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Pastor Andrew Henriques

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THE GREAT CONTROVERSY, PT. 23: WHAT IS THE SANCTUARY?
WHITE HOUSE BIBLE STUDIES SPUR AWAKENING. SOCIAL
MEDIA, POPE, GREAT HOPE KILL PROTESTANTISM. ROAD 2 CASHLESS

1. What is the title of chapter 23 of *The Great Controversy*?

2. Note: The Bible reveals two primary sanctuaries: The first was built by Moses on the earth, as a copy of the heavenly sanctuary. See Exodus 25:8,9,40. The second sanctuary is the "true tabernacle", the original, built by God in heaven. See Hebrews 8:1,2.

3. Note: At the death of Jesus Christ, the earthly sanctuary was no longer honored by God. See Matthew 27:50,51. Additionally in A.D. 70, the earthly temple was completely destroyed by the Romans. The earthly sanctuary then ceased.

4. Note: The Old Covenant was connected to the earthly sanctuary, which ended at the death of Jesus. We are now living under the New Covenant, which is connected to the heavenly sanctuary. See Hebrews 8:13; Hebrews 9:1-5; Hebrews 8:1,2.

5. Let us read the following.

The question, What is the sanctuary? is clearly answered in the Scriptures. The term "sanctuary," as used in the Bible, refers, first, to the tabernacle built by Moses, as a pattern of heavenly things; and, secondly, to the "true tabernacle" in heaven, to which the earthly sanctuary pointed. At the death of Christ the typical service ended. The "true tabernacle" in heaven is the sanctuary of the new covenant. And as the prophecy of Daniel 8:14 is fulfilled in this dispensation, the sanctuary to which it refers must be the sanctuary of the new covenant. At the termination of the 2300 days, in 1844, there had been no sanctuary on earth for many centuries. Thus the prophecy, "Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed," unquestionably points to the sanctuary in heaven. {GC 417.1}

6. What is the foundation and central pillar of the Advent movement? Bear in mind that the Advent movement has not yet ended. It will end when the second coming of Jesus takes place?

The scripture which above all others had been both the foundation and the central pillar of the advent faith was the declaration: "Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed." Daniel 8:14. These had been familiar words to all believers in the Lord's soon coming. By the lips of thousands was this prophecy repeated as the watchword of their faith. All felt that upon the events therein foretold depended their brightest expectations and most cherished hopes. These prophetic days had been shown to terminate in the autumn of 1844. In common with the rest of the Christian world, Adventists then held that the earth, or some portion of it, was the sanctuary. They understood that the cleansing of the sanctuary was the purification of the earth by the fires of the last great day, and that this would take place at the second advent. Hence the conclusion that Christ would return to the earth in 1844. {GC 409.1}

7. When did the 2300 prophetic days begin and end?

To accept this conclusion was to renounce the former reckoning of the prophetic periods. The 2300 days had been found to begin when the commandment of Artaxerxes for the restoration and building of Jerusalem went into effect, in the autumn of 457 B.C. Taking this as the starting point, there was perfect harmony in the application of all the events foretold in the explanation of that period in Daniel 9:25-27. Sixty-nine weeks, the first 483 of the 2300 years, were to reach to the Messiah, the Anointed One; and Christ's baptism and anointing by the Holy Spirit, A.D. 27, exactly fulfilled the specification. In the midst of the seventieth week, Messiah was to be cut off. Three and a half years after His baptism, Christ was crucified, in the spring of A.D. 31. The seventy weeks, or 490 years, were to pertain especially to the Jews. At the expiration of this period the nation sealed its rejection of Christ by the persecution of His disciples, and the apostles turned to the Gentiles, A.D. 34. The first 490 years of the 2300 having then ended, 1810 years would remain. From A.D. 34, 1810 years extend to 1844. "Then," said the angel, "shall the sanctuary be cleansed." All the preceding specifications of the prophecy had been unquestionably fulfilled at the time appointed. {GC 410.1}

8. When Jesus did not return to the earth as the Adventist expected on October 22, 1844, what did they examine closely as they did not see any error in their reckoning of the prophetic periods?

Though many abandoned their former reckoning of the prophetic periods and denied the correctness of the movement based thereon, others were unwilling to renounce points of faith and experience that were sustained by the Scriptures and by the witness of the Spirit of God. They believed that they had adopted sound principles of interpretation in their study of the prophecies, and that it was their duty to hold fast the truths already gained, and to continue the same course of Biblical research. **With earnest prayer they reviewed their position and studied the Scriptures to discover their mistake. As they could see no error in their reckoning of the prophetic periods, they were led to examine more closely the subject of the sanctuary.** {GC 410.3}

9. Note: The Bible reveals that similar to the earthly sanctuary, the heavenly sanctuary has two apartments. See Hebrews 9:1-5; Revelation 4:5; Revelation 8:3; Revelation 11:19

Thus those who were studying the subject found indisputable proof of the existence of a sanctuary in heaven. **Moses** made the earthly sanctuary after a pattern which was shown him. **Paul** teaches that that pattern was the true sanctuary which is in heaven. And **John** testifies that he saw it in heaven. {GC 415.1}

10. What did the few faithful Adventists understand after October 22, 1844, regarding the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary of Daniel 8:14? Hebrews 9:22,23

11. Note: The faithful Adventists, shortly after October 22, 1844, understood that there was a daily ministration in the sanctuary regarding the sinner, the sin offering, the blood, the priest, and the holy place. See Leviticus 4:1-35 and Leviticus 17:11. The Great Controversy, page 418, paragraphs one and two.

12. Note: The few faithful Adventists, shortly after October 22, 1844, also understood that there was a yearly ministration done in the sanctuary on the Day of Atonement. See Leviticus 16:8-22 and The Great Controversy, page 419, paragraphs one and two.

13. Note: The few faithful Adventists, shortly after October 22, 1844, also understood that at Jesus' ascension after His resurrection, He entered the holy place of the heavenly sanctuary. See Hebrews 9:11,12. Then on October 22, 1844, the ending of the 2300 prophetic days of Daniel 8:14, the faithful Adventists understood that Jesus entered the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary to begin the work of the cleansing the sanctuary. See Hebrews 9:24.

14. Note: During the service of the earthly sanctuary, on the Day of Atonement, before the sanctuary could be cleansed of surrendered sins, there had to be a work of investigation of the people. See Leviticus 23:27-29; Revelation 22:11,12

As anciently the sins of the people were by faith placed upon the sin offering and through its blood transferred, in figure, to the earthly sanctuary, so in the new covenant the sins of the repentant are by faith placed upon Christ and transferred, in fact, to the heavenly sanctuary. And as the typical cleansing of the earthly was accomplished by the removal of the sins by which it had been polluted, so the actual cleansing of the heavenly is to be accomplished by the removal, or blotting out, of the sins which are there recorded. But before this can be accomplished, there must be an examination of the books of record to determine who, through repentance of sin and faith in Christ, are entitled to the benefits of His atonement. The cleansing of the sanctuary therefore involves a work of investigation--a work of judgment. This work must be performed prior to the coming of Christ to redeem His people; for when He comes, His reward is with Him to give to every man according to his works. Revelation 22:12. {GC 421.3}

15. Where were the surrendered sins of the Hebrews placed after the ministration was finished on the Day of Atonement? Leviticus 16:8-10,20-23. What did that segment of the service typify?

It was seen, also, that while the sin offering pointed to Christ as a sacrifice, and the high priest represented Christ as a mediator, the scapegoat typified Satan, the author of sin, upon whom the sins of the truly penitent will finally be placed. When the high priest, by virtue of the blood of the sin offering, removed the sins from the sanctuary, he placed them upon the scapegoat. When Christ, by virtue of His own blood, removes the sins of His people from the heavenly sanctuary at the close of His ministration, He will place them upon Satan, who, in the execution of the judgment, must bear the final penalty. The scapegoat was sent away into a land not inhabited, never to come again into the congregation of Israel. So will Satan be forever banished from the presence of God and His people, and he will be blotted from existence in the final destruction of sin and sinners. {GC 422.2}

16. Note: We may know for certainty that the investigative judgment, the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary, is about to close by looking at the nearness of the events brought to view in Revelation 14:9-12 and Revelation 16:1,2.

17. **It will be declared that men are offending God by the violation of the Sunday sabbath; that this sin has brought calamities which will not cease until Sunday observance shall be strictly enforced;** and that those who present the claims of the fourth commandment, **thus destroying reverence for Sunday, are troublers of the people, preventing their restoration to divine favor and temporal prosperity.** Thus the accusation urged of old against the servant of God will be repeated and upon grounds equally well established: "And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel? And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim." 1 Kings 18:17, 18. As the wrath of the people shall be excited by false charges, they will pursue a course toward God's ambassadors very similar to that which apostate Israel pursued toward Elijah. {GC 590.1}

18. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:3.

19. Fed's Yellen expects no new financial crisis in 'our lifetimes'...U.S. Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said on Tuesday that she does not believe that there will be another financial crisis for at least as long as she lives, thanks largely to reforms of the banking system since the 2007-09 crash. "Would I say there will never, ever be another financial crisis?" Yellen said at a question-and-answer event in London. "You know probably that would be going too far but I do think we're much safer and I hope that it will not be in our lifetimes and I don't believe it will be," she said. <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-fed-yellen-idUSKBN19I2I5>

20. Going Cashless? Bad for Tax Cheats, Privacy, Poor. "In a digital-only economy, governments and banks could take control of your financial life; with a flick of a switch, they could leave you without a penny...That could create a second-class citizenry of people who don't have equal access to banking services." <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-07-17/going-cashless-bad-for-tax-cheats-privacy-poor-quicktake-q-a>

21. Visa offers \$500K for eateries to stop accepting cash. Visa is challenging small restaurants, cafés and food trucks to stop accepting cash. The credit card company announced in a news release this week it is offering \$500,000 to 50 eligible U.S.-based eateries to go 100 percent cashless....But Visa said it recently conducted a study it said showed that if businesses in 100 cities transitioned from cash to digital, their cities could see net annual benefits of \$312 billion. "In New York City alone, businesses could generate an additional \$6.8 billion in revenue and save more than 186 million hours in labor, by making greater use of digital payments," Visa said in a release. "This amounts to more than \$5 billion annual costs savings for businesses in New York." https://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2017/07/15/Visa-offers-500K-for-eateries-to-stop-accepting-cash/2291500133004/

22. Say goodbye to your PIN number and prepare to scan your fingerprints, heartbeat or VOICE, Visa tells consumers... Credit card giant wants to help consumers withdraw cash and make payments using 'biometric' scanning machines <https://www.thesun.co.uk/tech/4058288/youll-soon-pay-for-shopping-by-scanning-your-thumbprint-voice-or-heartbeat-instead-of-typing-out-pin-numbers-visa-says/>
23. Chipping Employees: Wisconsin Company Is First in US to Give it a Go **"Eventually, this technology will become standardized allowing you to use this as your passport, public transit, all purchasing opportunities, etc."** Westby predicts in a blog post. **"We see this as another payment and identification option that not only can be used in our markets but our other self-checkout and self-service applications that we are now deploying, which include convenience stores and fitness centers,"** said another company executive. **The company says the chips will not include GPS so it will not be tracking employees. Many Christians express concerns about microchip implants because they see the idea as a prelude to "the mark of the Beast" as described in the book of Revelation. When Apple Pay technology came out a few years ago, consumer privacy expert and bestselling author Dr. Katherine Albrecht told CBN News, "We're kind of moving closer and closer to that 'right hand' and closer and closer to the fulfillment of biblical prophecy about the mark of the Beast."** <http://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2017/july/chipping-employees-wisconsin-company-is-first-in-us-to-give-it-a-go>
24. Wisconsin company holds 'chip party' to microchip workers <http://www.chicagotribune.com/bluesky/technology/ct-wisconsin-company-microchips-workers-20170801-story.html>
25. When the leading churches of the United States, uniting upon such points of doctrine as are held by them in common, shall influence the state to enforce their decrees and to sustain their institutions, then Protestant America will have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy, and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitably result. {GC 445.1}
26. Bible Studies at the White House: Who's Inside This Spiritual Awakening?... **A spiritual awakening is underway at the White House.** Some of the most powerful people in America have been gathering weekly to learn more about God's Word, and this Trump Cabinet Bible study is making history. **They've been called the most evangelical Cabinet in history** – men and women who don't mince words when it comes to where they stand on God and the Bible. <http://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/politics/2017/july/bible-studies-at-the-white-house-whos-at-the-heart-of-this-spiritual-awakening>
27. Arizona lawmaker wants church attendance to be mandatory ... "I believe what's happening to our country is that there's a moral erosion of the soul of America," she said. "It's the soul that is corrupt. How we get back to a moral rebirth I don't know. Since we are slowly eroding religion at every opportunity that we have. **Probably we should be debating a bill requiring every American to attend a church of their choice on Sunday to see if we can get back to having a moral rebirth...**"
28. **Report: Trump Cabinet members attend weekly Bible study...Ralph Drollinger**, the founder of Capitol Ministries, told CBN that he leads weekly Bible study sessions with with key Trump administration officials - including Vice President Mike Pence, Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Education Secretary Betsy DeVos. **Drollinger said when he founded Capitol Ministries, the goal was to change the hearts of lawmakers that would in turn lead them to make better policy decisions. Trump himself has even been invited to attend the studies as well and gets a copy of Drollinger's teaching each week.** <https://www.aol.com/article/news/2017/08/03/report-trump-cabinet-members-attend-weekly-bible-study/23063249/>
29. The Fundamentalist Christian Chokehold On America... **Until the 1970s, religious fundamentalists primarily stayed away from politics, believing politics distracted them from their calling to bring people to Christ and deliver the message of salvation.** But through the charismatic leadership of people like Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, and James Dobson, and savvy political strategists like Paul Weyrich, **Christian fundamentalist extremism found a new platform in American politics, unlike any time in history...** It is a form of Christian Sharia law, which forces those who believe differently into strict adherence to their version of "religious freedom." Fundamentalist Christian "religious freedom" laws allow for sweeping discrimination and removal of federal protections for people who believe differently. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/the-fundamentalist-christian-chokehold-on-america_us_598109dae4b02be325be0206
30. YouTube Now Targeting Videos for 'Controversial Religious' Content... We'll soon be applying tougher treatment to videos that aren't illegal but have been flagged by users as potential violations of our policies on hate speech and violent extremism. **If we find that these videos don't violate our policies but contain controversial religious or supremacist content, they will be placed in a limited state.** The videos will remain on YouTube behind an interstitial, **won't be recommended, won't be monetized, and won't have key features including comments, suggested videos, and likes.** <http://www.cnsnews.com/blog/gage-cohen/youtube-now-targeting-videos-controversial-religious-content>
31. **YouTube Takes Steps To Censor "Controversial" (a.k.a. "Conservative") Content... But it's not just content creators that will be impacted as anyone who merely searches for keywords that YouTube deems 'questionable', for whatever reason, will be promptly redirected to propaganda videos intended to "directly confront and debunk" whatever 'questionable' content that user was looking for.** <http://www.zerohedge.com/news/2017-08-02/youtube-takes-steps-censor-controversial-aka-conservative-content>
32. **Google's Eric Schmidt Meets With Pope Francis at the Vatican... A video report from the TV news agency Rome Reports showed the pontiff shaking hands with Schmidt and Jared Cohen, director of Google Ideas. Schmidt said to Francis, "I want to work with you to make these points. ... We will make it happen."** <http://www.nbcnews.com/tech/tech-news/google-s-eric-schmidt-meets-pope-francis-vatican-n497616>

33. **What is the Vatican is doing at SXSW?...As the Vatican's Adjunct Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Culture, one of Bishop Tighe's many responsibilities is to run the social media accounts for the Pope, as well as considering ways in which the Catholic Church can stretch its influence into our digital lives. <https://www.americamagazine.org/politics-society/2017/03/14/what-vatican-doing-sxsw>**

34. **How Luther went viral...."Five centuries before Facebook and the Arab spring, social media helped bring about the Reformation...The protesters' message spreads virally through social networks, making it impossible to suppress and highlighting the extent of public support for revolution. The combination of improved publishing technology and social networks is a catalyst for social change where previous efforts had failed." <http://www.economist.com/node/21541719>**

35. **If every soldier of Christ had done his duty, if every watchman on the walls of Zion had given the trumpet a certain sound, the world might ere this have heard the message of warning. But the work is years behind. While men have slept, Satan has stolen a march upon us. {9T 29.2}**

36. **"Workers--gospel medical missionaries--are needed now. You cannot afford to spend years in preparation. Soon doors now open to the truth will be forever closed. Carry the message now. Do not wait, allowing the enemy to take possession of the fields now open before you. Let little companies go forth to do the work to which Christ appointed His disciples. Let them labor as evangelists, scattering our publications and talking of the truth to those they meet. Let them pray for the sick, ministering to their necessities, not with drugs, but with nature's remedies, and teaching them how to regain health and avoid disease." {9T 172.4}**

37. What was expected and required of the Hebrews on the Day of Atonement? What was the work of the high priest? Leviticus 16:29,30

38. What must be our experience now as the Day of Atonement, the cleansing of the sanctuary is about to close? _____

39. I saw some, with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God. Their countenances were pale and marked with deep anxiety, expressive of their internal struggle. Firmness and great earnestness was expressed in their countenances; large drops of perspiration fell from their foreheads. Now and then their faces would light up with the marks of God's approbation, and again the same solemn, earnest, anxious look would settle upon them. {EW 269.1}

Evil angels crowded around, pressing darkness upon them to shut out Jesus from their view, that their eyes might be drawn to the darkness that surrounded them, and thus they be led to distrust God and murmur against Him. Their only safety was in keeping their eyes directed upward. Angels of God had charge over His people, and as the poisonous atmosphere of evil angels was pressed around these anxious ones, the heavenly angels were continually wafting their wings over them to scatter the thick darkness. {EW 269.2}

As the praying ones continued their earnest cries, at times a ray of light from Jesus came to them, to encourage their hearts and light up their countenances. Some, I saw, did not participate in this work of agonizing and pleading. They seemed indifferent and careless. They were not resisting the darkness around them, and it shut them in like a thick cloud. The angels of God left these and went to the aid of the earnest, praying ones. I saw angels of God hasten to the assistance of all who were struggling with all their power to resist the evil angels and trying to help themselves by calling upon God with perseverance. But His angels left those who made no effort to help themselves, and I lost sight of them. {EW 270.1}

40. Note: The message to Laodicea, the final period of God's true church, reveals that Jesus is high priest. Compare Revelation 3:20,21 and Zechariah 6:13.

41. What must we heed? _____

I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God's people. {EW 270.2}

I saw that the testimony of the True Witness has not been half heeded. The solemn testimony upon which the destiny of the church hangs has been lightly esteemed, if not entirely disregarded. This testimony must work deep repentance; all who truly receive it will obey it and be purified. {EW 270.3}

42. In conclusion, meditate upon the following and write down your thoughts. _____

43. Said the angel, "Look ye!" My attention was then turned to the company I had seen, who were mightily shaken. I was shown those whom I had before seen weeping and praying in agony of spirit. The company of guardian angels around them had been doubled, and they were clothed with an armor from their head to their feet. They moved in exact order, like a company of soldiers. Their countenances expressed the severe conflict which they had endured, the agonizing struggle they had passed through. Yet their features, marked with severe internal anguish, now shone with the light and glory of heaven. They had obtained the victory, and it called forth from them the deepest gratitude and holy, sacred joy. The numbers of this company had lessened. Some had been shaken out and left by the way. The careless and indifferent, who did not join with those who prized victory and salvation enough to perseveringly plead and agonize for it, did not obtain it, and they were left behind in darkness, and their places were immediately filled by others taking hold of the truth and coming into the ranks. Evil angels still pressed around them, but could have no power over them. I heard those clothed with the armor speak forth the truth with great power. It had effect. Many had been bound; some wives by their husbands, and some children by their parents. The honest who had been prevented from hearing the truth now eagerly laid hold upon it. All fear of their relatives was gone, and the truth alone was exalted to them. They had been hungering and thirsting for truth; it was dearer and more precious than life. I asked what had made this great change. An angel answered, "It is the latter rain, the refreshing from the presence of the Lord, the loud cry of the third angel." {EW 271.2}