humans have.

In the blood sample tested by Israeli laboratory technicians there was found to be 23 chromosomes from Jesus' mother and only one from His Father, an extraordinary result beyond human experience.

But "...with God all things are possible..." and so miraculously the mystery unfolds: Jesus received 23 human chromosomes from His earthly mother Mary, and 1 male chromosome from God's divinity, proving beyond a skeptic's doubt that Jesus is truly the divine "...Son of God..." and "...Son of Man..." conceived in human life.

Ron Wyatt explained during one of his presentations:

**Quote:** "We tested it to make sure it was blood. It is unique blood. I will quickly state this. I know there are some doctors here, and nurses and people who are familiar with blood. All of us have 46 chromosomes, unless we have Downs Syndrome. Each parent supplies 23 chromosomes to a new infant. Christ got 23 from His mother, He got one from His Father, and it was a Y, which made Him a male. He got it not from an earthly Father, or He would have had 46 like the rest of us."

You can read more here: <https://drrichardkent.org/biblical-archeology/the-ark-of-the-covenant/unique-blood-of-jesus-christ-with-only-24-chromosomes/> Retrieved 13 March 2025

During one of his last presentations before his death, Ron Wyatt talks about the morning of Jesus' resurrection:

**Quote:** "Now the next morning, Matthew 28:2 says, 'The angel descended to roll back the stone and there was a great earthquake.' I believe that God closed the crack at that point in time, because there is no evidence of surface water, rain or dust or anything else having fallen through that crack other than the blood of Jesus. And there it has remained for two thousand years. But remember that the Ark was sitting there 600 years before the blood actually dropped on it. What we share with you today. God shares with you today, because He wants you to know what He has done on behalf of all of us."

Notes from Ron Wyatt's last talk can be found here: [https://arkdiscovery.com/talk\\_1-9-99.htm](https://arkdiscovery.com/talk_1-9-99.htm) Retrieved 19 May 2025

Today the earthly Ark of the Covenant remains sealed in the underground cavern. But Ron Wyatt was told by guardian angels that when the biblical Mark of the Beast is enforced in opposition to God's Ten Commandments, the two stone tablets of God's

prevailing law shall be brought out in the open as a sure witness to God's ways of holy living, condemning an unrepentant lawless world. In Volume 7 of *The Blazing Trail*, you can read all about the Mark of the Beast.

*"To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Isaiah 8:20 - "Now go, write it before them on a tablet, And note it on a scroll, That it may be for time to come, Forever and ever: That this is a rebellious people, Lying children, Children who will not hear the law of the LORD; Who say to the seers, "Do not see," And to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us right things; Speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits. Get out of the way, Turn aside from the path, Cause the Holy One of Israel To cease from before us.""* Isaiah 30:8-11

*"The earth mourns and fades away, The world languishes and fades away; The haughty people of the earth languish. The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants, Because they have transgressed the laws, Changed the ordinance, Broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore the curse has devoured the earth, And those who dwell in it are desolate. Therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, And few men are left." Isaiah 24:4-6 - "It is time for You to act, O LORD, For they have regarded Your law as void." Psalm 119:126*

## THE TRAIL OF INVESTIGATIVE JUDGEMENT

You and I are living in the most vital time of earth's closing history.

Today the destiny of human lives are weighed in the balance of the investigative judgment, the final atonement to blot out confessed sin from the Book of Life and cleanse the heavenly temple from the record of human sin.

In heavenly order, the names of the dead, *"...written in the Lamb's Book of Life..."* are called into review, and who knows if judgment has not already passed to believers living in our times? As each person's name is summoned before the bar of judgment, the pages of their life record are opened before the convening court. Angels testify to what is inscribed upon each person's character recorded in the Book of Life. Sadly for some, the stain of unconfessed sin tarnishes past and present lives.

During their lifetime they may have committed their lives fully to God, yet temptations of sin have lured them away from God, destroying their saving relationship with the Father and Son. Still others who have openly professed to serve God are found wanting of true Godly character, *"...having a form of godliness but denying its power."* 2 Timothy 3:5

Surely character development inspired by God's true knowledge, empowered by His divine spirit, would have saved them from all corrupting vices of sin?

But cherished sins harboured in professing believer's lives, secret sins hidden from family, friends and church members, and not confessed to God, each and all come to

the fore and openly condemn the guilty in their hour of trial. None can undo their past; none are able to erase their own sin from the records in the Book of Life.

And so their unconfessed sins remain as death spots upon the lives of the lost. Eventually the anguish cry of lost souls shall rise from our sinful fallen world, *"The harvest is past, The summer is ended, And we are not saved!"* Jeremiah 8:20

Before the convening court of judgement, the just verdict is pronounced upon the guilty, found wanting, unworthy of eternal life and the name so dear to God is blotted out from the Book of Life. - *"And the LORD said to Moses, 'Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book.'" Exodus 32:33*

*"Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?' says the Lord GOD, 'and not that he should turn from his ways and live? But when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and does according to all the abominations that the wicked man does, shall he live? All the righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; because of the unfaithfulness of which he is guilty and the sin which he has committed, because of them he shall die. Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is not fair." Hear now, O house of Israel, is it not My way which is fair, and your ways which are not fair? When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness, commits iniquity, and dies in it, it is because of the iniquity which he has done that he dies.'" Ezekiel 18:23*

You see, God casts His life line into the sinking depth of human sin, longing for mankind to take hold of His rescuing grace. But God will never manipulate or force the human will to respond to His gracious call and take hold of His rescue line. God has gifted to human life a mind, to think, to reason, processed through free will of choice. Above all, God desires a spiritual relationship with every human being through their response of free choice flowing with reciprocal love for him. *"We love Him because He first loved us."* 1 John 4:19 - *"In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins..."* 1 John 4:9-10

## THE DECISIVE CONTRAST

At this time during the cleansing of the heavenly temple, all people who have rejected God's rescue mission of saving grace throughout the ages of human existence are excluded from the investigative judgment. Soon we shall see, all rejecters of God's saving grace face a separate judgment at another place, another time. *"For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?"* 1 Peter 4:17

The decisive difference between faithful believers living in God's righteous ways and unbelievers living outside of God righteous ways, is their attitude toward sin.

The unbelieving choose to live in wilful sin, while in stark contrast, faithful believers abiding in Jesus' righteousness choose to walk in His example of sinless life.

*"Righteousness will go before Him, And shall make His footsteps our pathway." Psalm 85:13 - "He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked." 1 John 2:6 - And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God." 1 John 3:5-9*

Yet we have previously seen, if the faithful of God might be caught off guard and unintentionally fall into sin, all is not lost in an abyss of eternal separation. Or, if a man or woman has lived a life of worldly behaviours, thoughts and deeds, and yet genuinely learns about Jesus and sincerely accepts Jesus as his or her Lord and Saviour near the end of earthly life, all is not lost. There is eternal life to gain.

With sorrowful repentance for wrong doing, we acknowledge our sin, confess our sin, and Jesus mediates on our behalf to sanctify our lives again to God the Father. *"My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world." 1 John 2:1-2 - "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9*

*"Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults. Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression." Psalm 19:12-13 - "Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the Day of Judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world." 1 John 4:17*

## **JESUS ADVOCATES FOR THE FAITHFUL**

So, each and every faithful believer's hour of investigative judgment comes before the court. And Jesus advocates for each and every one of those faithful believers, even though they are physically absent from the court.

Yes, He will plead every case before the court of those who live in God's righteous ways of Ten Commandments. The Book of Life is laid open and each deed comes before the trial of judgment, the good and the bad committed in each person's life. But the sins are confessed, forsaken and forgiven, there is no concealed or lurking sin in their lives. The believer's character bears the imprint of Jesus' righteous sinless character.

Advocating before the convening court, Jesus holds out His arms of delivering love and embraces the faithful as His own, their redeemed lives inscribed upon the palms of His nail pierced hands. - *"See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands..." Isaiah 49:16* - *"...In the shadow of His hand He has hidden Me..." Isaiah 49:2*

## **SINS BLOTTED FROM THE BOOK OF LIFE**

Ascending from the heavenly court, sounds of rejoicing reverberate throughout the sinless universe to unfallen worlds. For Jesus has blotted out the record of confessed sin from the Book of Life, while advocating with the virtues of His atoning blood. Written across the pages in crimson atoning blood, Jesus proclaims His just verdict to the faithful:

*Pardoned and Cleansed from Sin  
Worthy of Eternal Life*

They, *"...have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy."* Revelation 3:4

*"I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels."* Isaiah 61:10

*"I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins. Put Me in remembrance; Let us contend together; State your case, that you may be acquitted."* Isaiah 43:25 - - *"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ..."* Acts 3:19-20

## **NAMES REMAIN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE**

As believers' confessed sins are blotted out from existence, each believer's name remains written in the Book of Life and each shall receive a heavenly crown of everlasting life. *"He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels."* Revelation 3:5

*"Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him."* James 1:12

*“To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.” Revelation 3:21*

## **WILES OF SATAN**

Yet, stay alert to the beguiling wiles of Satan and his demonic dark force who relentlessly attempt to block us from participating in the heavenly temple experience.

For they know very well the vital importance of Jesus’ advocating on our behalf in the heavenly temple. They also know very well that receiving Jesus’ cleansing, atoning blood will blot out our sins from the Book of Life.

Yes, seething with malicious jealousy, the dark force strives to rob us of our crown of everlasting life, the eternal life crown they have forfeited and lost forever.

May Jesus’ words be our shield of triumphing faith, and may we receive the crown of everlasting life from His nail-pierced hands. *“Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.” Revelation 3:1 - “Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.” Revelation 2:10*

*“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

*“Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints...” Ephesians 6:10-18*

## **ALLOTTED TIME IS CLOSING**

Urgent times are upon us.

Remember during Old Testament times, as the High Priest cleansed the earthly sanctuary from sin, the assembled people in the outer encampment earnestly searched their souls for any unconfessed sin, lest they should be cut off from the congregation and God? How imperative for each of us in our allotted time today, to earnestly search our souls lest unconfessed sin stains our life record and our names be erased from the Book of Life.



Today, while Jesus is ministering as our High Priest, mediating and advocating on our behalf in the investigative judgment, our part is to urgently put away sin from our lives. And we rejoice always in God's faithful ever-loving mission to rescue humankind, *"But if a wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the transgressions which he has committed shall be remembered against him; because of the righteousness which he has done, he shall live."* Ezekiel 18:21-22

*"Again, when a wicked man turns away from the wickedness which he committed, and does what is lawful and right, he preserves himself alive. Because he considers and turns away from all the transgressions which he committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not fair.' O house of Israel, is it not My ways which are fair, and your ways which are not fair? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways," says the Lord GOD. 'Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,' says the Lord GOD. 'Therefore turn and live!'"* Ezekiel 18:27-32

*"Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin."* Psalm 51:1-2

## SOLEMN ANNOUNCEMENT

Shortly before Jesus returns in the clouds of glory to take his faithful saints home to heaven, He ends his High Priestly ministry with this solemn announcement proclaimed from heaven's sacred temple to all earth's human inhabitants, *"He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still."* Revelation 22:11 - Jesus says, *"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work."* Revelation 22:12

Thus with the last believing person saved from sin, God's door of saving grace closes upon our sinful fallen world.

Sadly, the unsaved people who have rejected God's merciful call to salvation during their life, remain lost in their unrepentant sins forever. If only they had opened their heart's door to Jesus' gentle knock, and invited the Saviour into their lives. *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."* Revelation 3:20 - But discarded opportunities pass into oblivion and all reap to their lives their sinful choice of demise. Meanwhile the saved of fallen earth remain forever safe in God's eternal salvation.

*"At that time Michael (Jesus) shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since*

*there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Everyone who is found written in the book.” Daniel 12:1*

*“After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, ‘Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!’” Revelation 19:1*

## **SIN TRANSFERRED UPON SATAN**

You may remember at the close of the earthly Day of Atonement when the earthly sanctuary was cleansed from all polluting sin.

That’s right, the sins of the people were transferred upon a symbolic scapegoat, and bearing the judgment of sin the scapegoat was lead into the wilderness, to eventual death.

And so in literal fulfilling reality, in the closing moments of Jesus’ cleansing of the heavenly temple, all sin polluting the heavenly temple is transferred upon Satan the literal scapegoat, the originator of sin, *“...the devil has sinned from the beginning...”* <sup>1</sup> John 3:8

Thus the sacred heavenly temple and the earthly soul temple of the saved are forever cleansed from sin.

## **FROM HIGH PRIEST TO KING**

Ending His High Priestly ministry, Jesus exchanges His High Priestly garments for the royal robe of *“...KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS...”* - *“And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”* Revelation 19:16

Descending from the royal heavenly courts and accompanied by clouds of rejoicing angels, Jesus appears in the skies above Planet Earth, to gather up His saints into heaven’s eternal paradise.

*“And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.”* Mark 13:27

*“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”* <sup>1</sup> Thessalonians 4:16-17

## FINAL SHOWDOWN

With dawning realisation that the most decisive event of the ages is at hand, Satan and demons gather the nations under their demonic control, to the last battle between good and evil, between God and Satan.

*“For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.” Revelation 16:14 - “And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.” Revelation 16:16*

Engulfed in the great battle of Armageddon, Planet Earth is in the midst of utter destruction.

Satan beholds the Son of God’s power and glory encircling Planet Earth and the dark force makes a last supernatural attempt to defend their world dominion.

But from the billowing skies of glory, the Son of God’s Kingly power reigns down upon Planet Earth, leaving Satan and devils imprisoned upon earth’s desolated landscape, broken and charred into blackened rubble. Bound by this wilderness of death, Satan with his dark force shall bear the guilt and sentence of sin for “...a thousand years...” of solitary confinement.

*“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.” Revelation 20:1–3*

## FINAL JUSTICE AND JUDGEMENT

Having endured a thousand years of tormented confinement, having no human lives to harass and tempt with evil, Satan and his fallen angels of devils are released from their chained imprisonment and face God’s justice and judgment.

*“And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;” Jude 6*

Receiving God’s sentence of judgement, Satan with his dark force reaps his final demise, consumed into ashes of everlasting death. *“““You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, By the iniquity of your trading; Therefore I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to ashes upon the earth In the sight of all who saw you. All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; You have become a horror, And shall be no more forever.””” Ezekiel 28:18–19*

In the closing pages of Volume 7, the final volume of *The Blazing Trail*, there unfolds before our very eyes a full account of Planet Earth's closing history, and the final drama played out between God's forces of light and Satan's forces of darkness.

And there we learn when Satan's thousand years of confinement ends on decimated earth, God resurrects back to life all the sinful dead of earth's ages. Multitudes stand before God's great white throne of judgment and receive judgement according to the sinful deeds done in their living past.

*"Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.*

*"And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.*

*"The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.*

*"Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire." Revelation 20:11-15*

The purifying lake of fire engulfs Planet Earth, consuming to ashes those who die the second death. Thus God's righteous judgement brings a just end to sin and death for ever. *"The last enemy that will be destroyed is death."* 1 Corinthians 15:26 - *"What do you conspire against the LORD? He will make an utter end of it. Affliction will not rise up a second time."* Nahum 1:9

And so today we face the dire urgency that we must avoid the second death, the everlasting death, at all personal cost to our lives.

Remember God, *"... is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."* 2 Peter 3:9 - *"Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power..."* Revelation 20:6

And so without delay, let us press forward in the heavenly temple experience, safely abiding in Jesus' High Priestly ministry, receiving His righteous atonement to the eternal saving of our souls.

## **VOLUME SIX**

Venturing down *The Blazing Trail*, in Volume 6 we explore the flourishing Christian church established by Jesus' disciples now called Apostles.

From the first Christian church, we arch over New Testament times and behold a counterfeit church system in the guise of Christianity rising in the world, warring

against God's true church and ushering in the Dark Ages. Then emerging from the Dark Ages of persecution, we behold the dawning light of the Protestant Reformation, enlightening the world with God's true knowledge.

So summon your spiritual courage and join us in Volume 6 of *The Blazing Trail*.

“The LORD bless you and keep you;  
The LORD make His face shine upon you,  
And be gracious to you;  
The LORD lift up His countenance upon you,  
And give you peace.” Numbers 6:24–26





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