

SUMMARY OF THE ADVENTIST SANCTUARY DOCTRINE

Jerry Moon, Course Outline, CHIS674 Development of SDA Theology

A. Preliminary Considerations

1. Relevance for Adventists. "The subject of the Sanctuary was the key which unlocked the disappointment of 1844. It opened to view a complete system of truth, connected and harmonious, showing that God's hand had directed the great advent movement and revealing present duty as it brought to light the position and work of His people" (*Great Controversy*, 423).
2. What other Christians believe in common with us: Christ our high priest intercedes for us at God's right hand. Heb 4:14-16; 6:20; 7:25.
3. Adventist Distinctive Beliefs about the Sanctuary
 - a. The earthly sanctuary is a type of the heavenly sanctuary
 - b. **2 rooms, 2 rituals, 2 phases:** the **2 rooms** (holy and most holy places) correspond to **2 separate rituals** (daily and yearly services) in the earthly sanctuary, and to **2 phases** (31-1844 and post-1844) in Christ's heavenly ministry. On the physical size of the temple in heaven, see *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 357.
 - c. Christ's *holy-place ministry* involved a work of continual intercession, the reality of which the OT daily sacrifices were a type.

"All unrighteousness is sin" (1 John 5:16-17), and even sins of ignorance require atonement. In OT, sins committed "unintentionally," "thoughtlessly," or "ignorantly," were still required to be atoned for by sacrifice (Lev 4:2, 13-14, 22-23, 27-28; 5:3-5; 15-19). Only a few verses after the laws regarding sins of ignorance comes the provision for a perpetual, continual, morning-and-evening, or "daily" sacrifice that would never cease on the altar (Lev 6:8-13). This prefigured Christ's heavenly mediation (Heb 7:24-25; Dan 8:11-14). Christ intercedes for our sins of ignorance and we are to intercede for each other (1 Jn 5:16-17; James 5:16; Isa 59:2, 12, 16).

Adventists understand the *heavenly holy-place ministry* as beginning with Christ's ascension in AD 31. Just as in the type, the morning and evening sacrifices continued to be offered on the Day of Atonement, so the perpetual, continual, or "daily" intercession of Christ *does not cease* with His transition to the judgment work of the most holy place, but continues after 1844 to the close of probation.
 - d. Christ's *most-holy-place ministry* includes a pre-advent (investigative) judgment that began in 1844 and will continue until the close of human probation. **In addition** to the pre-1844 continual intercession, which continues after 1844 to the close of probation, **the investigative judgment involves two specific aspects:**
(1) On earth, Christ is **purifying His people of sin**, through forgiveness and the indwelling Holy Spirit, and their cooperation in repentance, confession, and surrender.
(2) In heaven, Christ is **blotting out** the record of forgiven and forsaken **sins**, thus preparing His people to stand in the sight of a holy God without an intercessor for sin (*EW* 71, *GC* 425).
 - e. Christ's atoning *sacrifice* was accomplished once and for all at the cross (Heb. 7:27), but the full meaning of "atonement" includes both sacrifice and priestly ministry (Lev 4:32-35; 5:10, 13, 18; 6:7).

"The intercession of Christ in man's behalf in the sanctuary above is as essential to the plan of salvation as was His death upon the cross. By His death He began that work which after His resurrection He ascended to complete in heaven. **We must by faith enter within the veil, 'whither the forerunner is for us entered.'**" Heb. 6:20" (*GC* 489).

Thus the entire plan of atonement will be finally "finished" and "completed" only when sin and sinners are no more (Lev 16; 23:28; cf. Rev 16:17).

B. How the Early Adventists Came to these Conclusions. These basic conclusions were established first from the Bible; only later confirmed and expounded by visions.

C. Sources: C. Mervyn Maxwell, *Magnificent Disappointment* (Pacific Press, 1994), chapter 6 and charts on pp. 74, 78, 80; Clifford Goldstein, *Graffiti in the Holy of Holies* (Pacific Press, 2003); Goldstein, *1844 Made Simple* (Pacific Press, 1988).