

# The Church of the Final Atonement V

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**Synopsis:** This study presents very compelling reasons why Laodicea must clearly understand the sanctuary service message and embrace it. Because of Laodicea's unique position and place in redemptive history, the sanctuary service message is critical to her survival.

1. Why does Laodicea have to understand the sanctuary service message and embrace it? Why spend time studying a topic that seems to no longer be at the forefront of Adventist theology? (Many talk about the sanctuary message like belongs to a museum, a thing of the past, only of historical value)
2. Laodicea's place in redemptive history is unique because she needs to go through 4 major events belonging to the time of the end which previous generations of Christians did not have to go through; and because of this, Laodicea requires an experience which no other generation in past possessed;
  - a. Moreover, this is an experience in which Laodicea herself does not now possess;
3. A lot is required from those in Laodicea than churches of previous generations for the simple reason that Laodicea lives during the final stages of redemptive history;

## Four Final Events in Redemptive History

4. There are four major events to take place in the time of the end which Laodicea will face and each constitutes a compelling reason why she needs not only to clearly understand the sanctuary service message, and most of all, embrace it:
  - i. The Final Proclamation (**Rev 14:6-12**)
  - ii. The Final Conflict (**Rev 12:17; Rev 13**)
  - iii. The Final Reckoning (**Rev 14:7**; judgment of the living)
  - iv. The Final Outpouring of God's unmingled Wrath (**Rev 16**)

### A. The Final Proclamation

5. **The Final Proclamation (Rev 14:1-5)**—Laodicea needs to be “faultless” and “no guile upon her lips” in order to proclaim the three angels messages in a loud voice
  - a. **Rev 14:1-5**—Laodicea needs to have a faultless character, in order to be able to proclaim the three angels messages in a loud voice, meaning powerfully and effectively;
  - b. Anything less than this experience spells failure

### B. The Final Conflict

6. **The Final Conflict (Rev 12:17)**—Only as Laodicea is in possession of Christ's perfect character can she survive the final conflict

Clad in the armor of Christ's righteousness, the church is to enter upon her final conflict. "Fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners" (Song of Solomon 6:10), she is to go forth into all the world, conquering and to conquer. **PK 725.**

### C. The Final Reckoning

7. Also known as the investigative judgment; "the hour of judgment"; this is where the destiny of every individual on earth is fixed
8. **Matt 22:11-12**--The parable of the wedding garment explains the mechanics of this event

**By the king's examination of the guests at the feast is represented a work of judgment.** The guests at the gospel feast are those who profess to serve God, those whose names are written in the book of life. But not all who profess to be Christians are true disciples. Before the final reward is given, it must be decided who are fitted to share the inheritance of the righteous. . .

It is while men are still dwelling upon the earth that the work of investigative judgment takes place in the courts of heaven. The lives of all His professed followers pass in review before God. All are examined according to the record of the books of heaven, and according to his deeds the destiny of each is forever fixed.

By the wedding garment in the parable is represented the pure, spotless character which Christ's true followers will possess. To the church it is given "that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white," "not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing." Revelation 19:8; Ephesians 5:27. The fine linen, says the Scripture, "is the righteousness of saints." Revelation 19:8. It is the righteousness of Christ, His own unblemished character, that through faith is imparted to all who receive Him as their personal Saviour. **COL 310.**

### D. The Final Outpouring of God's Unmingled Wrath

9. Christ's perfect character is required to stand through the outpouring of the seven last plagues

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.**

**The "time of trouble, such as never was," is soon to open upon us; and we shall need an experience which we do not now possess and which many are too indolent to obtain.** . . .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 622-623**

## The Counsel of the Faithful and True Witness

10. The white raiment Laodicea must possess in order to endure through the final events of redemptive history is offered to her in the message to the church of Laodicea:
- I counsel thee to buy of me. . ."white raiment" along with the "eyesalve" and the "gold tried in the fire"

The **gold** that Jesus would have us buy of Him is gold tried in the fire; it is the gold of faith and love, that has no defiling substance mingled with it. The **white raiment** is the righteousness of Christ, the wedding garment which Christ alone can give. The **eyesalve** is the true spiritual discernment that is so wanting among us, for spiritual things must be spiritually discerned ( The Review and Herald, April 1, 1890). { 7BC 965.1 }

11. Why will those in Laodicea not buy these now? I am increased with good and have need of nothing
12. **Rev 3:19; Zech 12:10**—A work of deep searching and repentance needed before Laodicea will see the need to buy these wares from the heavenly Merchantman

## What Might Have Been at the General Conference of 1901

13. The church of Laodicea came very close to having to buying the heavenly wares at the General Conference of 1901:

One day at noon I was writing of the work that might have been done at the last General Conference if **the men in positions of trust** had followed the will and way of God. Those who have had great light have not walked in the light. **The meeting was closed, and the break was not made.** Men did not humble themselves before the Lord as they should have done, and the Holy Spirit was not imparted.

I had written thus far when I lost consciousness, and I seemed to be witnessing a scene in Battle Creek.

We were assembled in the auditorium of the Tabernacle. Prayer was offered, a hymn was sung, and prayer was again offered. Most earnest supplication was made to God. The meeting was marked by the presence of the Holy Spirit. **The work went deep**, and some present were weeping aloud.

One arose from his bowed position and said that in the past he had not been in union with certain ones and had felt no love for them, but that now **he saw himself as he was**. With great solemnity he repeated the message to the Laodicean church: "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing.' In my self-sufficiency this is just the way I felt," he said. "And knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.' **I now see that this is my condition. My eyes are opened.** My spirit has been hard and unjust. I thought myself righteous, but my heart is broken, and I see my need of the precious counsel of the One who has searched me through and through. Oh, how gracious and compassionate and loving are the words, 'I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou

mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.” Revelation 3:17, 18.

The speaker turned to those who had been praying, and said: “We have something to do. We must confess our sins, and humble our hearts before God.” He made heartbroken confessions and then stepped up to several of the brethren, one after another, and extended his hand, asking forgiveness. Those to whom he spoke sprang to their feet, making confession and asking forgiveness, and they fell upon one another’s necks, weeping. **The spirit of confession** spread through the entire congregation. It was a Pentecostal season. God’s praises were sung, and far into the night, until nearly morning, the work was carried on.

The following words were often repeated, with clear distinctness: “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.” Verses 19, 20.

No one seemed to be **too proud** to make heartfelt confession, and **those who led in this work were the ones who had influence**, but had not before had courage to confess their sins.

There was rejoicing such as never before had been heard in the Tabernacle.

Then I awoke from my unconsciousness, and for a while could not think where I was. My pen was still in my hand. The words were spoken to me: “This might have been. All this the Lord was waiting to do for His people. All heaven was waiting to be gracious.” I thought of where we might have been had thorough work been done at the last General Conference, and agony of disappointment came over me as I realized that what I had witnessed was not a reality. **8T 104-106**. Jan 5, 1903, St. Helena, California

14. Divisive Issues in the church in 1901:

- a. Kingly power in the church
- b. Pantheism rampant in Battle Creek
- c. Control of the Medical Missionary Department
- d. Holy Flesh Movement
- e. Personal animosity between A. G. Daniels and his supporters and Dr. J. H. Kellogg and his supporters;

15. Important learning points from Ellen White’s vision of “What Might Have Been. . .in 1901:”

- a. The work of repentance called for in the message to the church of Laodicea must be spearheaded by the leaders of the church
- b. The Spirit of confession occurs during public gatherings, when God’s people are assembled (just like in the time of Pentecost **Heb 10:25**)
  - i. They were of one place (**Acts 2:1**)
  - ii. **Heb 10:25**—the call to assemble often must be appreciated

16. **Zech 12:10-12**—Jewish version of “What Might Have Been. . . also never fulfilled in the history of the Jews;”

- i. Spirit of grace and supplication poured out this work to happen
- ii. the leaders of the church will spearhead the work of repentance and revival
- iii. House of David (king)
- iv. The house of Nathan (son of David, represents the royal family)
- v. The house of Levi (priests)
- vi. The house of Shemei (represents the ordinary families)
- vii. All the families that remain
- viii. **Zech 13:10**—Cleansing immediately follows after this Pentecostal experience
- ix. **Lack of humility the greatest hindrance to this work**

17. This experience serves as model of corporate repentance for Laodicea to follow

18. Why did not this work of deep repentance happen during the 1901 General Conference?

From the Holy of Holies, there goes on the grand work of instruction. The angels of God are communicating to men. Christ officiates in the Sanctuary. **We do not follow Him into the Sanctuary as we should.** Christ and angels work in the hearts of the children of men. The church above united with the church below is warring the good warfare upon the earth. There must be a purifying of the soul here upon the earth, in harmony with Christ’s cleansing of the Sanctuary in heaven. **There we shall see more clearly as we are seen. We shall know as we are known.** —Letter 37, 1887, p. 6. (To Elders E. J. Waggoner and A. T. Jones, February 18, 1887.) 6MR 316.

- a. Ignorance and unbelief results in failing to follow Jesus into the heavenly sanctuary

19. The leaders of the denomination lacked understanding of the sanctuary message which also explained why they were caught totally unprepared for the Pantheism crisis

20. It becomes all the more urgent that God’s people today take the message of the sanctuary seriously:

We are in the great day of atonement, and the sacred work of Christ for the people of God that is going on at the present time in the heavenly sanctuary should be our constant study.

The subject of the sanctuary and the investigative judgment **should be clearly understood** by the people of God. All need a knowledge for themselves of the position and work of their great High Priest. Otherwise it will be impossible for them to exercise the faith which is essential at this time or to occupy the position which God designs them to fill. **GC 488**

We are in the great day of atonement, and the sacred work of Christ for the people of God that is going on at the present time in the heavenly sanctuary **should be our constant study.** 5T 520.

As a people, we should be earnest students of prophecy; **we should not rest until we become intelligent in regard to the subject of the sanctuary**, which is brought out in the visions of Daniel and John." **Ev 223-224.**

The scenes connected with the sanctuary above should make such an impression upon the minds and hearts of all that they may be able to impress others. **All need to become more intelligent in regard to the work of the atonement, which is going on in the sanctuary above.** When this grand truth is seen and understood, those who hold it will work in harmony with Christ to prepare a people to stand in the great day of God, and their efforts will be successful. By study, contemplation, and prayer God's people will be elevated above common, earthly thoughts and feelings, and will be brought into harmony with Christ and His great work of cleansing the sanctuary above from the sins of the people. **Their faith will go with Him into the sanctuary, and the worshipers on earth will be carefully reviewing their lives and comparing their characters with the great standard of righteousness. They will see their own defects;** they will also see that they must have the aid of the Spirit of God if they would become qualified for the great and solemn work for this time which is laid upon God's ambassadors. **5T 575**