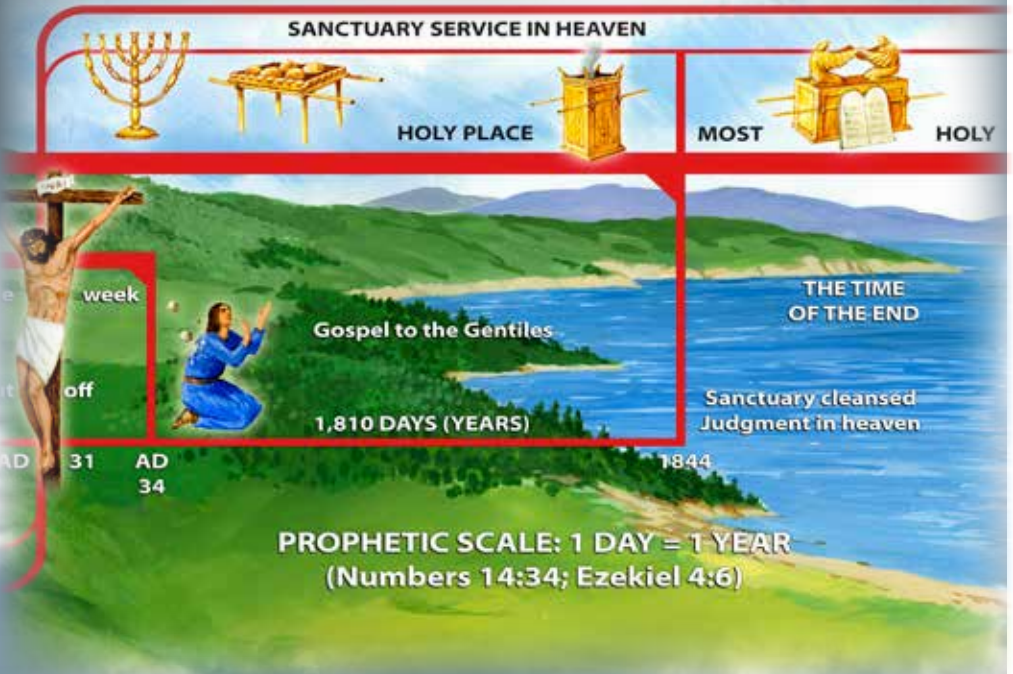


Earliten Sabbath School Lessons

First Year, Second Quarter



CHRIST AS MEDIATOR— THE 2300 DAYS

EARLITEEN
SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS

FIRST YEAR, SECOND QUARTER

CHRIST AS MEDIATOR—
THE 2300 DAYS

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INTRODUCTION

The longest of all prophetic time periods and no doubt the most important prophecy in the Bible centers on the Messiah—His coming, His mission, and the event markers that make it possible to confirm that Jesus Christ fulfilled all of the prophecies concerning the One to come.

The study of this important prophecy should not be limited to the numbers, as fascinating as they are. The big picture shows how God deals with sin and the sinner and especially how He will eradicate sin from the universe forever.

Transgression on earth began with the first human pair, and it is necessary to see how horrible sin really is and how huge its impact has been for the entire universe. How God removes sin from the individual and everything else that is contaminated by it in earth and heaven will be the topic of study in this quarter—and in eternity as well!

The sanctuary built under God's direction in the time of Moses was an illustration of these things. It illustrated every aspect of the heavenly plan for redeeming man and the earth from sin's curse. The prophecy of the 2300 days/years shows that plan, and all who study it will praise the Messiah for His central role as Sacrifice and Mediator.

Let the Holy Spirit move on the heart of every student who studies this important prophecy and encourage each one to put forth his or her best efforts to grasp its spiritual depth.

1

Creation

MEMORY VERSE: *“By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.” Psalm 33:6.*

1. What did God do in the beginning? Genesis 1:1.
2. How did He create mankind? Genesis 1:26, 27; 2:7.
3. Where were man and the animals to live? Genesis 2:8-15.
4. What was man’s purpose on earth? Genesis 1:28; 2:15, 19, 20.
5. Of what was his diet to consist? Genesis 1:29; 2:16.
6. What did God think of everything He had created? Genesis 1:31.
7. What did He do as a memorial of His great creative work? Genesis 2:1-3.
8. What else did He do for man? Genesis 2:21-23.
9. What was the divine purpose in creating Eve? Genesis 2:18.

Think it through

1. Do you think that God originally made everything beautiful and the creatures happy? Explain why you think this.
2. Name three institutions that He created in the beginning that we still have today. Genesis 2:1-3, 15, 24.



2

The Fall of Man

MEMORY VERSE: *“And the Lord God commanded the man, saying. Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” Genesis 2:16, 17.*

1. What did God think of His creation? Genesis 1:31.
2. According to Genesis 2:16, 17, did He give man every tree in Eden for food? What was forbidden?
3. What would be the result of partaking of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? Genesis 2:17, last part.
4. Read Genesis 3:1-5 and 2:17 again. Compare what God said to what the serpent told the first woman. Was she ignorant of what God had said would happen if one ate the fruit of the forbidden tree?
5. Name the three ways in which she was tempted. Genesis 3:6, 7. What did she do?
6. After directly disobeying God’s command, what did the first couple do when He came to see them? Genesis 3:8-11.
7. Whom did they try to blame for their disobedience? Genesis 3:12, 13.

8. Since the man and woman had broken God's law, they had to suffer the consequences, but God had a plan for their redemption. What was it? Genesis 3:14, 15.
9. Describe what changes immediately occurred in the environment. Genesis 3:16-24.

Think it through

1. Why do you think Adam and Eve blamed God for what they had done?
2. Had God said that a transgressor would die instantly after eating from this tree? What did "In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" mean?
3. Do you think that a knowledge of evil is a benefit to man's life, happiness, and wisdom? What does a knowledge of evil cause?



3

A Mediator Is Needed

MEMORY VERSE: *“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.” 1 Timothy 2:5.*

1. What is a “mediator”? Look up this word in the dictionary, and explain in your own words what it means.
2. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God’s command not to eat of the forbidden fruit, what was the result? Romans 6:23, first part; Genesis 5:5.
3. So that they might not die eternally, the broken law had to be satisfied. The death of the transgressor (or rebel) was required unless a plan for saving him would be formulated. What plan did God make, and why was it put into effect? John 3:16, 17.
4. What did Jesus have to do so that man could be pardoned and have hope of eternal life instead of eternal death? Romans 5:8; Matthew 26:28.
5. Who is ministering in heaven today for the forgiveness of man’s sin? Hebrews 9:24.
6. Who called Jesus to be the heavenly High Priest? What did He have to learn and be made to qualify for this position? Hebrews 5:8-10; 4:14-16.
7. What did Jesus make possible by coming to the earth, dying on the cross for man, and rising from the dead? Acts 4:12.

8. Besides being Saviour and Mediator, what else is Christ for His children? Colossians 1:26, 27.

Think it through

1. Through Adam and Eve's rebellion, death became a part of mankind's existence. Jesus and the Father devised the wonderful plan of redemption so that people would not have to be eternally separated from the heavenly family. Do you think God the Father made a sacrifice, too, in allowing His Son to die? Who in the Bible was willing to do the same thing? Genesis 22:1-13.
2. Can you think of a price that could be paid that would be more than this wonderful plan? How much do you think you are worth to the Lord?



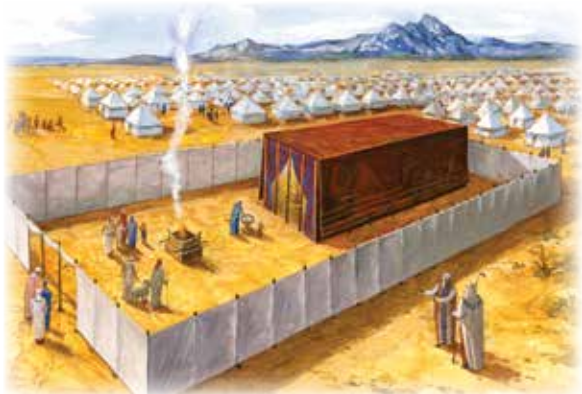
4

The Earthly Sanctuary and Salvation

Part 1: The Court and the Holy Place

MEMORY VERSE: “And let them make Me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.” Exodus 25:8.

1. In the earthly tabernacle service, when a man realized that he had sinned and broken God’s law, what did he have to do to obtain forgiveness, according to God’s instruction? Leviticus 1:1-5, first part.
2. What did the priest do with the blood? Hebrews 5:1; Leviticus 1:5, last part. Why was blood part of the sacrifice? Leviticus 17:11, 14; Hebrews 9:22.
3. What did the sacrifice do for the sinner in symbol? Leviticus 1:4, last part. What is atonement?
4. What did the priests do before entering the holy place of the tabernacle? Exodus 30:17-21.



5. List the furnishings that were in the holy place. Hebrews 9:1, 2.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
6. How often did the priests minister before the Lord in the court (where the sacrifice was made) and in the holy place of the sanctuary? Hebrews 9:6; Exodus 29:36; 28:29, 30.
7. To whom did all of these services point? Hebrews 9:11, 12.

Think it through

1. The animal chosen for the sacrifice had to be perfect. He was innocent and yet had to give his life so the person who committed sin could be forgiven by God. What lesson was the Lord was teaching by having the sinner himself kill the little animal?
2. Who is your sacrificial lamb for your forgiveness and eternal life? John 1:29, 36.
3. What is the connection between the sanctuary service and God's plan for man's salvation?
4. Do you believe, according to Hebrews 8:1, 2, that there is a sanctuary in heaven where Jesus ministers in man's behalf?

5

The Earthly Sanctuary and Salvation

Part 2: The Most Holy Place and the Day of Atonement

MEMORY VERSE: “And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord.”
Leviticus 23:26, 27.

1. What was the second apartment of the sanctuary called? Hebrews 9:3.
2. Describe the furnishings that were in it. Hebrews 9:4, 5.
3. How often did the high priest enter the second apartment? Hebrews 9:7. What was this day called? Leviticus 23:26, 27.
4. Read Leviticus 16:2-6, and list the animals that were part of this special service.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.



The sacrifice and service on this special day included the whole congregation. It was different from the daily service, which was conducted for each individual. See Leviticus 16:33, 29. Even strangers were included in this service.

5. What was done with the goats? Leviticus 16:7, 8.
6. What was done with the Lord's goat? Leviticus 16:9, 15-19.

It was in this service that the sanctuary was cleansed symbolically from the people's sins, which had been accumulating all during the year through the daily service.

7. What happened to the scapegoat? Leviticus 16:10, 20-22.
8. What was done with the animals that were offered as sacrifices on this day? Leviticus 16:27.
9. What was this service's purpose? Leviticus 16:30-34.

Think it through

1. Where did the Lord say that He would be on this special day? Leviticus 16:2; Exodus 25:22.
2. Who was symbolized by the scapegoat? See margin of Leviticus 16:8; Revelation 20:1-3.
3. According to the Scriptures, the scapegoat carried the accumulated sins of the sanctuary away into the wilderness, and there it died. Who will one day carry and suffer for all the sins of the redeemed?

6

Prophetic Numbers

1. In the vision of Daniel in chapter 8:14, how long was it to be until the time of the real, or antitypical, cleansing of the sanctuary?
2. Who explained the vision? What time was it for? Daniel 8:16, 26.

In the days when Daniel received these visions from God, the Babylonians and then the Medo-Persians ruled the world. Those days were not considered the time of the end.

3. In Bible prophecy is a well-tested, proven key to unlock prophecies that deal with time. How long is a day in prophecy? Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6.
4. Using this key, over how long a time did the vision of Daniel 8:14 extend?

If the time period would have spanned only 2300 literal days, then the prophecy would have covered a period of only 6 1/3 years. As we will learn from the vision, that short time could not have accomplished all that was presented.

5. In Daniel 9:21-23, the angel Gabriel came to Daniel to complete his explanation of the vision given in Daniel 8. What period of time did the first part of this prophecy cover? Daniel 9:24, first part.
6. Using the Biblical key (1 day in prophecy = 1 literal year in fulfillment), how long would two weeks be in actual time? (Clue: 1 week = 7 days)

7. What six things were to occur during the 70-week period? Daniel 9:24.
- a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.
8. Who fulfilled these words? Matthew 3:15-17; Isaiah 53:4-6; Acts 5:31.

At His baptism, Jesus was anointed to begin His work as Redeemer in man's behalf upon the earth. Historians agree that this occurred about A.D. 27.

Think it through

1. In what other prophecies of the Bible can the prophetic key (1 prophetic day = 1 literal year) be applied?
2. What angel was sent by God to explain the prophecy to Daniel? There is only one named. See Daniel 9:21; 8:15, 16.
3. Why do you think the angel did not explain all of the vision to Daniel right at the beginning? See Daniel 8:27.

7

Beginning of the Seventy Weeks



1. Where did Daniel begin to look for the fulfillment of the prophecy? Daniel 9:1, 2.

The Israelites had been taken into captivity in B.C. 606. In B.C. 538, Daniel was looking back at Jeremiah's prophecies.

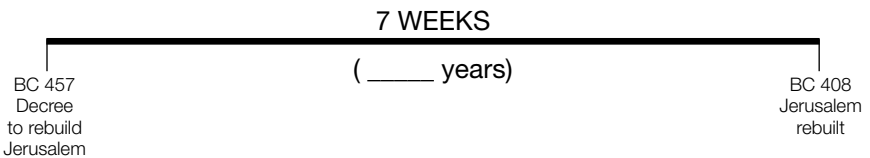
2. What did God say He would do for His people after they had been in Babylonian captivity for seventy years? Jeremiah 29:10.
3. To understand this time prophecy, there has to be a starting date. According to the date of what decree did the prophecy's countdown begin? Daniel 9:25, first part.
4. How many decrees were there to restore and rebuild Jerusalem? Ezra 6:14.

Since there were three decrees, we must find the one that actually "went forth" to final completion. In *Daniel and the Revelation*, by Uriah Smith, 1944 edition, p. 209, we read the following: "... In 457 B.C., a decree was granted to Ezra by the Persian king Artaxerxes Longimanus to go up to Jerusalem with as many of his people as were minded to go with him. The commission granted him an unlimited amount of treasure to beautify the house of God, to procure offerings for its service, and to do whatever else might seem good to him. It empowered him to ordain laws, set up magistrates and judges, and execute punishment even unto death; in other words, to restore the Jewish state, both civil and ecclesiastical, according to the law of God and the ancient

customs of the people.” This was the only one of the three decrees that was carried out completely and effectively.

5. Therefore, since B.C. 457 is the prophecy’s starting date, the time of the events stated to be in between can be calculated. In Daniel 9:25, the verse reads: “To restore and to build Jerusalem . . . shall be seven weeks...: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.” Using the prophetic key (1 day = 1 year), how many real years are seven prophetic weeks?

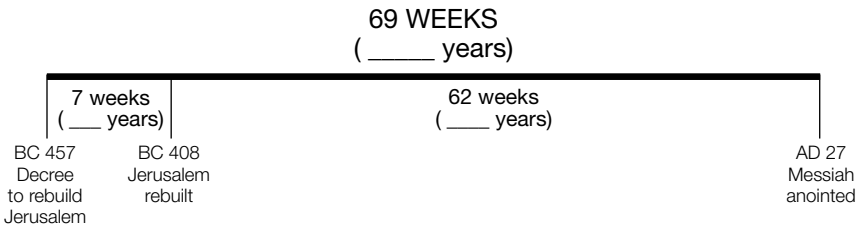
6. Fill in the blanks on the diagram below.



Again we read in *Daniel and the Revelation*, p. 211: “In the fifteenth year of Darius Nothus ended the first seven weeks of the seventy weeks of Daniel’s prophecy. For then the restoration of the church and state of the Jews in Jerusalem and Judea was fully finished,... just forty-nine years after it had been first begun by Ezra in the seventh year of Artaxerxes Longimanus.’ –Humphrey Prideaux, *The Old and New Testament Connected in the History of the Jews*, vol. 1, p. 322.”

7. Daniel 9:25 says that counting 7 weeks and then adding 62 more weeks reaches to the Messiah. How many weeks are the sum of 7 weeks plus 62 weeks?

8. Now change the weeks to years and fill in the blanks below.

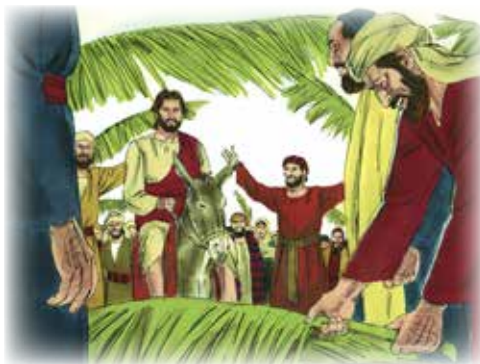


9. According to Matthew 3:13-17 and Mark 1:14, 15, what happened that fulfilled this prophecy in the exact year shown above?

Jesus' baptism marked the beginning of His earthly ministry as the Messiah. Before that, He worked with Joseph in the carpenter's shop. Luke 2:52 tells about how He grew up.

Think it through

1. Why do you think Daniel was searching Jeremiah's writings for an explanation of the prophecy of Daniel 8:14? How many years are there between B.C. 606 and 538? (Look again at questions 1 and 2 above.)
2. Why did the Lord permit Jerusalem to be destroyed and its people to be taken captive by the Babylonians?
3. Did Jesus fulfill His part of the prophecy up to this point?

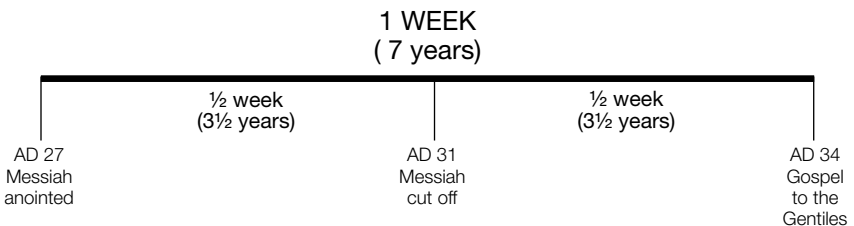


8

The Messiah Comes

MEMORY VERSE: "Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city..." Daniel 9:24.

1. What was to happen during the last single week of the 70 weeks? Daniel 9:26, first part.
2. How long was this in literal years?
3. Refer back to Lesson 7 to find out when the last week began and thus when the seventy-week part of the 2300-year glimpse of the future would end.
4. When would the Messiah cause the earthly sanctuary sacrifices to cease? Daniel 9:27.
5. How many literal years are on each side of the middle of the seventieth week? See the diagram below.



6. Up to A.D. 31, or before His death, to whom were Jesus' efforts for salvation mainly directed? Romans 15:8; Matthew 15:24.

7. What happened after the nation of Israel crucified the Saviour? Matthew 27:50, 51.

“At the death of Messiah the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom. No visible hand would dare to touch this veil, on pain of instant death. The God of heaven destroyed this hanging, that all might know that sacrifices and offerings had ceased. The sacrificial system was ended.” –F.C. Gilbert, *Messiah in His Sanctuary*, p. 138.

8. Read Isaiah 53:7, 8. Did Jesus fulfill this prophecy of the Messiah? Why was He cut off from the land of the living?

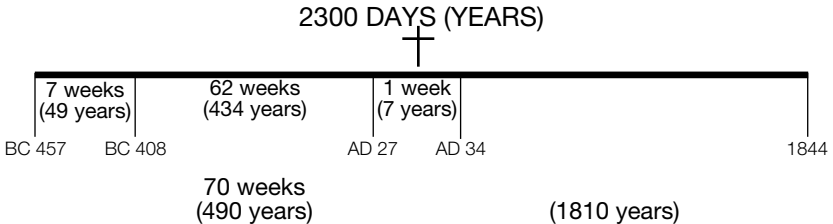
Think it through

1. Do you know what the name “Christ” means? Compare Psalm 2:1, 2 with Acts 4:25, 26.
2. What was the day of Jesus’ death like? What happened the moment He died? Why? Luke 23:44, 45.
3. Do you believe that Jesus died on the cross for you personally? Do you know that if He had not died and been raised to life again you would have no hope of life in the future? What do you think about Jesus’ sacrifice?



Completion of the Seventy Weeks

MEMORY VERSE: "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8.



1. Daniel was shown that the last week of the 70 weeks ended in A.D. 34. What happened in that year? Acts 6:8; 7:55-60.

"The seventy weeks, or 490 years, especially allotted to the Jews, ended ... in A.D. 34. At that time, through the action of the Jewish Sanhedrin, the nation sealed its rejection of the gospel by the martyrdom of Stephen and the persecution of the followers of Christ. Then the message of salvation, no longer restricted to the chosen people, was given to the world." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 328.

2. Where else was the gospel then preached, and by whom? Acts 8:4, 5.
3. What opinion did the Jews' have of the Gentiles? Matthew 15:21-28.

“Christ did not immediately reply to the woman’s request. He received this representative of a despised race as the Jews would have done. In this He designed that His disciples should be impressed with the cold and heartless manner in which the Jews would treat such a case,...” –Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 400.

4. What work did Jesus specifically give to the apostle Paul? Acts 22:21.
5. How did the Jews look upon the work for the Gentiles, even in the early Christian church? Acts 21:17-20.
6. What lesson did they need to learn? Acts 10:34.
7. How were the Gentiles accepted by God? Ephesians 2:11-13.
8. The hatred of the Jews for people of other nations was very great. Do you believe God wanted that? See Matthew 5:14-16.

“The opinion is held by many that God placed a separating wall between the Hebrews and the outside world; that His care and love, withdrawn to a great extent from the rest of mankind, were centered upon Israel. But God did not design that His people should build up a wall of partition between themselves and their fellow men.... His blessing was granted to the chosen people, that they might bless others.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 368.

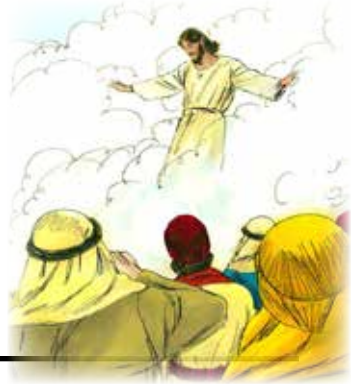
Think it through

1. How many ways can you think of in which the Jewish nation caused itself to be rejected by God as His chosen people? Write them down.

2. In A.D. 34, when persecution came to the Christian church, what did the believers do? See Acts 8:1-4.
3. Why was the Jewish nation rejected by God? See Romans 11:20.
4. How do you think Jewish people can be saved? See Acts 4:12.
5. The seventy weeks, or 490 years, were in this way “cut off” of the 2300-day/year prophecy. How many more years remained to fulfill the prophecy? When was it to be fulfilled? Calculate it mathematically, and look carefully at the diagram at the beginning this lesson.



“To My Father and Your Father”



MEMORY VERSE: “... Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, saying. Behold the man whose name is THE BRANCH; and He shall grow up out of His place, and He shall build the temple of the Lord; Even He shall build the temple of the Lord; and He shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon His throne; and He shall be a priest upon His throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.” Zechariah 6:12, 13.

1. Where did Jesus go when He returned to heaven? John 20:17; Hebrews 9:1, 2.
2. In what place did the following four men say that Jesus was? Write it after each name.

Stephen (Acts 7:55, 56)

John (Revelation 1:12-16)

Paul (Hebrews 9:12, 16)

Peter (1 Peter 3:22)
3. What special ministry did He carry out there? Hebrews 3:1; 5:1, 2.
4. We know that in the earthly tabernacle service the priest ministered in the holy place every day. However, on one special day each year, the high priest would stop his work in the holy place and enter the most holy place. What was this day called? Leviticus 23:27, 28.

5. What did the high priest do on that day? Leviticus 16:30, 33. According to Verse 30, what was the purpose of the atonement?

“This one day which was set apart for the completing of the sanctuary ministry was to impress the Israelites that the work of intercession would sometime come to a final end.” –*Messiah in His Sanctuary*, p. 172.

6. What did John see happening in the holy place in heaven? Revelation 8:2-4.
7. When, according to Daniel’s understanding, was Jesus to leave His service in the holy place and go to the most holy place in heaven? Daniel 8:14.
8. According to the diagram in Lesson 9, in what year did the 2300-day/year prophecy end?

Think it through

1. Do you believe Jesus’ sacrifice on Calvary was accepted by the Father for the forgiveness of your sin? See 1 John 2:1.
2. Think about the earthly tabernacle service. When a man had sinned, he confessed his specific sin over the head of the animal to be sacrificed. By faith he believed that he was forgiven. What did the priest then do with the animal’s blood? See Leviticus 4:5-7.
3. Why does Jesus minister in the heavenly sanctuary for His people?



The Investigative Judgment

MEMORY VERSE: “And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.” Revelation 14:6, 7.

1. What glorious scene did Daniel see in the heavenly sanctuary? Daniel 7:9, 10.
2. In the earthly service on the Day of Atonement, the high priest made a final atonement for all the congregation, which had prepared for that great day. To what do the holy Scriptures compare that work for the people? 2 Corinthians 5:10.

“Attended by heavenly angels, our great High Priest enters the holy of holies and there appears in the presence of God to engage in the last acts of His ministration in behalf of man—to perform the work of investigative judgment and to make an atonement for all who are shown to be entitled to its benefits.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 480.

3. What began in heaven in 1844? Revelation 20:12.
4. With whom did this judgment begin? 1 Peter 4:17, first part.

“So in the great day of final atonement and investigative judgment the only cases considered are those of the professed people of God.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 480.

5. What things are recorded in the books of heaven that need to be investigated? Malachi 3:16; Ecclesiastes 12:14.
6. What other things will be revealed in the judgment? 1 Corinthians 4:5; Isaiah 65:6, 7.

“Every man’s work passes in review before God and is registered for faithfulness or unfaithfulness. Opposite each name in the books of heaven is entered with terrible exactness every wrong word, every selfish act, every unfulfilled duty, and every secret sin, with every artful dissembling. Heaven-sent warnings or reproofs neglected, wasted moments, unimproved opportunities, the influence exerted for good or for evil, with its far-reaching results, all are chronicled by the recording angel.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 482.

6. By what are all who profess to believe in God judged? Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14; James 2:12.
8. What will take place after every case has been decided? Revelation 3:5; 16:17; 22:10-12, 14.

Think it through

1. How solemn and important do you consider the work of Jesus is for you in heaven today? See *The Great Controversy*, p. 490.
2. If we do not make sure of our salvation, what may be said of us when our name is called? Daniel 5:27.

1844 marked the beginning of the investigative judgment to see who is truly on the Lord’s side. There are many people who speak about the Lord but in heart are not with Him. These false professors must be revealed, for there will be no more rebellion after Jesus comes. He wants to save you from eternal loss and death. Take His hand today and partner with Him for your joy and everlasting life!

12

Summary and Review

1. When did the prophecy of the 2300 days/years begin? What event took place then? (Review the previous lessons and Daniel 9.)
2. What was accomplished in B.C. 408, according to the prophecy?
3. List the three important events that occurred during the last week of the seventy weeks (7 literal years). Write down the year that each event occurred.
4. How many literal years were there between the beginning of the prophecy and the end of the 70 weeks?
5. In what year did the 2300 years end?
6. What happened then?
7. Describe in your own words the work that Jesus is doing for man in the heavenly sanctuary.
8. What great event will take place when that work is finished?

13

The Saviour and You

1. Without a Saviour, what hope does anyone have for the future? Romans 3:23; 6:23, first part.
2. But what has God done freely for every person? Romans 6:23, last part; John 3:16; Romans 5:1.
3. According to what has been learned in this quarter, where did Jesus go after His resurrection? Mark 16:19; Hebrews 8:1.
4. Jesus is your High Priest in heaven today. If you are faithful and trust Him, what will He soon do for you? Hebrews 9:28.
5. What does God desire His people to do? Hebrews 10:22, 23.
6. What does He not want them to do? Hebrews 10:26, 35.
7. How does God say that His faithful people will live? Hebrews 10:38, first part; 11:6.
8. What does He want to do for each person individually? 2 Corinthians 5:17.

9. What do the holy Scriptures say about God's strength and man's weakness? When does a person become strong? Describe your understanding of 2 Corinthians 12:9, 10.
10. What great event will soon take place? Matthew 24:30, 31; 25:31.

Think it through

1. In class, present the study of the 2300 days to each other as if you were giving it to someone at school. Give suggestions to each other on how to improve the clarity and completeness of the presentation.
2. Do you believe that if you were the only lost person on this earth Jesus would have come and given His life for you? It is true!
3. Discuss the plan of salvation. Could God do any more than He has done to give eternal life and happiness to every person? Explain your answer.
4. When Jesus comes again, do you want to be ready to meet Him? How do you think you can best prepare for that wonderful day?

