

22 MY DEFENSE BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT



In one of Jesus' parables, we are told the story of a king who gave a wedding party for his son. Matthew 22:1-14.

- The wedding invitation is the gospel.
- The first invitation was given to the people of Israel from the time of Christ's baptism until His death.
- The second invitation was also given to the Jews after Christ's death, for three and a half years more, up to Stephen's death.
- The third invitation, once the Jews rejected God's invitation, was addressed to the Gentiles.
- Where did these guests, who were invited from the streets and roadsides, get their wedding garments?

In ancient times, it was customary in the East for the king to provide proper garments at wedding celebrations to each guest upon entering the banquet. This garment is the symbol of Jesus' righteousness. He covers our filthy works of the past and declares us righteous. The person who is not wearing the wedding garment will stand before a judgment. If we do not wear the garment of Christ's righteousness, if we do not accept Him as our Savior and Lord and do not do His will, we are condemned and cast out of God's presence.

THE INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT

1. What will God take into account in the judgment? Ecclesiastes 12:14; 2 Corinthians 5:10.

- a) When Jesus Christ comes to raise the righteous dead to life and take them with Him, the decision on who will be saved and who will be lost will already have been made. An investigative judgment will already have taken place. When will this judgment be? When will the King come to see if everyone is wearing the wedding garment? There is a precise day. Acts 17:31.

2. Daniel saw the investigative judgment in vision. Who takes part in it? Daniel 7:9, 10, 13, 14.

- The judge is _____.
- We are the accused.
- The witnesses are the angels. How many angels are there? (verse 10) _____
- The proof is what is written in the books (Rev. 20:12).
- The accuser is the devil (Rev. 12:10).
- The law by which we are judged is _____ of God (James 2:12).
- Our defense attorney is _____ (verse 13; 1 John 2:1).

3. Our sins are registered in the sanctuary of God. An investigative judgment and a work of cleansing are necessary. When would this begin, according to the prophecy of Daniel 8:14?

- a) The _____ days or years ended in 1844, which is when the investigative judgment began.
- b) It is the beginning of the time of the end and the restoration of the truth that was trampled underfoot by the antichrist. These solemn truths began to be preached.
- c) It was also the beginning of the seventh and final church period-Laodicea. It was the beginning of the investigative judgment in heaven-the cleansing of the sanctuary to determine who will be saved and who will be lost before the coming of Jesus. To clearly understand what "cleansing of the sanctuary" means, we have to look into the Old Testament and study the antitype.

THE CLEANSING OF THE EARTHLY SANCTUARY

4. What did God command Israel to do? Exodus 25:8. _____

5. What had to be shed so man could be forgiven? Hebrews 9:22, 12. _____

God said to Adam and Eve, "Ye shall not eat of it... lest ye die." Man sinned and was condemned to death, but Christ offered to die in man's place. Until the moment came, an animal was sacrificed, representing Christ's sacrifice (Hebrews 9:9).

6. In the sanctuary built in the wilderness there were two compartments separated by a veil, the Holy Place and the Most Holy. How often did the priests enter the Holy Place, and for what purpose? Hebrews 9:6. _____

In Leviticus 4 we read about different kinds of sin: • If a person sinned, he was required to present an animal without blemish, place his hands on the animal's head, thus transferring his sins to the animal, and then kill it. Then, the priest took the blood, sprinkled it on the horns of the altar, and poured the rest at the foot of the altar. • If a priest or the congregation of Israel sinned, he had to take some of the blood from the sacrifice, then enter the Holy Place and sprinkle blood on the veil. In this way, he transferred the sin to the sanctuary.

7. Who was the only one who entered the Most Holy Place, and how often? Hebrews 9:7.

The _____ entered the Most Holy Place once a _____.

On the Day of Atonement, the sanctuary was cleansed. First, the high priest sacrificed a bull for himself and his family. Then, he took two goats and cast a lot over them, one symbolizing the Lord, and the other, the scapegoat or Satan. The one that represented Jesus was sacrificed. The high priest took the blood and entered the Most Holy in a cloud of incense; there he sprinkled the mercy seat, the Ark of the Covenant, which represents the throne of God, seven times with his finger. In the most Holy Place was the light of the SHEKINAH or divine presence. The law that was transgressed required the death of the sinner and that law was beneath the mercy seat. When the priest sprinkled the blood, mercy was granted to the transgressor. Thus, the veil was cleansed just by the presence of God in that place and the people were forgiven (Leviticus 16:16). Then they brought the goat, and the high priest placed his hands on its head and confessed all the sins of Israel and then the animal was led into the wilderness.

THE HEAVENLY SANCTUARY

8. Where is the real sanctuary? Hebrews 8:1, 2. _____

9. Who is the High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary? Hebrews 9:24. _____

The temple of God was open in heaven (Rev. 11:19) and Christ was seen wearing the garments of a priest (Rev. 1:12-15), and walking among the candlesticks. He presents Himself, in the form of an angel, as ministering before the altar, holding a gold censer and receiving the prayers of the saints (Rev. 8:3, 4).

10. Whose blood did He offer? Hebrews 9:11, 12. _____

- In Revelation, "a Lamb as it had been slain" is mentioned (Revelation 5:6; 13:8).
- He cleanses our conscience from dead works, that is, from sin (Hebrews 9:14).

11. When would the heavenly sanctuary be cleansed? Daniel 8:14.

- a) In 1844, when the investigative judgment begins. b) It must be purified with a better sacrifice (Hebrews 9:23, 24). c) He took our sins on Himself, as the prophecy states (Isaiah 53).

CONCLUSION

12. What will Jesus exclaim when he ceases to intercede for us and the investigative judgment comes to an end? Revelation 22:11. _____

When He casts the golden censer on the earth (Rev. 8:5), there will no longer be a mediator for man.

13. Our words, works and motives will all be judged. Is there a second opportunity for those who do not repent today? Jeremiah 2:22. _____

Perhaps, at this very moment your fate is being decided. The standard in the judgment will be the law of God, which we can obey only through the power of Christ's righteousness in us. Jesus is eager to justify us, to declare us innocent through His merits. There is only one way: to surrender ourselves to Him. Will you take Him today as your advocate and give Him your heart?

My decision: *I believe the investigative judgment began in 1844 and that Christ went into the Most Holy in the heavenly sanctuary.* Yes No