

DN-18

The Cleansing of the Sanctuary

Only One man has ever listened correctly, “the Man Christ Jesus”, “Who desires all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.” {Isa 50:4, 1 Tim 2:5. 4}.

“The coming of Christ as our high priest to the most holy place, for the cleansing of the sanctuary... is also represented by the coming of the bridegroom to the marriage, described by Christ in the parable of the ten virgins, of Matthew 25.” {GC 426.1}

Likened Unto A Marriage (Matt 25; SS 3:11)

In prophetic symbolism, the “marriage” represents the Investigative judgment, not the second coming of Jesus. A marriage is a legal contract, controlled by the laws of the state—as well as a ceremony. It is the legal aspect of marriage which represents the legal aspects of the Investigative judgment (cleansing of the sanctuary) in heaven’s courtroom.* {Dan 7:9,10}

Why should the Investigative Judgment be likened to a marriage? When a marriage is performed, the officiating minister asks the bridegroom this question: “Do you take this woman to be your lawful wedded wife?” The bridegroom replies, “I do.” Likewise, in the Investigative Judgment, the books are opened (Dan 7:10,13; Luke 10:20; Rev 3:5) and as each name is brought up before Christ, the heavenly Father,—the officiating minister—asks the question: “Do you take this individual to be a lawful member of your kingdom?” Then Christ, the Bridegroom, replies, “I do.”

The First Angel’s Message—An Invitation to the Marriage

The everlasting gospel which forms the basis of the first angel’s message is the good news of the everlasting covenant. {Rev 14:6,7; Eze 37:26,27}. An integral part of this covenant is judgment. Since the “hour of God’s Judgment” came in October 1844, the summer before, the people were warned to prepare for His coming.

“The proclamation, ‘Behold, the Bridegroom cometh,’ in the summer of 1844, led thousands to expect the immediate advent of the Lord. At the appointed time the Bridegroom came, not to the earth, as the people expected, but to the Ancient of Days in heaven, to the marriage, the reception of His kingdom.” {GC 427.1}

As a marriage is a legal ceremony, likewise the Investigative Judgment is performed in heaven’s (courtroom) sanctuary, before the witnesses of angels who have kept the records and before all inhabitants of the universe. Beginning with Abel each individual who has confessed to worship the true God, is considered a candidate for Christ’s kingdom. As each name is considered and accepted, the kingdom is made up.

* It is important to understand that the great controversy between Christ and Satan is a legal prosecution and defense court case! All aspects of the sin problem are handled according to **due process of law** and the rules of the court! The words and actions of individuals are recorded in heaven’s books to be reviewed under judicial process in the Investigative Judgment. The very process is specified by the timeline of Daniel 8:14 and began on a specific date, October 22, 1844.