

Clear Distinction Ministries

Study Notes

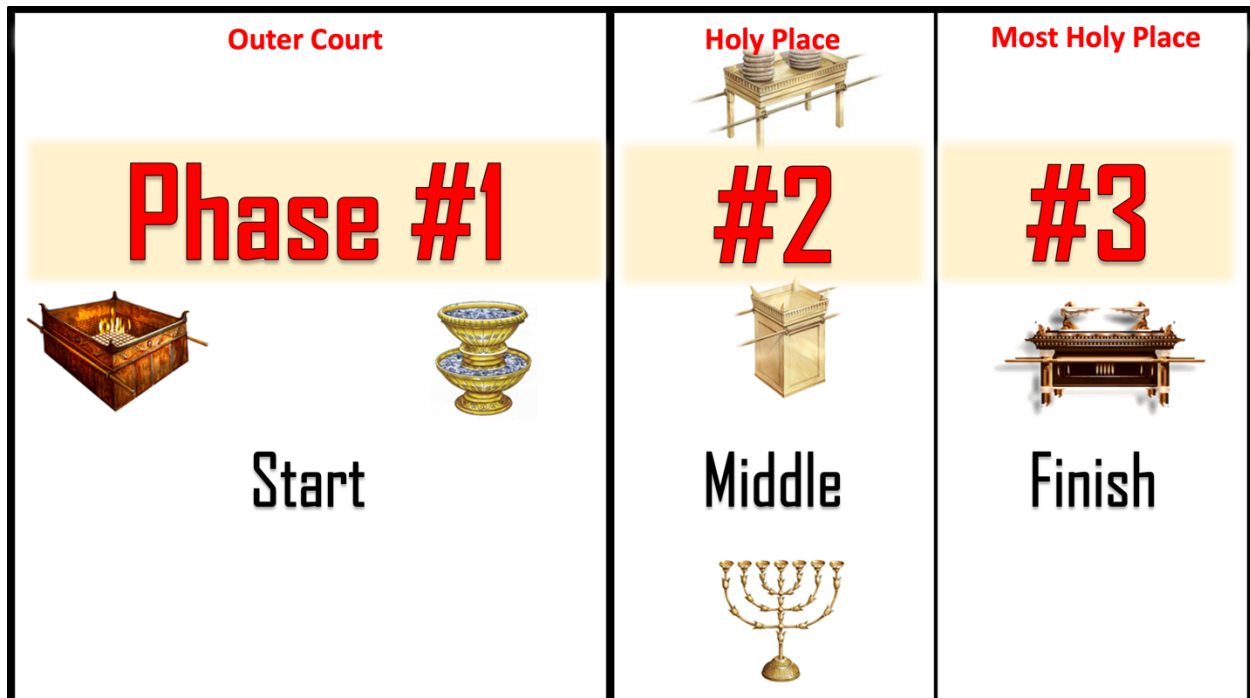
Night #16: “**Christ: Our Great High Priest!**”

**The 1<sup>st</sup> Angel’s Message: Duties of A Present Judgment:**

- **The 1<sup>st</sup> Angel’s message directs our attention not to a coming judgment but to a judgment that “is come” presently.** In response to this message of present judgment, God’s people are required to respond in three ways: fear God, give glory to Him & worship the Creator...***Rev. 14:6-7***
- Does God desire for us to be afraid of Him? Not according to Scripture (***2 Tim. 1:7***). What then does it mean to fear God? It is God’s call out of sin, that we may hate evil and depart from it by His power. It is a call **TO BE CLEANSED BY CHRIST...*Pr. 8:13, Pr. 16:6, Ps. 19:9, Eph. 5:25-27***
- The Bible teaches that **SIN** falls short of Giving God glory and therefore, the call to glorify God is **A CALL OUT OF SIN...*Rom. 3:23, 1 Cor. 10:31***
- The call to **WORSHIP THE CREATOR** of course directs our attention to **REMEMBER** the seventh-day Sabbath memorial of Christ’s creative power...***Ex. 20:8-11***

**Redemption—Restoration to the Way of God!**

- The Bible teaches that by sin men have **GONE OUT OF THE WAY**. The Plan for man's redemption involves his entire **RESTORATION TO THE WAY OF GOD...*Rom. 3:10-12***
- Christ **IS THE WAY** of God and thus the plan of redemption involves our entire restoration to fellowship with Him (a close, intimate, personal relationship)...***John 14:6***
- Where is Jesus today? The general answer is heaven. This is correct. More specifically, the Bible teaches that **GOD'S WAY IS IN THE SANCTUARY (*Ps. 77:13*)**. Christ, **THE WAY** of God, is therefore where today? In what the Bible calls **the Sanctuary!** Before we prove this let's first consider the Hebrew Sanctuary.
- What was the purpose of the Hebrew sanctuary? **God required its building so that He could be near to His people (*Ex. 25:8*)**. God has always desired a close, intimate, personal relationship with His people. **It is sin that separated us from Him (*Is. 59:1-2*) and the work of the sanctuary is to close the gap by the removal of sin from His people**. It is impossible for men to gain the victory over sin in their own strength and so God supplies our help (***Ps. 121:1-2***). From where does He send our help? From His sanctuary! (***Ps. 20:2***).
- Below is a depiction of the Hebrew sanctuary and its three parts symbolizing the three phases to God's redemption plan: outer court, holy place and most holy place. It represents **A COMPLETE SYSTEM OF TRUTH** and all phases must be completed to finish the plan. **While most Christians today accept the work of Christ in the outer court as a dying Lamb, few receive the benefits of His work as a living Priest in the sanctuary above.**



- The six articles of furniture represent a complete plan of restoration. The plan **BEGINS** at the altar of sacrifice where Christ as a Lamb was crucified for the sins of man (Is. 53:4-7). Most Christians today view the sacrifice on the cross as the entirety of the plan and completely throw away any need for the remaining parts of God's sanctuary outline. For many, Christ's words just before His death "**IT IS FINISHED**" (*John 19:30*) are all the evidence needed to support such a stance. However, **the altar of sacrifice was not the end of the plan. The water of the Laver, symbolic for baptism and newness of life revealed the resurrection of Christ and at His resurrection (Acts 2:9-11).** The laver wasn't the end of the work either. What then did Jesus mean by those words "IT IS FINISHED?" the Bible teaches us that prior to His sacrifice, man had no power to overcome sin but that by His blood came strength (*Rom. 5:6, Rev.*

**12:10-11**). By His death, Jesus forever closed the gap between man and God (**Eph. 2:13-14**). His blood ratified the new covenant, the very covenant that men such as Abraham, Elijah, Moses etc. had overcome by faith in the coming Lamb of God. The words “it is finished” apply to **the ratification of that covenant promise by blood and the provision made to all for strength in the conflict with sin.**

- What about the rest of God’s plan, represented by the articles of furniture in the holy and most holy place? A careful study of the Bible reveals the truth that while on earth God’s plan for our redemption required Christ in His office as **A DYING LAMB** and for His work in heaven He is required as **A LIVING PRIEST...Heb. 8:1-2 & 3:1**

**“The sanctuary in heaven is the very center of Christ's work in behalf of men. It concerns every soul living upon the earth. It opens to view the plan of redemption, bringing us down to the very close of time, and revealing the triumphant issue of the contest between righteousness and sin. It is of the utmost importance that all should thoroughly investigate these subjects, and be able to give to every one that asketh them a reason for the hope that is in them.”**

***(Christ In His Sanctuary pg. 67.2)***

**How Does Christ’s Priestly Ministry Affect Us?**

- Below is charted by the sanctuary outline, the daily advancement in Christian development.

Outer Court		Holy Place	Most Holy Place
			
Gal. 2:20	Col. 2:12	Matt. 4:4	Ecc. 12:13-14 James 2:12 Ex. 25:10-22
The Responsible Party Must Die!		1 Thess. 5:17	
Reformation of the Life!			
			
<b>Christian Development:</b>		Matt. 5:16	Sealed Law Abiding Citizen

- Keep in mind that the 144,000 **"FOLLOW THE LAMB"** wherever He goes (**Rev. 14:4**). At the altar we are crucified with Christ and follow Him to the laver, at the laver we are buried and resurrected with Him in baptism by faith and we follow Him by faith to the seven branch candlestick and so forth. The seven branch candlesticks represent witnessing to others, the altar of incense represents a life of prayer, the table of shewbread represents daily partaking in the Word of God and last but certainly not least the ark of the covenant (in which was located the law of God) represents a full restoration, victory over sin as we become law abiding citizens of His kingdom and worship our Creator, Jesus alone.

- Acknowledging this restoration to **GOD'S WAY** through the sanctuary service which represents **THE WORK OF OUR DYING LAMB AND LIVING PRIEST JESUS**, the Bible declares that the path of the just shines more and more unto the perfect day...*Pr. 4:18*
- An good question to consider at this time is **why haven't most Christians heard of this connection between the sanctuary service and full redemptive work of Christ?** The Bible predicted that **the Papacy, represented as "the little horn," would cast the sanctuary truth to the ground...***Dan. 8:9-14*
- The Papacy literally accomplished this work and there was **A DELIBERATE, SYSTEMATIC ATTACK** on Christ's sanctuary truth.
  - 1) **The altar of sacrifice** (symbolizing Christ's sacrifice for man) **was cast down and replaced by penance** (causing self-harm to atone for sins).
  - 2) **The Laver** (symbolizing Christ's baptism, burial and resurrection) **was cast down and replaced by sprinkling and infant baptism.**
  - 3) **The table of shewbread** (symbolizing the Word of God) **was cast down and replaced with unbiblical traditions.**
  - 4) **The altar of incense** (symbolizing Christ's mediation) **was cast down and replaced by the confessional booth.**
  - 5) **The seven branch candlestick** (symbolizing His church being the light of the world) **was cast down and persecuted for 1260 years during the dark ages.**
  - 6) **The ark of the covenant** (which holds the law of God) **was cast down by the Papacy by their attempted changes made to the law of God.**
- ***Daniel 8:14*** foretold a restoration of the sanctuary truth in spite of all this! A famous Baptist scholar named John Gill said it this way...

“...these 2300 days may be considered as so many **years**, which will bring it down to the end of the sixth Millennium, or thereabout; when it may be hoped there will be a **new face** of things upon **the sanctuary and church of God**, and a **cleansing of it from all corruption in doctrine, discipline, worship, and conversation.**”

*-Baptist Scholar, John Gill's Commentary on Daniel 8:14*

### **True Protestantism—The Sanctuary Truth Restored!**

- True Protestantism is to restore the very sanctuary truth that the Papacy cast down for so long. The Bible predicted that **at the end of the 2300 days this process of restoring the truth to God's people would at last be complete.**
- In the 1300's there was a man by the name of **John Wycliffe** and through him God restored the table of shewbread amongst His church in giving the Bible to the people in their native language. **Followers of Wycliffe were then known as Lollards and were persecuted as a cult in the 1300's by Roman Catholics.**
- During the 1400's-1500's God had a man by the name of **Martin Luther** through whom He restored the altar of sacrifice amongst His church. Justification, not by penance but BY FAITH was his message. **Luther's followers were then known as Lutherans and were persecuted as a cult in the 1400's-1500's by Roman Catholics.**
- In the 1500's God had a man by the name of **John Calvin** who restored the altar of incense amongst His people. Calvin taught against the need of an earthly priest between us and God; that we

could approach Him directly, personally in prayer. **The followers of John Calvin were then known as Presbyterians and were persecuted as a cult in the 1500's by the Lutherans and the Roman Catholics.**

- In the 1600's God used **John Smythe and Roger Williams** who restored the laver amongst His people. They taught in Biblical baptism. **Their followers were then known as Baptists and were persecuted as a cult in the 1600's by the Lutherans, the Presbyterians and the Roman Catholics.**
- In the 1700's God used a man by the name of **John Wesley** who restored the seven-branch candlestick amongst His people. He taught evangelism and missionary work. **His followers were then known as Methodists and were persecuted as a cult in the 1700's by the Lutherans, the Presbyterians, the Baptists and Roman Catholics.**
- Finally, in the 1800's God restored His law and the sanctuary doctrine to His people and raised up a movement known as **Seventh-day Adventists**. Who are they? **They are they who followed on with the Lamb by faith from the altar of sacrifice all the way to the ark of the covenant.** They were composed of Lutherans, Presbyterians, Baptists and Methodists who loved **THE TRUTH** above tradition and followed on with the Lamb. **Today in 2021, those who follow this truth are persecuted as a cult by the Lutherans, the Prebyterians, the Baptists, the Methodists and Roman Catholics.**
- It is important to note that even now there is a work to be finished that requires the surrender of our sins to our High Priest today (**Lev. 16:20-22**). (More on this to come).