

The Adventist Dilemma, II

Introduction

1. The sanctuary service will be better understood and appreciated if studied in the light of the dilemma God's people will face in the time of trouble described in **Dan 12:1**, a time when there is no intercession taking place in heaven;

Daniel, an Inspired Illustration of True Sanctification

2. Daniel and his three friends are a type of the people who shall live in the time of the end
3. The experiences and trials they went through as recorded in the book of Daniel serve as models of the tests and trials the people of God will also go through in the time of the end;
4. And so, the question is, if we were living like Daniel and his three friends today, are we ready for the time of trouble?
5. The Bible notes Daniel's sanctified life in terms of the following:
 - a. Daniel's temperance —**Dan 1:8**
 - b. Daniel's given skill to interpret dreams and vision—**Dan 1:17**
 - c. Daniel's humility in **Dan 2:30**
 - d. Excellent spirit found in Daniel — **Dan 5:12, 14, Dan 6:3**
 - e. Daniel's upright moral character—**Dan 6:4**
 - f. Daniel possessed a strong prayer life—**Dan 6:10**
 - g. Daniel's self-denial—**Dan 10:1-4**
 - h. Daniel 's three friends would rather die than swerve away from God's will--**Dan 3:16-18**
6. In her book "The Sanctified Life," EGW summed up Daniel's outstanding character in the following words:

Daniel was a devoted servant of the Most High. His long life was filled up with noble deeds of service for his Master. His purity of character and unwavering fidelity are equaled only by his humility of heart and his contrition before God. We repeat, The life of Daniel is an inspired illustration of true sanctification. **SL 52.**

7. True sanctification is defined in **COL 360** as:

Let a living faith run like threads of gold through the performance of even the smallest duties. Then all the daily work will promote Christian growth. There will be a continual looking unto Jesus. Love for Him will give vital force to everything that is undertaken. Thus through the right use of our talents, we may link ourselves by a golden chain to the higher world. This is true sanctification; for sanctification consists in the cheerful performance of daily duties in perfect obedience to the will of God. **COL 360.**

8. And so, the big question now is, If we were holy and truly sanctified to the same extent that Daniel was, are we ready for the time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation?
9. "If today, we were "inspired illustration of true sanctification" like Daniel was, are we ready for the time of trouble if it came today?
 - a. The answer is "NO"; if the only Christian experience we have at the time of trouble is Daniel's sanctification, good as it is, it will not be enough to make us survive in the time of trouble
 - b. if the time of trouble were only about lions dens and burning furnaces, then Daniel and his three friends' sanctified experience is enough to prepare us for the time of trouble;
10. Understand however, that the most worrisome issue in the time of trouble is not lions den and fiery furnaces, not angry mobs and hunger; the worst fear in the time of trouble is going through the outpouring of God's wrath without an intercessor:
11. More than sanctified living is needed in the time of trouble where there is no intercessor; to be ready in the time of trouble, we must reflect the image of Jesus fully:

I also saw that many do not realize what they must be in order to live in the sight of the Lord without a high priest in the sanctuary through the time of trouble. Those who receive the seal of the living God and are protected in the time of trouble **must reflect the image of Jesus fully. EW 71.**

. . .Those who are living upon the earth when the intercession of Christ shall cease in the sanctuary above are to stand in the sight of a holy God without a mediator. **Their robes must be spotless, their characters must be purified from sin by the blood of sprinkling. . . GC 425.**

12. "Reflecting the image of Jesus fully" requires **thought perfection**; not just behavioral modifications

Now, while our great High Priest is making the atonement for us, we should seek to become perfect in Christ. Not even by a thought could our Saviour be brought to yield to the power of temptation. Satan finds in human hearts some point where he can gain a foothold; some sinful desire is cherished, by means of which his temptations assert their power. But Christ declared of Himself: "The prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in Me." John 14:30. Satan could find nothing in the Son of God that would enable him to gain the victory. He had kept His Father's commandments, and there was no sin in Him that Satan could use to his advantage. This is the condition in which those must be found who shall stand in the time of trouble. **GC 623.**

Take Away Their Filthy Garments

13. **REMEMBER:** The only way to be able to "reflect the image of Jesus fully" and to have "sin dwelling in me" removed and replaced with the spotless robes of characters,
 - a. one must receive it as the benefit of Christ's final atonement in the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary;
 - b. One's "filthy garments" must be taken away and replaced with Christ's robe of perfect character before Jesus leaves the heavenly sanctuary (**Zech 3:1-5; Rev 6:9-11**)
 - c. This experience is beyond sanctification; it is called **character perfection**
 - d. the dead in Christ receive the white robe while dead at the beginning of the investigative judgment in 1844 (**Rev 6:9-11; Dan 8:14**)

- e. the living begin receiving the white robe during the “closing scenes of the great day of atonement (**PK 587-591**);
- f. Daniel died before the time of the final atonement; he would have been ready to receive the white raiment if Jesus made His final atonement while Daniel was alive;
- g. Daniel receives the white raiment when his name comes up in the investigative judgment (**Rev 6:9-11**)

The Problem with Sanctification in the Great Time of Trouble

14. Let's understand now why Daniel's sanctified life is not enough to stand in the time of trouble
- a. **Dan 9:4-20**--Notice now that Daniel's sanctified life experience still involved the confession of personal sins (at 90 years of age, probably more)!

Daniel humbled himself before God, to confess his sins and the sins of his people. **RH Mar 15, 1887.**

- i. **Penitential prayers defile the sanctuary**--- That prayer of Daniel coming from his sanctified lips are still so defiled that Priestly intercession is needed before it can be presented to God; this is good as long as the sanctuary is open and service is going on (**Dan 9:3; Isa 6:5; Rev 8:3**);

The religious services, the prayers, the praise, the penitent confession of sin ascend from true believers as incense to the heavenly sanctuary, but passing through the **corrupt channels of humanity**, they are so defiled that unless purified by blood, they can never be of value with God. They ascend not in spotless purity, and unless the Intercessor, who is at God's right hand, presents and purifies all by His righteousness, it is not acceptable to God. All incense from earthly tabernacles must be moist with the cleansing drops of the blood of Christ. He holds before the Father the censer of His own merits, in which there is no taint of earthly corruption. He gathers into this censer the prayers, the praise, and the confessions of His people, and with these He puts His own spotless righteousness. Then, perfumed with the merits of Christ's propitiation, the incense comes up before God wholly and entirely acceptable. Then gracious answers are returned. **1SM 344. (Rev 8:3-4)**

- ii. **Confession of sin needs a priestly atonement (Lev 4:27-31)**---This confession of sin means a priest is needed to offer sacrifice and make atonement in the sanctuary to have those sins forgiven; this is still possible now, but not in the time of trouble because there is no high priest who will do this work for the sinner;

When Jesus leaves the sanctuary, then they who are holy and righteous will be holy and righteous still; for all their sins will then be blotted out, and they will be sealed with the seal of the living God. But those that are unjust and filthy will be unjust and filthy still; for then **there will be no Priest in the sanctuary** to offer their sacrifices, their confessions, and their prayers before the Father's throne. Therefore what is done to rescue souls from the coming storm of wrath must be done before Jesus leaves the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary. **EW 48.**

- iii. **Confession of sin defiles the sanctuary**---This confession also means that the sin must be transferred to the heavenly sanctuary and defile it; this is possible now because the sanctuary service is still going on but not in the time of trouble;
- iv. **Sin dwelling in me not removed in forgiveness**--and even if the sin was forgiven and transferred to the heavenly sanctuary at that point in time, it still does not remove the root of the sin problem, "sin dwelling in me"!
- v. **Confession of sin presupposes memory of sin**--the saints will have no sins to confess because they cannot bring them to remembrance;

Those who have delayed a preparation for the day of God cannot obtain it in the time of trouble, or at any future period. The righteous will not cease their earnest agonizing cries for deliverance. **They cannot bring to mind any particular sins**, but in their whole life they can see but little good. Their sins had gone beforehand to judgment, and pardon had been written. Their sins had been borne away into the land of forgetfulness, and they could not bring them to remembrance. **3SG 135**

Had not Jacob previously repented of his sin in obtaining the birthright by fraud, God would not have heard his prayer and mercifully preserved his life. So, in the time of trouble, if the people of God had unconfessed sins to appear before them while tortured with fear and anguish, they would be overwhelmed; despair would cut off their faith, and they could not have confidence to plead with God for deliverance. But while they have a deep sense of their unworthiness, they have no concealed wrongs to reveal. **Their sins have gone beforehand to judgment and have been blotted out, and they cannot bring them to remembrance. GC 620.**

- vi. Finally, in sanctification, "sin dwelling in me" for the most part remains intact;
15. Sanctification then is reflecting the image of Jesus fully to some degree, but it is not "reflecting the image of Jesus fully;"

Reflecting the Image of Jesus Fully

16. This experience the root of the sin problem is removed and where there is no memory of sin and is not sanctification; this is what it means to **reflect the image of Jesus fully**; the blotting out of sin from the heart, from memory, from the books of heaven;
- a. **Heb 8:10-12**---the Father Himself will have no memory of sins blotted out
 - b. **Lev 16:30**—this is the final application or fulfillment of the priestly mandate on the Day of atonement:
 - i. **"to cleanse you. . ."**—taking away of filthy garments or the defective character ("Sin dwelling in me") resulting in reflecting the image of Jesus fully
 - ii. **". . .that you may be clean from all your sins before the Lord"**---blotting out all the records of forgiven sins deposited in the books before the Lord, which were brought through the daily service;
17. **Whereas sanctification** is a benefit of the daily service of the sanctuary available to the faithful of all ages even of previous generations, **character perfection** is a benefit of the final ministration of Jesus in the most holy place and the final generation receive it while they are alive;

18. Whereas sanctification requires an Intercessor who will forgive sins and take defilement from the sinner, **character perfection** allows the saints to stand during the time of trouble without an Intercessor;
19. Whereas sanctification prepares for death, **character perfection** prepares for translation;
20. Character perfection is reflecting the image of Jesus fully

Conclusion

21. IMPORTANT POINTS:

- a. **Zech 3:1-4**--**character perfection** or the robe of Christ's righteousness is not to be obtained simply by modifying the behavior and making lifestyle changes in sanctification; why? simply because "sin dwelling in me" (the defective character; filthy garment of character which hinders us from fully reflecting the image of Jesus) is not eradicated in sanctification; character perfection is a free gift to be received by grace through faith in the final atonement; not by **attainment** but by **atonement** is character perfection to be received; it is not **achieved**, but **received** as a free gift;
 - i. The work of reform we do must be understood in that context; lifestyle changes do not of themselves produce perfection of character; no amount of reforms in behavior will make us reflect the image of Jesus fully; it must come as a gift received through faith in Christ's final atonement;
- b. **Heb 10:14**--Only those who experience sanctification daily like Daniel, will be entitled to receive the gift of character perfection; sanctified living is the **preparation needed** for the final atonement; Daniel is a type of a people who are preparing to go through the final atonement
- c. **EW 71**--The "many who do not realize what they must in order to live in the sight of the Lord without a high priest through the time of trouble," are in great danger because they are not in the position where they know what level of character development they need to have in order to be sealed and protected in the time of trouble; this lack of understanding further puts them in the position where they do are not able to prepare for the final atonement;
- d. Finally, it must be realized that the time to prepare for the final atonement is almost over; those who realize this will need to reorder his priorities and develop a sense of urgency never experienced before; the Day of Atonement call to afflict the soul (**Lev 16:29-30**) becomes more and more urgent and more compelling--

In a view given June 27, 1850, my accompanying angel said, "Time is almost finished. Do you reflect the lovely image of Jesus as you should?" Then I was pointed to the earth and saw that there would have to be a getting ready among those who have of late embraced the third angel's message. Said the angel, "Get ready, get ready, get ready. Ye will have to die a greater death to the world than ye have ever yet died." I saw that there was a great work to do for them and but little time in which to do it. **EW 64 (1882)**