

The Church of the Final Atonement III

SYNOPSIS: Laodicea's needs to receive the benefits of the final atonement in order to fulfill her commission to finish the gospel work in the world before Jesus comes

God's Original Plan for Israel

1. **Gen 12:1-3**--God intended that Abraham and his descendants should be a blessing to the nations around them; that through them a knowledge of God's salvation should be abundantly spread
2. **Rom 3:1-2; Rom 9:1-5; John 4:22**—The Jewish nation granted many blessings and privileges so they can fulfill God's commission as God's ambassadors to the Gentile world;
3. **Isa 60:1-5; Isa 61:5-6; Isa 62:2**--God's program of the conversion of the Gentiles through Israel prophesied all throughout the Old Testament
4. Before the prophesied large scale conversion of the Gentiles in **Isaiah 60-62** can be fulfilled, a work of repentance needed to be done as outlined in **Isaiah 59**:
 - a. **Isaiah 59** is divided into 3 sections:
 - i. **SECTION 1 (Isa 59:1-8)**—Accusations leveled by God against His people Israel (2rd person pronoun "you", "your" and 3rd-person pronoun "they", "their" used to address Israel)
 1. **Verse 2**—**your** iniquities have separated between **you** and **your** God and **your** sins have hid His face from **you**
 2. **Verse 3**—**your** hands are defiled with blood and **your** fingers with iniquity; **your** lips have spoken lies and **your** tongue hath uttered perverseness
 3. **Verse 4**—none calleth for justice nor any pleadeth for truth
 4. **Verse 7**—**their** feet run to evil and **they** make haste to shed innocent blood; **their** thoughts are thoughts of iniquity
 5. **Verse 8**—the way of peace **they** have not known; there is no judgment in **their** goings. . .
 - ii. **SECTION 2 (Isa 59:9-15)**—Israel acknowledges her sins and repents (first person pronoun "us", "we", "our"); very similar to Daniel's acknowledgment of his sins and that of the people in **Daniel 9**
 1. **Verse 9**—therefore judgment is far from **us** neither doth justice overtake **us**; **we** behold obscurity instead of light; **we** walk in darkness
 2. **Verse 10**--**we** grope for the walls like the blind; **we** grope as if we had no eyes; we stumble at noonday as in the night
 3. **Verse 11**—**we** roar like bears and mourn sore like doves; **we** look for judgment but there is none
 4. **Verse 12**—**our** transgressions are multiplied before thee and **our** sins testify against **us** for **our** transgressions are with **us**; and as for **our** iniquities, **we** known them

5. **Verse 13**—in transgressing and lying against the Lord and departing from **our** God;
- iii. **SECTION 3 (Isa 59:16-21)**—What the Lord would do for Israel if they fulfill the conditions of faith and repentance as outlined in the previous section;
 1. **Verse 16-19**--The Lord would come to deliver them from their enemies;
 - a. "When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him"
 2. **Verse 20**—the Redeemer will come and turn them from their sins (a work of forgiveness and cleansing implied)
 3. **Verse 21**—The Lord's Spirit would be poured out on the nation and they would be empowered to speak the word of God and fulfill the commission to rise and

5. Hence, **Isaiah 59** explains what God would do **FOR** Israel (if they acknowledge their guilt and repent) and **Isaiah 60** explains what God would do **THROUGH** them
6. This was never fulfilled in the history of the Jewish nation because of national unbelief, continual backsliding and impenitence:

Principles of Successful Evangelism

7. The history of the early Christian church (as recorded in the book of Acts) demonstrates that when this great work of deep repentance and reformation is done by the church individually and collectively, God does wonderful things for them and through them:
 - a. **Acts 1:13-14**—upper room experience in preparation for the outpouring of the gift of the Holy Ghost
 - b. **Acts 2:41, 46-47**—the Lord added many to the church;
 - c. **Acts 6:7**—number of disciples multiplied greatly and a great company of priests were obedient to the faith
8. **Three Important principles of evangelism to learn at this point:**

PRINCIPLE 1: It is the Lord, not the pastors, not church members, who leads or brings people into the truth;

- i. Story of Philip being asked to join himself to the eunuch
- ii. The story of Peter being told to go to Cornelius

PRINCIPLE #2: The Lord works to bring many souls into the church only if the members acknowledge their sinfulness, reform and become converted:

9. **Isaiah 59-60** received only a partial fulfillment in the history of the early church; at least at its beginning; will have a final and full application in the Loud Cry movement described in Revelation 18;

The Laodicean Gridlock

10. The Seventh-day Adventist church now stands in the place where Israel of old used to be; the things that used to belong to the Jewish nation have been graciously restored to Adventism;
 - a. Knowledge of truth for these last days
 - b. The sanctuary service
 - c. The prophetic gift

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- d. The covenant promise to be fulfilled in the experiences of the final generation ("I will write my Laws in their and in their minds and their sins and iniquities I will remember no more. . .")

11. Every privilege and every blessing conferred to the Jews have been restored to the Seventh-day Adventist church; and what God originally designed for Israel is to be finally be fulfilled in Seventh-day Adventist denomination.

12. Unfortunately, the church today is repeating the same mistakes the Jews made and is in need of a work of repentance just like the Israel of old

- a. The Church in a Laodicean condition

The church is in the Laodicean state. The presence of God is not in her midst.--1NL 99 (1898). {LDE 49.1}

- b. The church in a backslidden condition;
- c. Disbelief in the Spirit of Prophecy rampant as in the time of the Jews (**Dan 9:6**)

I am filled with sadness when I think of our condition as a people. The Lord has not closed heaven to us, but our own course of **continual backsliding** has separated us from God. Pride, covetousness, and love of the world have lived in the heart without fear of banishment or condemnation. Grievous and presumptuous sins have dwelt among us. And yet the general opinion is that the church is flourishing and that peace and spiritual prosperity are in all her borders.

The church has turned back from following Christ her Leader and is steadily retreating toward Egypt. Yet few are alarmed or astonished at their want of spiritual power. **Doubt, and even disbelief of the testimonies of the Spirit of God, is leavening our churches everywhere.** Satan would have it thus. Ministers who preach self instead of Christ would have it thus. The testimonies are unread and unappreciated. God has spoken to you. **Light has been shining from His word and from the testimonies, and both have been slighted and disregarded. The result is apparent in the lack of purity and devotion and earnest faith among us.** 5T 217 (1882)

13. God does not now bring many converts into the church because of

The subject of health reform has been presented in the churches; but the light has not been heartily received. The selfish, health-destroying indulgences of men and women have counteracted the influence of the message that is to prepare a people for the great day of God. If the churches expect strength, they must live the truth which God has given them. If the members of our churches disregard the light on this subject, they will reap the sure result in both spiritual and physical degeneracy. And the influence of these older church members will leaven those newly come to the faith. **The Lord does not now work to bring many souls into the truth, because of the church members who have never been converted and those who were once converted but who have backslidden. What influence would these unconsecrated members have on new converts? Would they not make of no effect the God-given message which His people are to bear?** 6T 370.

PRINCIPLE # 3: The Gentiles will be converted when they see that God's power is working with His people.

14. **2 Cor 3:2; Zech 8:20-23; Gen 39:1-4**—When the Gentiles see that God is working for His people, they will join them in serving God
- a. **Isa 60:2**--His glory **shall be seen** upon thee

God rebukes His people for their sins, that He may humble them, and lead them to seek His face. As they reform, and His love revives in their hearts, His loving answers will come to their requests. He will strengthen them in reformatory action, lifting up for them a standard against the enemy. His rich blessing will rest upon them, and in bright rays they will reflect the light of heaven. **Then a multitude not of their faith, seeing that God is with His people, will unite with them in serving the Redeemer.** – RH February 25, 1902 Paragraph 16.

Laodicea's Final Victory

15. **Rom 9:1-3**—Our attitude should be that of Paul towards the evils happening in our ourselves and also in the church; this is parallel to the sighing and crying in **Ezekiel 9** prior to the sealing of God's people

In the time when His wrath shall go forth in judgments, these humble, devoted followers of Christ will be distinguished from the rest of the world by their soul anguish, which is expressed in lamentation and weeping, reproofs and warnings. While others try to throw a cloak over the existing evil, and excuse the great wickedness everywhere prevalent, those who have a zeal for God's honor and a love for souls will not hold their peace to obtain favor of any. Their righteous souls are vexed day by day with the unholy works and conversation of the unrighteous. They are powerless to stop the rushing torrent of iniquity, and hence they are filled with grief and alarm. They mourn before God to see religion despised in the very homes of those who have had great light. They lament and afflict their souls because pride, avarice, selfishness, and deception of almost every kind are in the church. The Spirit of God, which prompts to reproof, is trampled underfoot, while the servants of Satan triumph. God is dishonored, the truth made of none effect.

The class who do not feel grieved over their own spiritual declension, nor mourn over the sins of others, will be left without the seal of God. **5T 210-211.**

16. **Rev 14:1-5**--This is the experience Laodicea desperately needs to go through before she can receive the benefits of Christ's final atonement in the heavenly sanctuary and be fitted to finish the closing work of the gospel before Jesus comes.
- a. The 3 angels messages will be given in a loud voice only after Laodicea is fully cleansed of sin and endowed with Latter Rain power;
17. **Rev 18:1-2**--The final proclamation of the 3 angels' messages in a loud voice is the final fulfillment of **Isaiah 60:1-5**