



SAVED TO SERVE

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WAS THE ATONEMENT FINISHED AT THE CROSS?

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will study the atonement of Jesus Christ. Many people believe that the atonement was completely finished at the cross. Is this true or is Jesus doing a work for the salvation of man in the heavenly sanctuary above? We will see that the atonement is a two-step process: the first was done daily, and the second was done once per year.
2. **Note:** Let us first **define the word 'atonement.'** The word atonement means: **To cover**, to expiate, purge, reconciliation, **reconcile, forgive, purge away**, pacify, **merciful, cleansed**, disannulled, appease, put off, **pardon**, to pitch. See the Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, Hebrew Dictionary number 3722 and 3725. Additionally, number 2643 in the Greek Dictionary.
3. What three titles does Jesus give Himself? John 14:6 _____
4. What should we study in the Bible in order to find the way of Jesus so that we may find truth, even the truth about the atonement, and receive eternal life? Psalm 77:13

5. **Note:** The Bible teaches that the sanctuary on earth had three compartments: The Court, The Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. Additionally, the earthly sanctuary was a type or a copy of the heavenly sanctuary. See Exodus 25:8, 9, 40; Hebrews 8:1-5. The sacrificial lamb was slain in the court. Jesus, the Lamb of God, died on the cross on this earth where his blood was spilt (John 12:32-33; 19:32-34). Therefore, the court of the sanctuary represents the earth. Let us now study the first atonement which took place daily in the outer court.
6. What was needed to make atonement for a soul? Leviticus 17:11 _____
7. How often did the first step of atonement take place? Exodus 29:36, 38-39

8. What was the sinner to do in order to be accepted and for an atonement to be made for him? Leviticus 1:4

9. What did the person do when he laid his hands upon the head of the animal? Leviticus 5:5-6

10. Where in the sanctuary did the sinner confess his sins in order to receive an atonement? Leviticus 1:4, 5 **Answer:** The sinner confessed his sins at the altar by the door of the tabernacle, also called the altar of burnt offering. This atonement made at the altar was for people who confessed their sins and surrendered to God.
11. What could a surrendered person receive once Jesus died on the cross? Romans 5:8-11; 1 John 1:7 **Answer:** The atonement or pardon for his sins through the blood of Jesus and no longer by the blood of animals.
12. The following words by Jesus have perplexed many Christians on the topic of the atonement. What did Jesus say on the cross just before He gave up the ghost and died? John 19:30

13. Prior to Jesus' death on the cross, what did He say regarding Satan, the prince of this world? John 12:31-33

"Just previous to his crucifixion, the Saviour said, "The prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me," Though it was the hour of the power of darkness, yet in anticipation of his triumph, Christ could say, "The prince of this world is judged." **"Now is the judgment of this world; now shall the prince of this world be cast out."** **Viewing the work of redemption as completed, he could, even in death, speak of the great final deliverance, and represent things that were future as if present.** The only begotten Son of the infinite God could successfully carry through the great plan which made man's salvation sure." {RH, October 29, 1895 par. 8}

14. **Note:** Based on the sanctuary services, was the atonement completely finished on the cross? No. The cross was the first of the two-step process in the great work of atonement. In the earthly sanctuary services, once the lamb's blood was shed at the altar of burnt offering, it was then taken into the Holy Place to be sprinkled (Leviticus 4:6) and then once a year, into the Most Holy Place. After Jesus shed His blood on the cross, He ascended to heaven to continue the work of atonement for mankind. Let us now study the second phase of the atonement.
15. Where did Aaron take the blood for the final phase of atonement, and upon what did he sprinkle the blood in order to make the final atonement for the congregation of the Jews? Leviticus 16:15-16 **within the veil; and upon the mercy seat**
16. **Note:** The phrase 'within the veil' where the mercy seat resides points to the Most Holy Place (see Exodus 26:33, 34; Hebrews 9:3-5). Therefore, the final atonement to be completed by Jesus Christ occurs in the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary.

"The coming of Christ here described is not His second coming to the earth. He comes to the Ancient of Days in heaven to receive dominion and glory and a kingdom, **which will be given Him at the close of His work as a mediator. It is this coming, and not His second advent to the earth, that was foretold in prophecy to take place at the termination of the 2300 days in 1844. Attended by heavenly angels, our great High Priest enters the holy of holies** and there appears in the presence of God **to engage in the last acts of His ministration in behalf of man--to perform the work of investigative judgment and to make an atonement** for all who are shown to be entitled to its benefits." {GC 479.3}

"In the typical service only those who had come before God with confession and repentance, and whose sins, through the blood of the sin offering, were transferred to the sanctuary, had a part in the service of the Day of Atonement. **So in the great day of final atonement and investigative judgment the only cases considered are those of the professed people of God.** The judgment of the wicked is a distinct and separate work, and takes place at a later period. "Judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel?" 1 Peter 4:17. {GC 480.1}

17. What was the name given to that day for the final atonement? Leviticus 16:29, 30
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18. Remember that the word 'atonement' means to forgive, cleanse, and reconcile. What was to be cleansed on the Day of Atonement in the earthly sanctuary? Leviticus 16:33, 16
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19. The word atonement is a compound word which means at-one-ment or to be one with Jesus. What has separated us from Jesus? Isaiah 59:1, 2
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20. What were the people to do on the Day of Atonement while the high priest was ministering in the Most Holy Place to cleanse the temple of sin? Leviticus 23:27-30
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21. To cleanse the sanctuary and the people from sin, the sins had to be transferred to a live goat. What happened to the live goat or the scapegoat, which represented Satan, at the end of the Day of Atonement? Leviticus 16:20-22
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"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 scape-goat 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 scape-goat. 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 scape-goat 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.**" {4SP 266.3}

22. **Note:** While the sinner had received pardon for his sins by the death of the lamb during the daily sanctuary services, that blood was transferred to the veil in the sanctuary. The blood on the veil served as a record of a man's sins and thus, the Day of Atonement was the day when all of the sins which were transferred to the sanctuary were to be blotted out by placing them upon the scapegoat. Not until this was done, was the sinner and the sanctuary fully cleansed and 'at one' with God. Therefore, not until Jesus places all of our confessed sins upon Satan and blots out our record of sins (Isaiah 43:25) from the heavenly sanctuary, will the second phase of the atonement be complete.

23. What will Jesus say after the great work of judgment is completed in the heavenly temple? Revelation 16:5, 7, 17

24. What will Jesus do to people who refuse to consecrate themselves to Him? Exodus 32:29-33

25. **Note:** The blotting out of people from God's book of life means that they are eternally lost.

26. As we close, let us focus on the practical work needed to experience the blotting out of our sins in heaven. What does Jesus tell us to rejoice in? Luke 10:19, 20

27. What must we do for our sins to be blotted out by Jesus? Acts 3:19; Revelation 3:5

28. What work must be done for others so that Jesus will confess our names to His Father in heaven? Matthew 10:32, 33

29. Whose power do we need to confess our sins, live righteously, and pass the judgment? John 16:7-11
