


THE SANCTUARY SIMPLIFIED



Thy way oh God is in the sanctuary.

Sanctuary Simplified

- 2 Forward
- 3 The Problem of Sin
- 5 God Finds a Way
- 6 Tom's Lunch
- 8 The Effect of Sin
- 10 The Kitten & the Fish
- 10 Cain and Abel
- 13 God's Way
- 14 Sanctuary Furnishings
 - Altar of Burnt Offering
 - Laver
 - Table of Shewbread
 - 7-Branched Candlestick
 - Altar of Incense
 - Ark of the Covenant
- 15 The Outer Court
- 19 The Holy Place
- 21 The Day of Atonement
- 24 Sanctuary Cleansed
- 27 The Sanctuary Closed
- 30 The 2nd Coming
- 31 Fitman Publications
- 32 The Bride ... Will Not ...



Published by New Life Mission (NLM), © 2022, a charitable ministry in Oklahoma dedicated to the work of sharing information on current events, prophecy, health, temperance & religious education since 1986. For a FREE subscription contact:

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THE SANCTUARY SIMPLIFIED GOD'S WAY OF SALVATION

By Evelyn Saylor

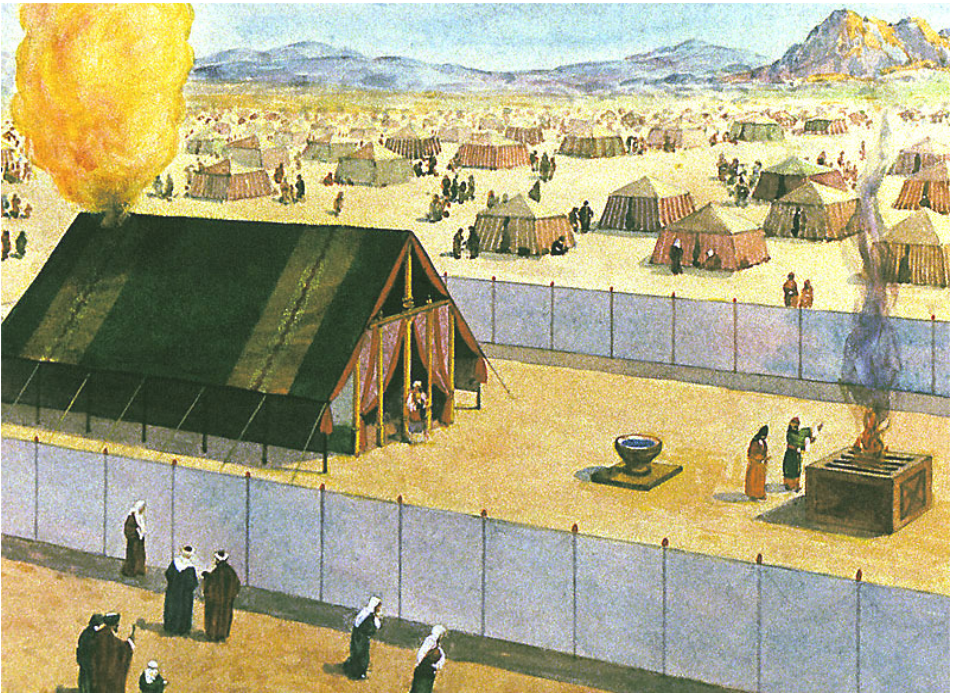
Forward

The purpose of this booklet is to put into simplified language the profound spiritual truths related to the plan of salvation as revealed in the sanctuary. It is only meant to give an overall view of the subject rather than a detailed account that could profitably be studied and understood.

That is why I have chosen to use the method that God Himself used to teach His people who had just come out of the darkness and oppression of slavery. To make plain the way that leads to life eternal, He gave to ancient Israel the sanctuary service. It was an acted-out-lesson that He used to teach vital truths. Every part of the sanctuary service pointed to Christ and His sacrifice and His mediation on behalf of the human race. Paul referred to this in Hebrews 8:1-2 when he said, **"Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on 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 pitched, and not man."**

By studying the services of the sanctuary in the daily and yearly ministration, we can see the unfolding of the great work of redemption, from the beginning to the end of our walk with Jesus.

In the first chapters of Genesis, we see Adam and Eve holding open, face to face communion with their Creator. But then the dark clouds of sin entered the world scene and shut out the clear view of God. In the succeeding chapters of Genesis and the books that follow, we can read the fearful results of the separation between man and the Omnipotent that sin caused. But, praise



God we also read of the lengths to which the Godhead was willing to go in order to heal the breach between man and God to restore him to fellowship with his Maker. And in the last chapter of the Bible, when the work of redemption is finished and the universe is cleansed of the rebellion Lucifer started, open communion between man and his Creator is forever renewed. With sin and its curse removed, and all the universe restored to better than it was in the beginning, we read these comforting words, **“They shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads”** Revelation 22:4.

THE PROBLEM OF SIN

When God created this world, He made it radiant with perfection. Every lovely plant and flower, every animal and bird, every fish in the sea was perfect. All the animals were gentle and peaceful and lived together in harmony. God Himself, as He looked over the wonderful world He had just made, said that **“it was very good”** Genesis 1:31.

Everything in the world was controlled by laws. These were called the laws of nature. To this day they mirror God’s





character, so that they keep everything on earth working smoothly and without trouble. Every fruit tree bears its own kind of fruit – apple trees never bear bananas. This is a natural law. Tigers always have baby tigers, never baby monkeys. Water always flows downhill and if you drop a rock it will always fall downward, never upward. Every star moving through the sky follows a certain path so that it will not bump into other stars. These are just a few of the laws of nature; there are many more.

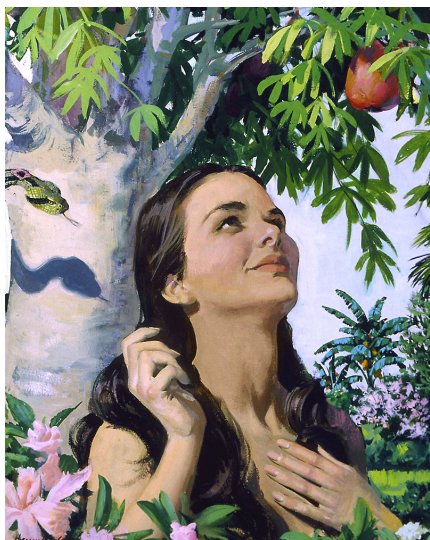
“No bird that cleaves the air, no animal that moves upon the ground...no leaf of the forest, or lowly blade of grass...but that it ministers to some

other life,” They are all acting out their part in God’s perfectly harmonious plan, consistent with His natural laws. “There is nothing, save for the selfish heart of man, that lives unto itself” (*The Desire of Ages*, 20).

But it wasn’t always this way. Our first parents were also created perfect. Adam and Eve were different from everything else that God created, and were given a special law called **the moral law**. Later, when it was written in the Bible, it was called **the Ten Commandments**. But Adam and Eve did not need to have them written in a book; God wrote them in their heart or mind. They naturally wanted to obey God because they were so happy in the wonderful garden He had made for them. God’s law was expressed so that they would always be safe and happy. He meant it to be like a wall of protection, keeping out sin, sadness, pain and death. It was a “perfect law of liberty” (James 1:25).

“Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good” Romans 7:12.

God gave freedom. They could trust God and choose His way or they could disobey. They were warned that if they disobeyed they would die. Sadly, they disobeyed God and ate the fruit of the tree that He had told them not to eat. Now they would have to die! That was the law; **“for the wages of sin is death” Romans 6:23.**



Now, Adam and Eve were afraid of God and hid, hoping He would not find them. But, of course, He did. He loved them far too much to leave them alone to die. He came looking for them to share His plan for their salvation; a plan to redeem them.

If God did not punish Adam and Eve for sinning, people would think that God did not really mean what He said. They would think they could disobey His laws whenever they chose. Soon everyone would be breaking His laws and there would be no peace or happiness anywhere on earth. People would kill, steal and hurt one another. He had to do something, but what?

He could not change or get rid of His law because His law was given to show us what He is like. He is a God of love and love does not kill, or steal, or lie, or disobey parents, or worship idols, or anything else that the law says we should not do. To change His law, God would have to change Himself, and then He would no longer be a perfect God of love. The easiest thing for God to do would have been to get rid of Adam and Eve and create new people. But the angels in heaven and the people on other worlds would not have understood. They did not know how terrible sin was, and they would have felt that God was mean and cruel. They would have been afraid of Him. God did not want people to obey Him because they were afraid of Him. He wanted them to obey Him because they loved Him.



Also, if God created new people, someday they or their children might disobey Him and sin would begin all over again. So creating new people was not the answer. God had to find a better way – a way that would finally get rid of the sin problem forever – a way that only a perfect God of love could think of. He had to make a very hard choice.

GOD FINDS A WAY

God did find a way, but it was not an easy way for Him. God the Father and His Son, Jesus, decided that the only way to save Adam and Eve from death was for Jesus to come down to earth and take their punishment, which was death. When Jesus was on earth, He said to His disciples, **“I am the way ...” John 14:6.** There was no other way that could save sinners and make an end of sin!

It was a very hard choice for God to make because His love for His Son was very great and He did not want to let Him suffer and die. But



He also loved Adam and Eve and could not bear to lose them. If Jesus took their punishment, He could forgive their sin and then they would not die forever. Jesus would raise them up from the grave and take them to live with Him forever. **“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” John 3:16.**

When God first talked to Adam and Eve about their sin, they were not really very sorry for what they had done. They made excuses – Adam blamed Eve – Eve blamed the serpent. They did not really think that

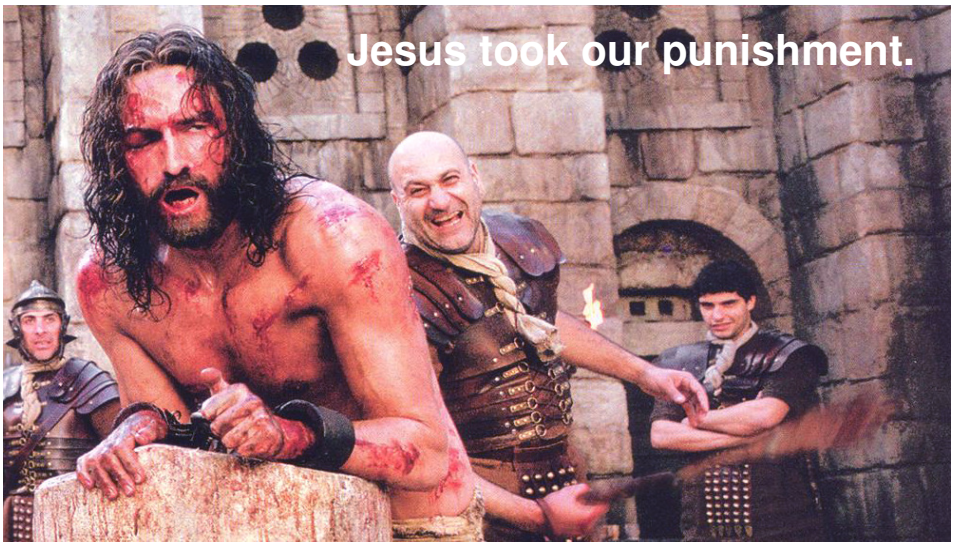
their sin was so very bad. But when God told them that Jesus would have to die to take their punishment, they suddenly understood what a terrible thing sin was! They were very sorry to think that they had made it necessary for Jesus to die.

God told them to bring an offering of a lamb which would represent Jesus. They had to kill the lamb and burn its body on an altar of stones. This was to show that they believed God’s promise to send His Son to die for their sins. It was hard for them to see the lamb bleeding and dying, but it helped them understand what a terrible thing sin was and how much Jesus would have to suffer for them.

Tom’s Lunch

Many years ago a one room country school was having trouble. Some of the bigger boys were so disobedient and rough that several teachers had become discouraged and left the school. The people were having a hard time finding a new teacher because no one wanted to teach those unruly boys. They felt that they needed a really strong man who could force the boys to obey. One day a young man asked for the job. The people looked at him and asked if he was strong enough to control the boys. The young man said that he thought he could, and since no one else wanted the job, they hired him.

On the first day of school the boys came in pushing and shouting as they usually did. They expected the teacher to yell at them to be quiet as their other teachers had done. But the new teacher said nothing – he just patiently waited. This seemed so strange to the boys that after a few minutes they were quiet. Then the teacher spoke kindly to them and told them that there would be no rules in their school except the ones that they made for themselves. This surprised the students even more. They were used to the teacher making the rules and telling them



worse. How could he punish this poor little boy? The children were also very sad and very quiet. Slowly the teacher got out the strap.

Then suddenly big Tom stood up. "I will take Jimmy's punishment," he said, as he took off his jacket. He was big and strong and did not cry out when the teacher strapped him. He was glad that poor little Jimmy did not have to bear the pain.

How do you think Jimmy felt? Do you think that he loved Big Tom after that? Do you think he ever stole anything ever again?

This is just like what Jesus did for sinners, except that Jesus suffered much more than Tom did. He not only took Adam and Eve's punishment; He took ours too, because we have all sinned many times. He even took the punishment for the people who killed Him, just like big Tom took Jimmy's punishment even though it was his lunch that Jimmy had stolen. **"But He [Jesus] was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all" Isaiah 53:5-6.**

Oh, how much Jesus loves us. Do you love Him? If you do, you will want to obey Him.

THE EFFECT OF SIN ON MAN'S NATURE

God forgave Adam and Eve but they were not allowed to go back into the garden. They could no longer eat the fruit of the tree of life which would have kept them alive forever. Instead they had to work hard to make the earth produce food for their family and finally they died. Only when Jesus comes again will they receive everlasting life.

Have you ever wondered why they couldn't just go back into the gar-

den and continue living as they did before their sin? If Jesus was going to take their punishment, why did they have to leave? I'm sure they promised God that they would never sin again.

But God knew something that Adam and Eve did not yet understand. When people sin something happens to their nature. It weakens them so that it becomes much easier to sin again. It is like taking a new sheet of good heavy paper and folding it in half. When you straighten out the paper it is never the same as it was before. It still has a crease in it. It always tends to bend on the fold line. It has been weakened at that spot and will never be the same again.

God knew that Adam and Eve would always be in danger of sinning again. Their sin had

made a scar on their minds, just like folding a paper makes a crease in it. The only way they could be kept from sinning was by receiving special help from God, just as the only way the folded paper can be kept straight is by putting another strong piece of paper with it.

This scar, or record of sin on our minds, is not the only record that is made of sins. Every time we sin it is written in the record books of heaven. Every person born on earth has a record book.

“The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron, and with the point of a diamond: it is graven upon the table of their heart, and upon the horns of your altars” Jeremiah 17:1.

The words, “graven upon the table of their heart,” means that the sin is recorded in their minds. It is also recorded in the heavenly sanctuary where Jesus is now. We will learn more about the heavenly sanctuary as we read to the end of this story.

The record of sins in the books of heaven will be opened in the final judgment to see who is safe to save and who will be lost.

“And I saw the dead, small



and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works” Revelation 20:12.

The Kitten and the Fish

When our children were young someone gave them a beautiful kitten. We gave it the best food and care that we could and it grew to be a frisky, healthy little pet which we all loved.

In the autumn many fish from the ocean swim up the rivers to lay their eggs. Then their lifework is over and they float downstream until they die. That year some of the dead and dying fish began to float down a little stream in our backyard and our kitten started eating them. At first we did not know how dangerous this was, but soon our kitten became very sick. Then we realized that

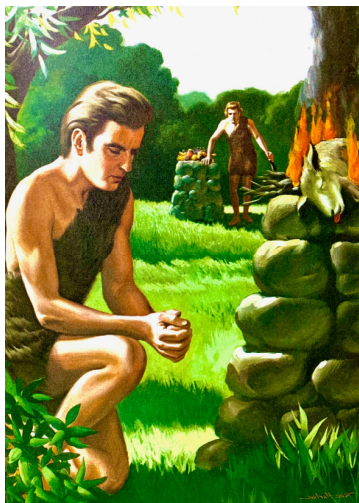


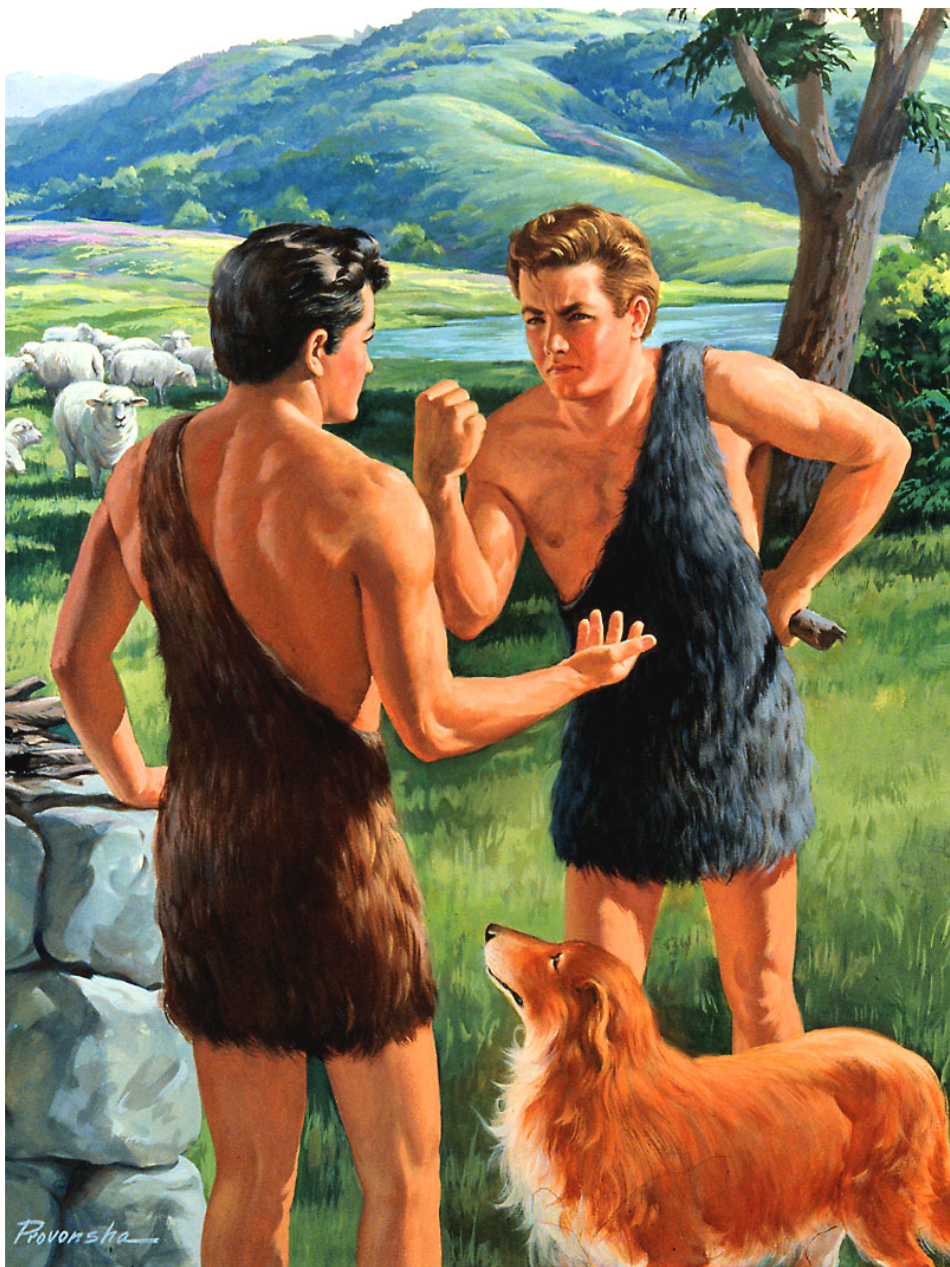
those dying fish were full of disease and were making the kitten sick, so we buried all the fish in the garden and kept the kitten in the house. We also offered him good, healthy food but he would not eat it. He just sat by the door and meowed to get out. When we let him out he ran into the garden and began digging up the dead fish. We quickly brought him back into the house and offered him every kind of good food we could find, but he had lost all desire for good food. There was nothing we could do for him. He just grew more sick and weaker every day. We finally had to bury our little pet in the garden beside the fish that had destroyed him.

We learned a sad lesson from his death. Once our kitten had eaten the wrong food, it changed his nature. Instead of wanting good food, now he only wanted bad food; just as a man who sins is changed and no longer wants to obey God.

Cain and Abel

When Adam and Eve had children they told them about God's promise to send His Son to earth to die for their sins. When Cain, their first child, grew up he became **“a tiller of the ground”** Genesis 4:2, which means that he was a gardener. Their second child,





Abel, became a **“keeper of sheep”** Genesis 4:2.

But these children had also been weakened by Adam and Eve’s sin. They were not naturally strong, like a good thick piece of paper that would not bend. They were like a thinner, weaker paper that folded over and creased more easily. The children did not naturally want to obey God and Adam and Eve had to try hard to teach them to do right.

One day Cain and Abel brought their offerings to God. Abel brought a perfect lamb to show his faith in God's promise to send His Son to be **"the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world"** John 1:29. But Cain did not want to bring a lamb. He felt that the fruit he grew was just as good as a lamb, so he brought garden produce for his offering. But fruit cannot represent Jesus' death for sin. Cain showed a rebellious spirit in refusing to show acceptance for Jesus' necessary death on the cross for his sins and a willingness to obey God.

God could not be pleased with Cain's offering. He could not accept



it. Cain became so angry that Abel's offering was accepted and his was not that he killed his brother. For his sin, a curse was placed on Cain and he was sent away by God from his family.

How sad Adam and Eve were. One of their sons was dead and the other was a murderer. Now they understood more fully the terrible effects of sin. They saw how their sin had weakened their children and made it easier for them to sin.

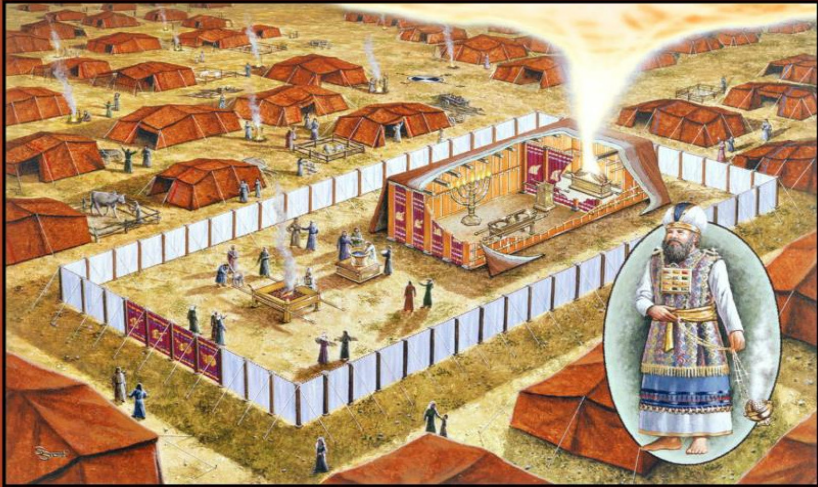
But God's way of salvation was complete enough to provide help for this weakness. Jesus not only died to forgive our sins, but He also gives us

strength to overcome our weaknesses if we ask Him for it.

Jesus understands our weakness because when He came to this earth He was not strong like Adam was before he sinned. He was born like all of Adam's children – weakened by the sins of all the people who lived before He came.

"For verily He took not on Him the nature of angels; but He took on Him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved [to accept as His duty] Him to be made like unto His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people" Hebrews 2:16-17.

The Tabernacle



His nature was like a weak piece of paper but He never once made a crease in that weak, thin paper. He came to earth to show us how even weak people can stop sinning. He never sinned because He always stayed very close to God, His Father. He said, **“I can of mine own self do nothing” John 5:30.** He did not depend on Himself for strength, but on His Father, just as we must do. It was like having a stiff, strong paper always held together with His weak paper. As long as the two papers are tightly held together, they will not bend. God has promised to keep us from sinning if we will stay very close to Him. He will unite His strength with our weakness just like He did with Jesus, and **“whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not” 1 John 3:6.**

“Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy” Jude 24.

GOD’S WAY IN THE SANCTUARY

Many years after the death of Abel, God’s followers were living in Egypt. They had become slaves to the Egyptians and were forced to work very hard and were often beaten by their slave masters. They had forgotten what God had taught them about His way of salvation. They were very sad and discouraged and needed help.

God felt pity for them and sent Moses to lead them out of Egypt and back to the country that God had given to them years before. But before God could lead them all the way to the Promised Land, they must

learn again about His way of salvation. Out in the desert wilderness He gave them an illustration of His way that they could see and understand. God said, **“Let them make Me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them” Exodus 25:8.**

Through the services of the sanctuary God would teach His people how to be saved from sin. The Bible says, **“Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary” Psalm 77:13.** This sanctuary was made to show the people of earth what the sanctuary in heaven is like and demonstrates through the sanctuary services how He saves His people from their sin.

The sanctuary on earth was made in such a way that it could be taken apart and moved whenever the people moved to a new place. It was set up right in the center of their camp so that everyone could find it easily. It was a simple building with two rooms which were separated by a curtain or veil. Surrounding it was a large outer court with a fence made of curtains around it.

The Sanctuary Furnishings

There were only a few pieces of furniture throughout the sanctuary but these were very important. Each one represented a part of God’s way of salvation.

There were two pieces of furniture in the outer courtyard. One was the altar of sacrifice or the altar of burnt offering.

It was a brass altar on which the animal offerings were burned. The other was a large brass basin which was filled with water. It was called the laver.



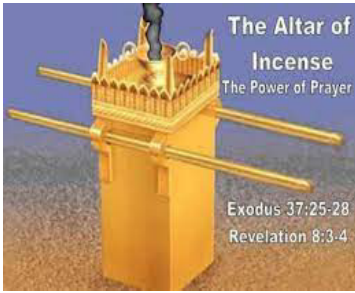
Holy Place

In the first room of the sanctuary tent, called the holy place, there were three pieces of furniture. On one side was a low table on which twelve fresh loaves of bread were placed every Sabbath. This was called the table of showbread.

On the other side was a large lamp stand with seven branches. Each branch had a lamp and these lamps were kept burning day and night.

Straight ahead, in front of the veil separating the two rooms was a smaller altar called the altar of incense. It had a small fire burning in it which God

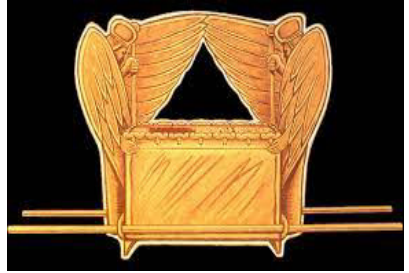




Himself had started at the dedication of the sanctuary and which was never allowed to go out.

Most Holy Place - Ark of the Covenant

Inside the veil was the second room, called the Most Holy Place. It was smaller than the first room and held only one piece of furniture, but this was the most sacred of all. It was like a box with a golden angel standing at each end of it. The lid of the box was of pure gold and was called the mercy seat. Upon it dwelt the Shekinah Glory of God. This bright light shown out over the curtain. The Light was God's Presence.



10 Commandment Tables

The two stones upon which God wrote the Ten Commandment Law were placed inside the Ark of the Covenant. It was sacred furniture in a most holy place.

Priest Garments



God chose Aaron, the brother of Moses, to be the High Priest in the sanctuary. He wore very special garments to show that he represented Jesus, our High Priest in heaven.

The sons of Aaron, and later his grandsons, were also priests. They always wore simple white garments when they ministered in the sanctuary. They were like ministers or pastors in the church today. Their work was to help the people follow God's way of salvation.



THE OUTER COURT EXPERIENCE

On every day of the year except one, sacred services were held in



the outer court and the holy place of the sanctuary to help the people understand God's way of salvation. In the morning and again at evening, the priests killed a one-year-old lamb and burned its body on the altar of sacrifice. This helped the people remember God's promise to send His Son to die for their sins. The lamb had to be perfect and without blemish. If it had any injuries or



blemishes it could not represent Jesus, the pure sinless Son of God.

The Bible says that we are saved by “**the precious blood of Christ, as a lamb without blemish and without spot**” 1 Peter 1:19. If Jesus had sinned even once, He would not have been a perfect sacrifice and He would not be able to save us from our sins.

When we have morning and evening worship in our homes today we remember Jesus’ sacrifice for us, just like the children of Israel did when the priests offered the morning and evening sacrifice.

The priests also burned incense on the altar of incense every day. When it was burned it filled the air with a sweet perfume that spread all around.

As the people gathered outside the sanctuary and looked in through



the open door to the outer court, they could see the priest offering the lamb for a sacrifice and they bowed in silent prayer, confessing their sins and asking forgiveness. The sweet smell of the incense rose with their prayers to God. Today the Holy Spirit mingles the sweet life of Jesus with our prayers to make them acceptable to God.

“Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us an offering

and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savor” Ephesians 5:2.

The most important part of the daily service was for a person who had sinned. The sinner had to bring a sacrifice to the door of the sanctuary and place his hands on its head and confess his sin in silent prayer to God. Then he had to kill the animal himself, showing that



he knew his sin would cause the death of Jesus, the Lamb of God.

The priest took some of the blood into the sanctuary and sprinkled it in front of the veil that separated the two rooms of the sanctuary. This showed that our sins were transferred from ourselves and borne by Jesus, our High Priest, and recorded as confessed and cleansed.

The blood made atonement for all sin. Atonement means at-one-ment or becoming united in one with Jesus. Sin separates us from Jesus. **“But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear” Isaiah 59:2.** When Adam and Eve sinned they tried to hide from God. But the death of Jesus made atonement for sin so that sinners could again be at-one with God, joined together with Him in love.

The body of the animal was burned on the altar of sacrifice. This represented the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. It illustrates the sinner giving his life to Jesus and dying to his old sinful ways. **“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service” Romans 12:1.**

It represents the final destruction of all traces of sin by fire at the end of the world before God recreates, as it was in the beginning.





The second piece of furniture in the outer court was the laver where the priests washed their feet and hands before they went into the holy place. Nothing unclean could enter there. This represents our baptism, being washed from sins, walking in newness of life with Jesus.

“And having an 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” Hebrews 10:21-22.

When people are baptized today it is like the priests washing at the laver. It shows that they believe that Jesus has washed away their sins.

The experience in the outer court is called Justification. It means giving



ourselves to Jesus, dying to sin and having our sins forgiven and washed away so that we can stand before God as though we had never sinned. We are counted righteous and perfect because the life of Jesus covers us. Only when this has been done is the sinner ready to enter by faith into the experience of the sanctuary itself.

The outer court represents the earthly part of Jesus' work for sinners.

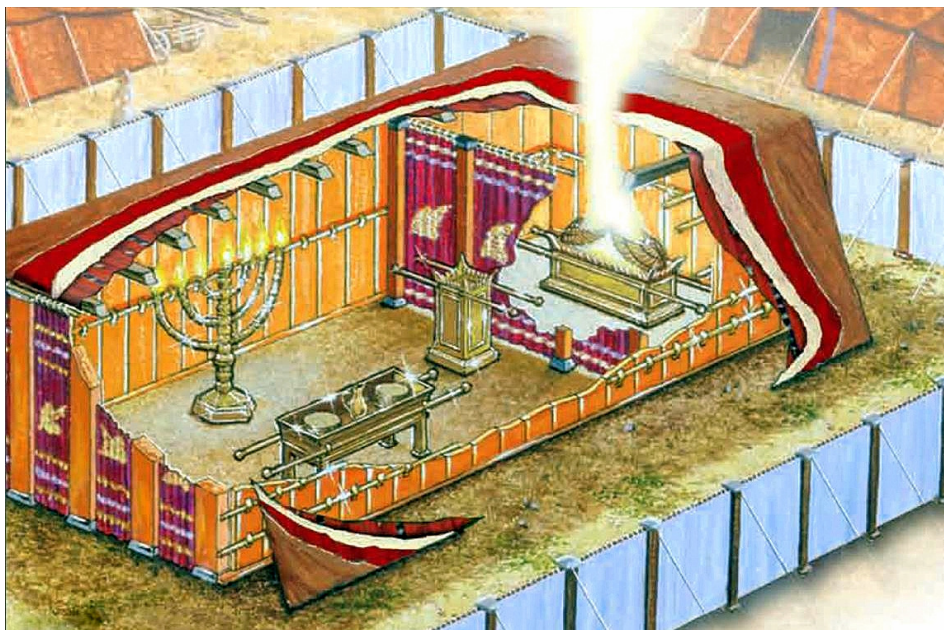
He came to earth to die for us but He went back to heaven to finish His work for us in the heavenly sanctuary. There is much more that we can learn about His work for us in heaven.

THE HOLY PLACE EXPERIENCE

Only the priests went into the holy place, but the sinner who had just brought his animal and sacrificed it could see in through the open doorway. By faith he could enter in with the priest, just as we today can see Jesus, our High Priest, only by faith. The sinner could watch as the priest took some of the blood of the sacrifice and touched the horns of the altar of incense with it to make an atonement for his sin. When this atonement was made the sinner knew that he was forgiven.

Every day the priests burned incense on the altar of incense and the fragrant cloud of incense that rose toward heaven was like our prayers which rise up to God in heaven. The apostle John saw this in a vision God gave him of the heavenly sanctuary. He wrote, **“And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense that he could offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel’s hand”** Revelation 8:3-4. King David also said, **“Let my prayer be set before thee as incense”** Psalm 141:2.

The incense also represented the perfect, sinless life of Jesus which is put with our obedience to make it acceptable to God. This is called



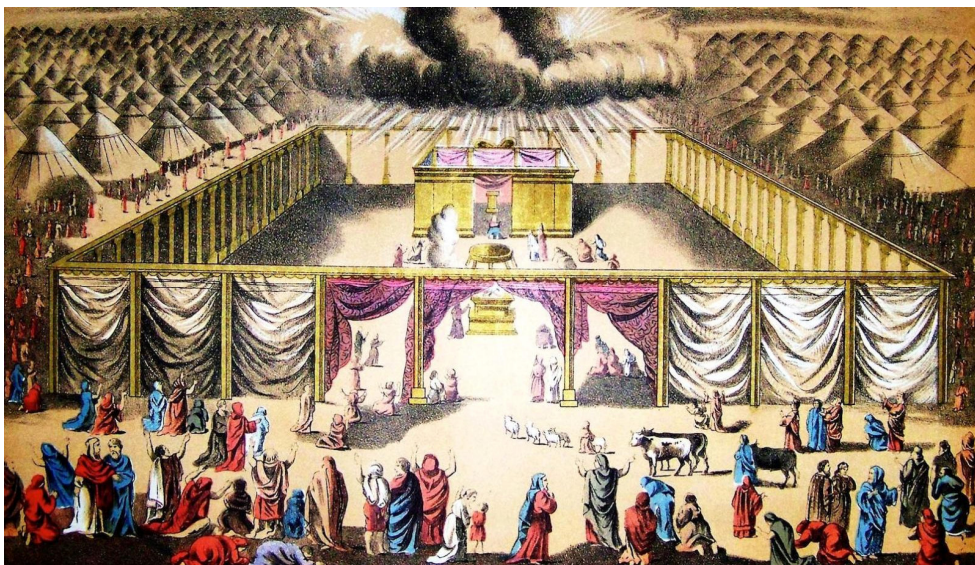
justification.

As the sinner looked into the holy place he saw a glorious sight. It represented the glory of the heavenly sanctuary. All the furniture, except the candlestick, and even the boards of the walls were covered with glittering gold. The candlestick was made of solid gold. The curtain separating the holy place from the most holy place was embroidered with brilliantly colored angels. The light of the seven lamps made the colors of the angels reflect on the shining gold walls in dazzling beauty. Above the curtain could be seen a glorious light shining out from inside the most holy place.

The table of shewbread stood on the north side of the room. On it the priests placed twelve flat loaves of bread every Sabbath. The loaves from the week before were then eaten by the priests. This bread represented the Word of God, the Bible. When we study it faithfully, it is like food or bread for our minds. It helps us to grow to be strong Christians. **“Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart” Jeremiah 15:16.**

Beside the south wall of the holy place stood the candlestick or lamp stand. The lamps were never all put out at once, even when the lamps were cleaned and filled with oil. They gave light to the holy place both day and night. Their light shone on the table of shewbread just as the Holy Spirit shines light on the Word of God, the bread of life, so that we can understand what it means. Unless the Holy Spirit helps us to under-





stand God's Word, it will do us no good to read it.

The three pieces of furniture in the holy place represent the three things we need for our daily Christian lives. The altar of incense represents prayer. The table of shewbread represents Bible study and the lamp stand represents the work of the Holy Spirit. By daily Bible study and prayer and listening to the Holy Spirit we receive strength to **“grow up into Him (Jesus) in all things” Ephesians 4:15.**

This experience is called sanctification. It is an experience that goes on every day in the life of a true Christian, just as the holy place ministry went on every day in the earthly sanctuary.

THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

Only once a year, on the tenth day of the seventh month, was anyone allowed to enter the most holy place. This was a very special day for the children of Israel. On the first day of the month trumpets were blown to remind the people that the Day of Atonement was only ten days away. Everyone knew that they had only ten days left to make sure that every sin had been confessed and forgiven. Anyone whose sins had not been forgiven before the Day of Atonement could not take part in the special services of that day.

All during the year the sins that the people had confessed were sent into the sanctuary by the blood that the priest took into the holy place. On the special Day of Atonement, the sins were symbolically taken out of the sanctuary and gotten rid of. The record of sins was cleansed from the sanctuary on that day. But this record of sins was not only in the sanctuary, it was also in the minds of the people. Before the sanctuary could be cleansed there had to be a special work to cleanse the people



from sin. **“For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the LORD”** Leviticus 16:30.

On the morning of the Day of Atonement the people gathered around the sanctuary for a special service. Anyone

who went on with his ordinary work and did not take part in this service would be cut off from Israel. He would no longer be one of God’s people. It was like the Day of Judgment for him.

Two young goats were brought to the door of the sanctuary and one was chosen to be God’s goat and the other was the scapegoat. God’s goat was killed and the high priest took some of its blood into the most holy place to make an atonement for all the people. Even though the people had brought their sacrifices all through the year and had been forgiven, they still had to come and take part in the Day of Atonement service. They needed another atonement to fully cleanse away their sins.

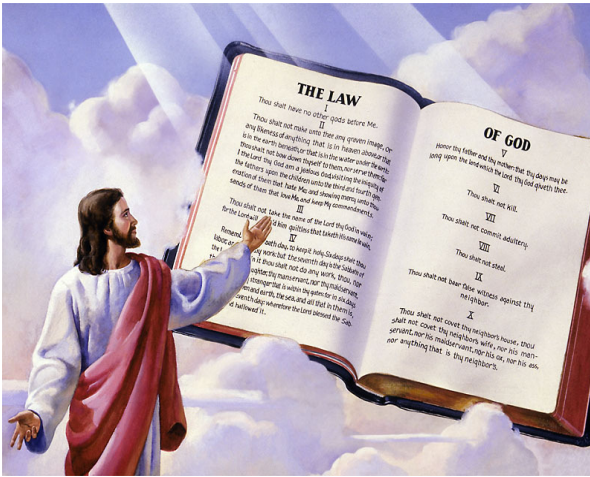
While the priest was making the atonement the people around the sanctuary were all praying in deep repentance





for the sins of the past year. They did not eat on that day, but spent the whole day seeking for that special experience of at-one-ment with God. This was their pledge, in fact for their life - to finally put away all sin.

When the high priest came out of the sanctuary he laid his hands on the head of the scapegoat and symbolically placed all the sins that had



goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: and the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness” Leviticus 16:21-22.

Not until the goat had been led away did the people feel that they were fully free from the burden of their sins. At the end of the Day of Atonement the people were joyful and happy to know that their sins were all gone and there was nothing left to separate them from God.

THE HEAVENLY SANCTUARY CLEANSED

Today, we no longer have an earthly sanctuary where we sacrifice animals to show that we believe Jesus will die for our sins. Jesus has already died and now is our High Priest in the sanctuary in heaven. By faith we can follow His work there and receive forgiveness and cleansing from sin. **“And having an 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” Hebrews 10:21-22.**

We do not have a Day of Atonement every year like the children of Israel did. That was a symbol to teach about the real Day of Atonement. From Bible prophecy we know that the Investigative Judgment began on October 22, 1844. **“The judgment was set and the books were opened” Daniel 7:10.** The books have been opened in heaven. Beginning with Adam and Eve, Jesus is going over the records to see if all the sins that were ever committed have been confessed and pardoned. But the final Day of Atonement happens just before Jesus comes. It is the time when God’s people will receive His seal in their foreheads if all sins written in the record books of heaven have been forgiven.

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in the body, according to

been sent into the sanctuary for a full year on the head of the scapegoat. Then it was led away by a strong man and left to die far out in the wilderness. **“And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel ... putting them upon the head of the**

that He hath done, whether it be good or bad” 2 Corinthians 5:10. During the investigation of the record books in heaven most of God’s people have been sleeping in their graves and do not know about the judgment until after it is over. When Jesus comes they will be raised up from their graves and know that their sins are all gone and that they are ready to go to heaven with Him.

But for those who live until Jesus comes, the judgment will be an experience that they know about. When the books in heaven are opened there is **“a remembrance again made of sins” Hebrews 10:3.** Just as the children of Israel who were gathered around the sanctuary on the Day of Atonement followed their high priest by faith into the most holy place, so God’s people on the final Day of Atonement will have **“boldness to enter into the holiest (most holy place) by the blood of Jesus” Hebrews 10:20.** Even though they are still living on earth, by faith they can see Jesus in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary where He is about to do something special for them that has never been done before.

Although their sins have been forgiven and covered by the blood of Jesus, they have not been blotted out of the books of record in heaven. In the judgment, these books of record are opened so it can be seen by everyone in heaven whether or not all sins have been confessed and put away. If anyone has sins that have not been confessed and put away, their name will be blotted out of the Book of Life and their sins



will remain on their record book. They will receive the wages of sin which is death (Romans 6:23). Those who have confessed and forsaken all sin will have their sins blotted out but their names will remain in the Book of Life forever.

But someone might ask why we should worry about what happens to our records in the judgment if we have already confessed them. This is a very good question. The answer is found in what happens when the books are opened. As the record of those who claim to be God's people are opened up, another book is opened. As we have already learned "there is a remembrance again made of sins" on the Day of Judgment and a final atonement. Everyone being judged will see more clearly than ever before that the record books in heaven are just like a reflection in a mirror of what is written in our hearts and minds. As the books in heaven have all our confessed sins written in them, so our minds



have all our confessed sins written in them; the memory of them is not forgotten. And as in the books of heaven, they have been covered by the perfect life of Jesus; but they are still there. Before Jesus blots out these sins, He will once more bring them to our minds to see if we still enjoy thinking about them, or if we want them blotted out of our minds, never to be remembered again.

Those who have learned to love Jesus and His law will also have learned to hate the sins they once loved. As these past sins come before their minds they will see as never before how selfish, dishonest and impure they have been. They will realize how much their sins have hurt Jesus. In deep sorrow they will ask Him to take them all away – to blot them all out forever! They do not ever want to go back to the sins

they once enjoyed.

When Jesus sees that we truly hate those sins He will give the command, “Take away the filthy garments” Zechariah 3:4, and in their place He will put on us the pure white garment of His righteousness. **“And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints” Revelation 19:8.** He will also do something else that He has not been able to do for us before; He sets a **“fair mitre upon his (our) head” Zechariah 3:4.** The fair mitre is **“the seal of the living God” Revelation 7:2.** It is His sign that we are His forever. Those who are sealed will be forever safe from ever becoming scarred with sin again. Then all the creases that sin has made in our minds, which have weakened our characters like the creases made in a paper when it is folded, will finally be gone. The mind will then be like a new sheet of paper that has never been folded.

THE SANCTUARY CLOSED

When the work of salvation is finished, Christ will bring His work in the sanctuary to a close. There will no longer be any need to have a High Priest in the sanctuary because those who are sealed will not need forgiveness any longer. They will be **“a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish” Ephesians 5:27.** There will be no more creases in the paper. And those who did not confess and forsake their sins before this time will no longer have any desire to repent. Satan has them in his control, and the Holy Spirit is no longer trying to lead them to repentance. Their hearts have become so hardened that there is nothing more that God can do to help them. As Jesus ends His priestly work, He makes a solemn announcement, showing that the cases of everyone who has ever lived in this world are forever decided. **“He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still” Revelation 22:11.**



One last thing still remains to be done before Jesus finally steps out of the sanctuary. When the earthly sanctuary was cleansed, the high priest symbolically took the sins of Israel that had been confessed at the sanctuary, out of the sanctuary and placed them on the head of the scapegoat. This will happen in reality when the heavenly sanctuary is finally cleansed. All the sins that have been confessed and sent into the sanctu-

ary, will be taken out of the sanctuary by Jesus and placed on Satan, the real scapegoat. He is the one who started the whole sin problem, and it is only fair that he should bear the final punishment for the sins he caused of those who have decided to follow Jesus.

Of course, Satan will strongly object to this. He claims that God's people have sinned just like he has, and it would not be fair for God to



punish him for their sins while they will be welcomed into heaven to take the place of him and his angels. But Christ points to the fact that His people have confessed and put away their sins and received forgiveness. And He took upon Himself the penalty of His children's sins. They have proven to be true and faithful to Him no matter what happens. But Satan will not believe it. He will tell Christ that if he can be allowed to tempt them again, he can get them to sin. This is what Satan said when God pointed to Job as a true and righteous follower of His in this world. And as in the case of Job, Christ will give Satan permission to tempt them and test their

loyalty, but he cannot kill them as long as they remain obedient to God.

So, for a short time, as Jesus is preparing to come back to this world, Satan will do his best to lead God's people back into sin. He has often tempted them to sin in the past and he feels quite sure that he can do it again. But no matter how hard he tries to trick them or frighten them into doing something that would dishonor God, he cannot make them sin again. Christ has done His complete work of salvation in them and filled them with His Holy Spirit, and not one of them will fall under the powerful temptations of Satan. They have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white.

The change over from sinners to saints through Jesus' work in the sanctuary has been so complete that even Satan, with all his boasting, and all his army of fallen angels, looks upon them as a fortress that he cannot break down. They are a mystery to him that he cannot understand. This is so because they know by experience **“what is the riches of the glory of this mystery ... which is Christ in you, the hope of glory” Colossians 1:27.** God's people will have become filled with the fullness of His mercy, grace and power. The fullness of His Holy Spirit is like a wall of fire around them which all the power of Satan and his

angels cannot break through. Christ and the holy angels look upon them with joy and thankfulness that God's way of salvation has proven to be a complete cure for sin. God has promised that **"affliction (sin) shall not rise up the second time"** Nahum 1:9. And by their faithfulness under the fierce temptations of Satan and his angels Christ's followers will prove the truth of this promise of God.



The 2nd Coming of Jesus

While Satan is trying to lead Christ's followers back into sin, Christ and the holy angels will be on their journey from heaven down to earth. Suddenly, at midnight, the sun will appear shining in its full strength. Signs and wonders will follow as Christ is about to appear in the sky. Everything will seem changed. Streams will stop flowing. Dark, heavy clouds will cover the sky and a great earthquake will shake the earth. The wicked will look upon these things in terror, but God's people are unafraid. They have the protection of holy angels. They also know that these are the last signs before Jesus comes to take them to heaven.

Next, the clouds roll back and the sky opens. As God's people look up they see a small cloud which becomes bigger and brighter as it draws nearer to the earth. As it comes closer, they will see Jesus and all the holy angels, and they will hear the sound of the trumpet and the glorious song that the angels sing as they draw still nearer to the earth. They will remember the promise that they have read many times in the Bible which speaks of this wonderful experience which will come to those who are ready when Christ comes. **"Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" 1 Thessalonians 4:17.**

Let us be true and faithful to Jesus, and daily ask Him to help us



overcome every temptation to sin. Let us remember to pray every day and to fill our minds with the truths of the Bible. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in the narrow way. If we do this, we will be among those who will look up when Jesus comes and say, **"Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited**

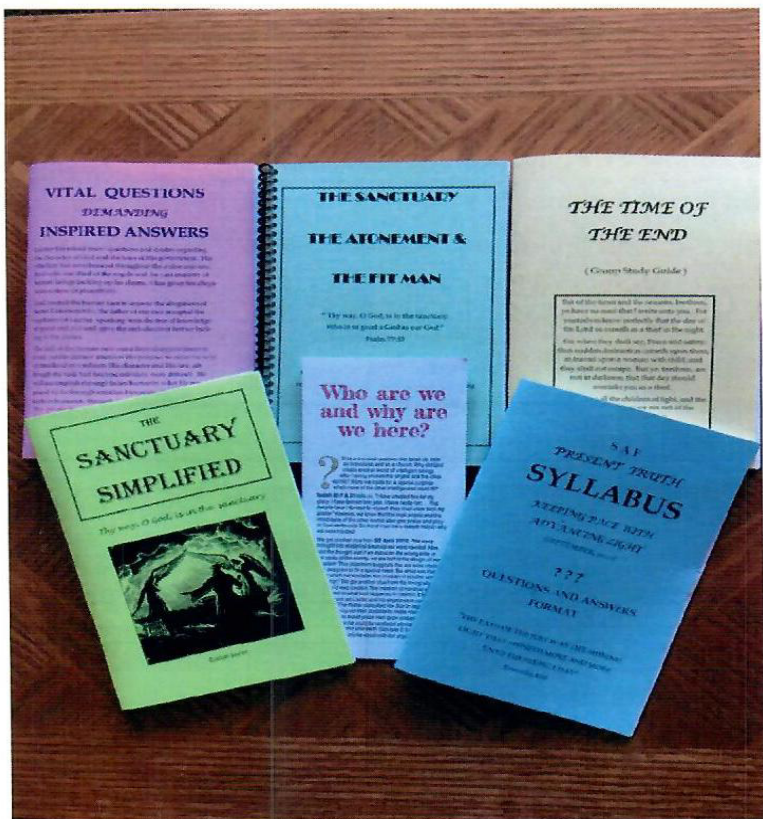
for Him, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation" Isaiah 25:9.

Note: We want to thank Fitman Publications for allowing us to share this beautiful story by Evelyn Saylor. Brother Floyd Saylor is a retired teacher from Canada. He is still writing and sharing with those interested in spiritual matters. You may receive his booklets and articles by sending an email to: Fitman.publications@gmail.com or you may write to — PO Box 52098, Mesa AZ 85208-0105.

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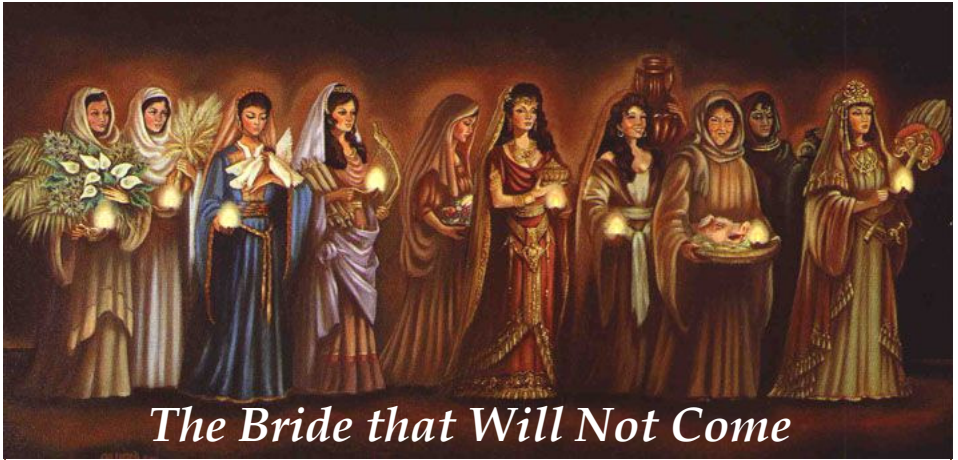
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The message of truth is to go to all nations, tongues, and people; its publications, printed in many different languages, are to be scattered abroad like the leaves in autumn.

R.H. November 15, 1906



The Bride that Will Not Come

By Evelyn Sayler

*Oh, the marriage is now ready,
And the Lord's great work is done,
And the guests have been invited
To the marriage of His Son.
But the earthly bride is lingering,
For the world her heart has won;
While the Bridegroom waits in anguish,
For His bride that will not come.*

*How the cry goes up to heaven
From this sin cursed world below.
All creation groans together
'Neath the load of sin and woe.
Yet the bride clings to her idols,
She is loath to let them go.
Christ is waiting, Christ is pleading
For His bride that will not come.*

*Jesus need not suffer longer.
We can make an end of sin.
He will consummate the marriage
When His people enter in.
Seek repentance, seek forgiveness,
Let Him cleanse your heart from sin.
Do not keep your Savior waiting
For His bride that will not come.*