

## EXAMINING OUR FAITH, part 6 quotes

**1** “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.” 2 Corinthians 13:5.

(Picture #11 - the High Priest's Ministration in the Cleansing of this Heavenly Sanctuary)

**2** When did God and Jesus Christ travel from the First Apartment and into the Second Apartment of the Heavenly Sanctuary?

Daniel 7:9-14 showed that the Second Apartment only contains within it God the Father and His fiery throne; the fiery stream that issued before Him; the Ark of His Testament; the “thousand thousands” of ministering angels, and the “ten thousand times ten thousand” of those who stood before Him; as well as the Son of Man or Jesus Christ. There is no mention of any of the 24 human elders or common priests traveling with Christ into this Second Apartment of the Sanctuary in heaven, but the only Priest the Bible depicts there was Jesus Christ. This is because only the high priest could enter into the Second Apartment of the Earthly Sanctuary, while none of the common priests could, and thus none of the 24 human elders or the common priests could also be within this Second Apartment of the Heavenly Sanctuary.

When was the only time that the earthly high priest could enter into the Most Holy Place?

Only during the Day of Atonement. Since the only Priest depicted within the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary is our High Priest Jesus Christ, reveals that this must also be dealing with the time of the Atonement!

**3** The Day of Atonement occurred on “the tenth day of this seventh month”, which was in the fall season (Leviticus 23:27). All of the daily services performed in the First Apartment of the Earthly Sanctuary, as well as all the daily sacrifices made for sin, all pointed forward towards this particular one day.

The Hebrew word for “atonement” is “kaphar”, and it translates and means “to cover with a coating like bitumen, to cancel, to appease, make an atonement, cleanse, disannul, forgive, pardon, purge away, reconcile” (Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, word #3722). Through the Atonement, any sins which the people had committed and had confessed would be freely forgiven, removed and purged away, and then they would become completely cleansed from all these sins. Any punishment due them would be disannulled and cancelled, and thus the wrath of the Almighty against them would be appeased because they would have been reconciled back to Him. And finally, they would be covered over with a very sticky and thick material like bitumen, which represents the righteousness of Christ. This precious robe of Christ’s righteousness — like bitumen — would so fully cling to and completely cover them over so that none of their own naked and shameful self could be seen, but only His righteousness. All of this was freely done and provided for all of God’s truly repentant followers because of this Atonement!

Anciently, when an individual had sinned by breaking any of God’s commandments, they were to comply with the God-ordained process under the old covenant by bringing to the priest an animal sacrifice, then confess their sins over its head which symbolically transferred their sins onto this innocent victim. This substitute victim was then slain, and then some of its blood was taken by the priest and placed upon the horns of the Altar of Sacrifice as well as the Altar of Incense, which symbolically transferred the sin through the blood of the substitute victim onto the Sanctuary itself. This transference of sin made the Sanctuary unclean and contaminated “because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins” (Leviticus 16:16).

But in this new covenant Jesus Christ is our Sacrifice as well as our High Priest. All who have sinned by breaking any of God’s commandments are to comply with the God-ordained process under this new covenant by accepting Jesus Christ as their sacrifice for sin, then confess their sins unto Him which transfers their sins onto Jesus as the innocent Victim. Since Christ as the Lamb of God was slain and His blood spilled once for all, and He is also our High Priest before God, then as our Priest and our sin Bearer Jesus has brought His shed blood within the Heavenly Sanctuary itself. This then makes the Heavenly Sanctuary unclean and contaminated because of all the mass of confessed transgressions and sins which have been placed upon Christ and brought into the Sanctuary throughout the ages.

4 How is it possible to know which sins have been confessed, as well as which sins have not yet been confessed, by each and every human being ever born on this earth?

“Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and **in thy book all my members were written**, which in continuance were fashioned, **when as yet there was none of them.**” Psalms 139:16.

As soon as the egg becomes fertilized and conception occurs, the Lord God begins documenting this new living human being in a book — even though their bodily form has not yet taken shape. In this heavenly book is found recorded everything about this particular individual — from the very beginning of their life and whether they were born handicapped or perfectly normal, and continues recording all the way until the end of their life. Thus in this book is found recorded all of “their works” or actions or deeds throughout life (Revelation 20:12), including “every secret thing” (Ecclesiastes 12:14), such as the thoughts and motives which led them to act the way they did. This book further indicates whether their thoughts, motives and actions were “good, or whether it be evil” (Ecclesiastes 12:14) according to the standard of God’s “commandments” (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

This personal book also records all of our travels and “wanderings” throughout life (Psalms 56:8). It records every one of our “tears” shed or sorrows suffered (Psalms 56:8). And “when He writeth up the people” God even records in our book “that this man was born there” (Psalms 87:6) in the city of “Babylon” (Psalms 87:4) — the most wickedest of places, or that we were born there in the most godly of places, such as “Zion” (Psalms 87:5). This means that even the influences we grew up around and conditions we lived in, which helped to form our character in either a bad and crooked way, or in a good and solid way, are noted in this book. Thus this personal heavenly book records all the seen and unseen details that dealt with every minute and intricate aspect of the life of each human individual which led them towards developing the particular kind of character that made them who they are.

It really doesn't matter what your relatives, loved ones, friends, acquaintances, or even enemies may wrongly say about you. It doesn't matter if your motives are misjudged, or if you are falsely accused, or even if your name is cast out as evil by the entire world. Because, just like Job, you can know that “my witness is in heaven, and my record is on high” (Job 16:19), and the truth will eventually come out in the end.

Why keep such a detailed and intricate written record of the many billions of human beings in the first place? It is so that an honest and just sentence of either eternal life or eternal death can be passed by the Lord God upon each human being that is based upon the undisputed facts of truth found documented in their record book. If they accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord God and Saviour, and then confessed each and every one of their sins, then it is noted in their record book beside each one of these sins that they have been confessed and covered over with the blood of Christ. But if even one sin is left unconfessed to God, then it is not noted beside it in their record book that it is covered over with the blood of Christ, and thus it remains unforgiven!

Thus part of the cleansing of the Heavenly Sanctuary is to be accomplished by the removal of all the mass of confessed sins from the record books of all people who have by faith accepted and remained faithful to the Messiah and their Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ. Once this cleansing has been accomplished, then all these recorded and forgiven sins from all of God's people are then forever erased or "blotted out" of their record books (Isaiah 44:22; Acts 3:19). Afterwards the only writings that remain in their record books are those dealing with their actions of obedience to God, as well as all their good and righteous deeds done for the Lord and for others, thus making it as if they had never sinned in the first place! This means that a full and complete Atonement would have been made for them, and the Heavenly Sanctuary would now be one step closer to being completely cleansed and free from all sin!

The Atonement can only occur for those who have by faith knowingly accepted the Messiah and Lord God Jesus Christ as their Sacrifice and Saviour, and who have also confessed all their sins to God, thus transferring these sins onto Him and then onto the Heavenly Sanctuary. Those who chose not to accept the Messiah or Jesus Christ as their Saviour and thus never confessed their sins unto God, did not have any of their sins placed upon Jesus and thus did not have any sins to remove from their record books in heaven and thus cannot be benefitted by the Atonement and cannot be saved!

**5** Before any of the confessed sins of those who have accepted Jesus Christ can be erased or blotted out of their record books, there must be an examination of these books of record to determine who, through true repentance of sin and continued faith in Christ, are entitled to the benefits of His Atonement. A gift received can always be given up later. So a person can at first receive the gift of Jesus Christ and forgiveness of their sins, and then later choose to give Him up and go back to their life of sin. Therefore the cleansing of the Sanctuary involves a work of investigation to determine who remained faithful to Jesus Christ to the end, and who gave Him up and became unfaithful, and then a work of judgment to determine the reward for each. That is why it said that immediately after God the Father had sat down on His fiery throne in the Second Apartment of the Heavenly Sanctuary that:

**“...the judgment was set, and the books were opened”.** Daniel 7:10.

Now this work of investigation and judgement must be performed and completed prior to the coming of Christ to earth to redeem His people.

**“For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.”** Matthew 16:27.

**“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”** Revelation 22:12.

By the time Christ returns, the investigative judgement had already occurred, and if any unconfessed sins were discovered during the investigative process into their own record book, and they did not confess and repent of these sins before their case closed and judgment was pronounced upon them, then they are forever lost and there is nothing they can do about it!

**6** You do not want to be among the doomed who sing this following most bitter wailing song because you realize that you are lost and that it is too late to do anything about it:

**“The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.”** Jeremiah 8:20.

But instead be among the redeemed who sing this following most happy song because you realize that you are saved:

**“Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”** Isaiah 25:9.