

The Cross and Its Shadow

The Bible Training School, 1914.



Duty of the Congregation on the Day of Atonement God expected His ancient people to serve Him faithfully every day in the year, and He accepted their services; but when the Day of Atonement came, there were special requirements enjoined upon them during that day, which, if they failed to observe, they were cut off from the people of Israel.

God has accepted the service of His people down through the ages; but when the antitypical Day of Atonement arrived, and the investigative judgment opened in the heavenly sanctuary, God expects the antitypical congregation on earth to fulfill their part of the antitype just as faithfully as Christ, our High Priest, fulfills His part in the heavens.

Anciently the congregation was not accepted as a whole; but it was an individual work (Lev. 23: 29, 30). So today each one answers for himself before God. We must not content ourselves by doing just as our fathers did, who passed away before the judgment opened in the courts of heaven. God requires special service of His people now.

They are to live while their cases are being decided in heaven, and Satan brings to bear upon the last generation, which are weaker physically than any previous generation, all the wisdom he has gained in . a six thousand year's warfare . Those who, in the investigative judgment, are accounted worthy will live for a time without a Mediator. Their experience will be different from that of any other company that has ever lived upon the earth.

There are many reasons why God in His infinite mercy has enjoined special duties upon the last generation that they might be more strongly fortified against the attacks of the enemy, and not be overthrown by his devices.

In the ancient service, if an individual failed to keep the Day of Atonement as God directed, his sins were not confessed over the scapegoat by the high priest ; but he was cut off from among the people of God (Lev.23:28-30). The individual who, during the antitypical Day of Atonement, or the investigative judgment, thinks that Christ will plead his case while he himself ignores the work God has enjoined upon the antitypical congregation, will find at last that his name is blotted out from the book of life . We are saved by faith in our High Priest, but faith without works is dead (James 2:17). If we have a living faith, we shall gladly do as the Lord directs.

