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MESSIAH AND HIS SANCTUARY

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Cleansing of the Heavenly Sanctuary.**

When Azazel was removed from the camp of Israel, what was the condition of the sanctuary and of the people of Israel? Lev. 16:30, 33.

The condition of the sanctuary and the character of the people are thus described by the Scripture "He shall make an atonement for the holy sanctuary, and he shall make an atonement for the tabernacle of the congregation, and for the altar, and he shall make an atonement for the priests, and for all the people of the congregation." "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."-Lev. 16:33, 30,

Nothing could be clearer than that the sanctuary and all the congregation of the people of Israel, including the priests, were cleansed during the time that the high priest ministered in the most holy place of the sanctuary on the day of atonement.

What would be the fate of those who did not conform to the commands of God upon the Day of Atonement? Lev. 23:28-30.

For those who did not accept the provision of God's mercy on this "Sabbath of Sabbaths," on this tenth day of the seventh month, on this Day of Atonement, there was no further probation. Mercy was no longer extended to them. They had had their day of opportunity, and when they failed to improve the final hour of mercy, they were cut off from among their people.

So when the Day of Atonement was finished, the congregation of Israel were cleansed, the sanctuary was cleansed, and the sins were carried away, in type, by Azazel into an uninhabited place in the wilderness. The obedient were sealed; the disobedient were cut off from the congregation of the Lord.

When the Saviour shall complete His work in the heavenly sanctuary, what will become of the original Azazel? Isa. 14:5-17, 19, 20; Rev. 20:1, 2.

When our heavenly High Priest completes His work for sinners in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, at the close of the antitypical Day of Atonement, the record of every individual whose sins have gone before him to judgment will have been investigated, and all sin will have been blotted out. 1 Tim. 5:24.

The people of God have accepted the final proffers of mercy; and in every land and among all peoples the obedient have been accepted and have been sealed. The disobedient and unregenerate have stilled the appeals of mercy. Our Lord will soon leave the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, with the sins of those who have confessed and whose sins have been blotted out. These pardoned transgressions of the people of God are now placed upon the head of the original Azazel-Satan, the devil. Ancient peoples have believed that Azazel, the scapegoat, represents the devil. Doctor Gesenius, in his Hebrew Lexicon, on the word "Azazel", says: "The name Azazel is also used by the Arabs for an evil demon."

No longer will there be a record of sin remaining in the books of heaven against those who have accepted the merits of a Savior's blood. The names of God's loyal, faithful people will be retained in the Lamb's book of life. Dan. 12:1; Luke 10:20; Rev.21:27. They are God's precious chosen ones. Mal. 3:16, 17. The sanctuary in heaven will have been cleansed. Dan. 8:14. Intercession for man will be at an end. The dead line will have been reached.

The church of God will have been sanctified, made clean. 1 Thess. 5:23. Upon Satan, the originator of sin will be rolled the sins which he caused the children of God to commit while they in their heart loved and followed their Lord.

The unrepentant, with the professed followers of the Master whose record did not stand the heavenly investigation, will be cut off from the congregation of God's people. Then Satan will be bound, and will never again be permitted to tempt the children of the Lord.

"Jesus tarried a moment in the outer apartment of the heavenly sanctuary, and the sins which had been confessed while He was in the most holy place, were placed upon Satan, the originator of sin, who must suffer their punishment."-"Early Writings,"280,281.

To what place will Satan be consigned? Rev. 20:2, 3, 7; Isa. 24:19-22.

Satan, bearing the sins of the righteous which have been placed upon him, will be a prisoner on this earth as it is returned to its original chaotic state at the coming of the Lord. Jer.4:23-26. For one thousand years this earth, which has been Satan's prison house for those whom he has taken captive during the reign of sin, will become the devil's jail, from which he has no means of escape.

Bound by a chain of circumstances stronger than links forged by the most powerful brawn of man or of demons, Satan will be cast out into the wilderness of this dark and disarranged earth, which will revert to the condition in which it was at creation, before the Lord made it beautiful and glorious. For a thousand years the originator of sin and sorrow will have opportunity to meditate upon his work of destruction and desolation.

He will have ample time to consider the results of his disobedience to the commands of God. The advantages which he promised men if they would only follow him and disobey their Maker, are nowhere to be seen. The terrors of desolation and death face him in their enormity.

Satan will observe the ruin caused by his career, as he considers his lot and the lot of those who enlisted under his banner. An outcast, an exile, abandoned, forsaken by God and by man, Satan for an entire millennium will reap the fruit of his sinful course, and of the "good time" he promised to his followers

What has become of the records of those who have lived righteous lives? Jer. 31:33, 34; 50:20 .

The righteous will enjoy to the full the promise of the new covenant: "They shall all know Me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."-Jer. 31:34.

"I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins."- Isa 44:22.

"I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for Mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins."- Isa. 43:25.

"Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea."- Micah 7:19.

In that day the sins of Israel cannot be found. Should any want to uncover or remember them, they cannot be found, for they will have been blotted out. The church of our Lord will have been made ready and prepared to meet her Lord.

