



BIBLICAL FOOTPRINT 2 — THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

The Day of Atonement was instituted for the purpose of cleansing the sanctuary from sin. Leviticus 16. It is a picture of the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary that must be done to put away sin once and for all. The Day of Atonement for the heavenly sanctuary began on October 22, 1844 when Jesus moved from the Holy Place in the heavenly temple into the Most Holy Place along with God the Father. **Daniel 8:14. The principles of the Day of Atonement are now in force for God's people, including a special season of great humiliation and confession of sins before God, in order to cleanse the body temple that God now dwells in.** 1Corinthians 3:16, 6:19, 20. **This cleansing is in all aspects of our being including: what we eat, how we live, what our decisions in life are based on, how we think, how we speak and how we feel** (angry, bitter, jealous, etc. or loving, forgiving, humble, meek, joyful in what the Lord has done and is doing in our lives, etc.).

“God is a God of justice, and before either the sins of the faithful or the names of the unfaithful are blotted from the books of heaven, there will be an examination of the records,—an investigative judgment. The service in the second apartment of the sanctuary was a type of this work. It was called the day of atonement, or the cleansing of the sanctuary. The record states: ‘On that day shall the priest make an atonement for to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the Lord.’

“When men and angel are placed on probation, a time of judgment was appointed when they would be judged. The resurrection of Christ is a pledge, or assurance, of the judgment. God ‘hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness, by that man whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead.’

*“The day of judgment is a definite time set apart in which to perform a specific work. It is a period of time. ‘God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for there is a time there for every purpose, and for every work.’ God did not leave the world in darkness in regard to the time of the day of judgment, of which the day of atonement, or the cleansing of the sanctuary was a type; but through the prophet Daniel He foretold when that event would take place.” **S. N. Haskell, The Cross and Its Shadow, pg. 187-88 (1914)***

Let us give you an example as a test of where you might be. How do you come to the house of God to worship? What is the condition of your spirit? What is your motivation for coming? **When you enter into the sanctuary, are you concentrating on the presence of God, and Him alone, or are you looking for or talking with your neighbor, friend, family about anything except God?** Are you meditating and contemplating what Sabbath School was about, what was taught, or are you glad to be done with that so you can move on to the rest of the service? **Do you pray and make sure your thoughts are resting on God, or are your thoughts about what is for dinner, or what you did during the week or will do next week?** Are you thankful for how God is working in your life, or are you unhappy, sad, complaining about your circumstances to anyone who will listen? **How much time did you spend with God during the week in devotions and prayer in preparation for the Sabbath? How many people did you give a word of encouragement to, a Scripture verse, a piece of literature as a witness to the world of your profession of faith?**

This is just a small sampling of questions we need to be asking ourselves long before we arrive at God’s house and enter His sanctuary. **God’s sanctuary is holy and should be entered into with a spirit of awe and reverence**

as we come into the very presence of God for a time to praise and worship Him. It is not a time of socializing or general discussions pertaining to the news or things of the world. There is a time and place for all things, but the sanctuary is reserved for God and Him alone. If we are not doing so, then we are not engaging ourselves in the opportunity God has provided us with the Antitypical Day of Atonement and time of preparation. If such is the case, it is time to do some deep soul-searching and have a season of serious prayer, confession and repentance with deep contrition and humiliation — **Time is short, probation is rapidly drawing to a close, character takes time to form and we don't have a lot of time. Jesus is coming soon! Are you ready?**

“Prepare to meet thy God. There are sins to be confessed, and wrongs to be righted. Time should now be devoted to earnest preparation for the Master. In this solemn day of atonement we must humble our hearts before God, and confess our sins. We must have faith corresponding to the important, solemn truths which we profess. This is the only evidence we can give to the world to show that our religion is genuine.

Of the virgins who went forth to meet the bridegroom, five were wise, and five were foolish. In which of these classes shall we be found? This question we must answer for ourselves. If we are fully consecrated to God, seeking earnestly to do His will, we shall stand at our post of duty, doing what we can to advance His work.” **Ellen G. White, Review and Herald, July 11, 1899**

“In these days of peril those who have been unfaithful in their duties in life, and whose mistakes and sins of neglect are registered against them in the book in Heaven, unrepented of and unforgiven, will be overcome by Satan. Every one is to be tested and severely tried. Satan will exert all his energies, and call to his aid his evil host, who will exercise all their experience, artifice, and cunning, to deceive souls and wrest them from the hands of Jesus Christ. He makes them believe they may be unfaithful in the minor duties of life, and God will not see, God will not notice; but that Being who numbers the hairs of our head, and marks the fall of the little sparrow, notices every deviation from truth, every departure from honor and integrity in both secular and religious things. These errors and sins corrupt the man, and disqualify him for the society of heavenly angels. By his defiled character he has placed himself under the flag of Satan. The arch deceiver has power over this class. The more exalted their profession, the more honorable the position they have held, the more grievous their course in the

sight of God, the more sure the triumph of Satan. These will have no shelter in the time of Jacob's trouble. Their sins will then appear of such magnitude that they will have no confidence to pray, no heart to wrestle as did Jacob. On the other hand, those who have been of like passion, erring and sinful in their lives, but who have repented of their sins, and in genuine sorrow confessed them, will have pardon written against their names in the heavenly records. They will be hid 'in the day of the Lord's anger.' Satan will attack this class, but like Jacob they have taken hold of the strength of God, and true to His character He is at peace with them, and sends angels to comfort and bless and sustain them in their time of peril. The time of Jacob's trouble will test every one, and distinguish the genuine Christian from the one who is so only in name.

"Those professed believers who come up to the time of trouble unprepared, will, in their despair, confess their sins before the world in words of burning anguish, while the wicked exult over their distress. The case of all such is hopeless. When Christ stands up, and leaves the most holy place, the time of trouble commences, the case of every soul is decided, and there will be no atoning blood to cleanse from sin and pollution. As Jesus leaves the Most Holy, He speaks in tones of decision and kingly authority: 'He that is unjust, let him be unjust still; and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still; and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still; and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be.' **Revelation 22:11, 12.**

"Those who have delayed a preparation for the day of God, cannot obtain it in the time of trouble, or at any future period. The righteous will not cease their earnest, agonizing cries for deliverance. They cannot bring to mind any particular sins; but in their whole life they can see little good. Their sins have gone before hand to judgment, and pardon has been written. Their sins have been borne away into the land of forgetfulness, and they can not bring them to remembrance. Certain destruction threatens them, and, like Jacob, they will not suffer their faith to grow weak because their prayers are not immediately answered. Though suffering the pangs of hunger, they will not cease their intercessions. They lay hold of the strength of God, as Jacob laid hold of the angel; and the language of their soul is, 'I will not let Thee go except Thou bless me.' **Genesis 32:26.**

"That season of distress and anguish will require an effort of earnestness and determined faith that can endure delay and hunger, and will not fail under weakness, though severely tried. The period of probation is the time granted to all to prepare for the day of God. If any neglect the

preparation, and heed not the faithful warnings given, they will be without excuse. Jacob's course in wrestling with the angel should be an example for Christians. Jacob prevailed because he was persevering and determined. All who desire the blessing of God, as did Jacob, and who will lay hold of the promises as he did, and be as earnest and persevering as he was, will succeed as he succeeded. The reason there is so little exercise of true faith, and so little of the weight of truth resting upon many professed believers, is they are indolent in spiritual things. They are unwilling to make exertions, to deny self, to agonize before God, to pray long and earnestly for the blessing, and therefore they do not obtain it. That faith which will live through the time of trouble must be developed now. Those who do not make strong efforts now to exercise persevering faith, will be unable to stand in the day of trouble." **Ellen G. White, Signs of the Times, November 27, 1879.**

"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. 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 years' 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. 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. If we have a living faith, we shall gladly do as the Lord directs.

“Four things were required of each individual member of ancient Israel on the day of atonement — the twenty-four-hour period in which the typical work of atonement was performed, and which was ‘an example and shadow’ of the real work. **1.** ‘The day of atonement . . . shall be a holy convocation unto you.’ **2.** ‘You shall afflict your souls.’ **3.** ‘Offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord.’ **4.** ‘Ye shall do no work in that same day.’

“That day was to be a holy convocation. The people were to assemble for religious worship. Paul speaks thus of individuals who, in the days when the High Priest should soon come forth from the heavenly sanctuary, would forsake the religious assembly: ‘Having a High Priest over the house of God; let us draw near with a true heart, in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience. . . . Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more as ye see the day approaching.’ **Hebrews 10:21-25.**

“The one that takes no pleasure in meeting with those of like faith to worship God, has an ‘evil conscience,’ and has lost faith in the near coming of our High Priest from the heavenly sanctuary. There is a special blessing in worshiping with others. God promises that where even two or three are gathered in His name, He will meet with them. This first requirement is a spiritual thermometer by which every Christian can test his spiritual condition. If he absents himself from the worship of God because he takes no pleasure in it, his spirituality is very low.

“Each individual was to ‘afflict’ his soul—search his heart, and put away every sin, spend much time in prayer. With this was connected abstinence from food. This was so forcibly impressed upon the minds of ancient Israel that even at the present day, the Jews fast upon the tenth day of the seventh month.

“The individual who realizes that the judgment is going on in the heavenly sanctuary, and that his name will surely be presented before that great tribunal, will search his heart and pray earnestly that God will accept him. We need often to meditate upon the work of our High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary, lest by having the mind filled with earthly thoughts,

we, like the foolish virgins, will find when too late that the Bridegroom has come, the door is shut; that the work is finished, and we have no part in it.

“In the typical service the congregation in the court listened for the tinkling of the golden bells on the robes of the high priest, and in that way followed him in his work. Our High Priest has given signs in the heavens, in the earth, and among the nations to mark the progress of His work; and He said that when we see these signs fulfilled we are to know that He is near, even at the door.

“The antitypical Day of Atonement covers a period of years. In the type there was a fast of twenty-four hours required. During this one day there was to be complete control of the appetite; and it was a type of the self-control to be exercised during the antitypical period of years. God designs that His people shall be masters of their appetites, and keep under the body. Satan would give loose rein to the appetite, and let it control the person.

“In spite of the fact that an army, of faithful workers are doing all in their power to withstand the flood of intemperance, Satan is working with such power that drunkenness and crime are increasing in the earth at an alarming rate. Back in 1844, when the investigative judgment opened in heaven, only men and a few women were slaves to tobacco; but now thousands of children are being destroyed by it, and many women are addicted to the filthy habit. Wineries and breweries are increasing in the land, and intoxicating beverages are served in thousands of homes.

“God calls upon His people to be masters of their appetites instead of slaves to it, that they may have clearer minds to comprehend divine truth and follow the work of their High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary.

*“How few are willing to deny themselves the things their appetite craves, even when they know the claims of God! The prophet Isaiah, looking down through the ages, describes the state of things as follows: ‘In that day did the Lord God of hosts call to weeping, and to mourning, and to baldness, and to girding with sackcloth: and behold, joy and gladness, slaying oxen, and killing sheep, eating flesh and drinking wine.’ **Isaiah 22:12, 13.** What a vivid picture of the present condition of the world! God calls upon His people to afflict their souls, to control their appetite, to partake of food that will give good blood and a clear mind to discern spiritual truths: but instead of obeying, they engage in ‘eating flesh and drinking wine.’ The prophet records the final result of this course: ‘It was revealed in mine ears by the Lord of hosts, Surely this iniquity shall not be purged from you till ye die.’ **Isaiah 22:14.***

*“The Saviour gave special warning against the evil of giving loose rein to the appetite during the time when the records of human lives are being examined and individuals are being accounted worthy or unworthy of eternal life: ‘Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. . . . Watch ye therefore, and pray that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.’ **Luke 21:34**. The warning is against ‘surfeiting’—overeating, and ‘drunkenness’—eating injurious food. In other words, the Saviour designs that His people, during the antitypical Day of Atonement, shall take heed to both the quantity and the quality of their food. One can becloud the mind and ruin the health by overeating of the best of food. The glutton and the drunkard are classed together: ‘Be not among winebibbers; among riotous caters of flesh; for the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty.’ **Proverbs 23:20**.*

“Our first parents failed on the test of appetite; but where they failed, Christ triumphed. And it is possible for a Christian, with the indwelling Christ in the heart, to be complete master of his appetite,—to abstain from all food that is injurious, however much the natural appetite may crave it, and not to overeat of good food.

*“As He entered upon His earthly ministry, the Saviour was not only tested upon the point of appetite, but from childhood He was taught to control His desires. In speaking of His childhood, Isaiah says, ‘Butter and honey shall He eat, that He may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good.’ **Isaiah 7:15**. His manner of eating developed in Him spiritual power to discern between good and evil. Many who have gone into drunkards’ graves have eaten ‘butter and honey,’ but Jesus ate it in a way to develop spiritual strength. He ate it according to the Bible rule. There are three texts which, taken together, contain a rule for eating honey, and the same rule will apply to all food that is good. They read as follows: ‘My son, eat thou honey, because it is good.’ **Proverbs 24:13**. ‘Hast thou found honey? eat so much as is sufficient for thee.’ **Proverbs 25:16**. ‘It is not good to eat much honey.’ **Proverbs 25:27**. The one who follows the above instruction, and eats none but good food and only ‘so much as is sufficient,’ will enjoy good health and a clear mind. God wishes His people to have good health, with souls free from condemnation. Satan delights in beclouding the brain and destroying the health. All who will fulfill the antitype will be masters of their appetites, that they may prepare to meet the Saviour when He comes to the earth as King of kings and Lord of lords.*

“The third requirement enjoined upon the typical congregation on the Day of Atonement was to ‘offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord.’ **Leviticus 23:25**. The offerings made by fire were consumed upon the altar. In the antitype we do not offer burnt-offerings of bullocks and rams; but God expects us to fulfill the antitype of the offering consumed upon the altar. He desires that the ‘whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;’ **1Thessalonians 5:23**; that the entire life of the Christian be laid upon the altar, ready to be used as the Lord directs. None can do this who do not daily accept Christ as their sin-offering, and know what it is to be ‘accepted in the Beloved.’ **Ephesians 1:6**.

“The Day of Atonement was kept as a ceremonial sabbath by the ancient congregation. All work was laid aside, and the entire thought was given to seeking God and serving Him. God's work was given the first thought during the entire day. Such was the type; but it does not follow that on the antitypical day of atonement no one should attend to personal business, for God never intended His people to be ‘slothful in business.’ **Romans 12:11**. He promises to bless them in temporal things if they fulfill the antitype by looking after His work and service first, and their temporal interests second. This was beautifully taught by the Saviour's words: ‘Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with...cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.’ **Luke 21:34**. Satan is liable to entrap more well-meaning people in this snare than in any other of his many deceptions. He often persuades good people that the daily cares of the household are so important that they have no time to study God's word and pray, until, for lack of spiritual food and communion with God, they become so weak spiritually that they accept the doubts and unbelief the enemy is constantly presenting. When the time comes that they think they do have time to study their Bibles, they find they have lost all relish for God's word.

“God is testing the great antitypical congregation. Who will fulfill the antitype, and not forsake the assembly of God's people? Who will keep a clear mind by controlling the appetite, and a pure heart by prayer and deep heart-searching? Who will lay all their interests upon God's altar, to be used for His glory, and never let the ‘cares of this life’ crowd out God's work or a study of His word? Over such as these our High Priest will say, ‘He that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.’ **Revelation 22:11**.” **S. N. Haskell, The Cross and Its Shadow, pg. 187-88 (1914)**

See also ***Bible Readings for the Home Circle, 1914 Edition***: “A Great Prophetic Period;” “The Atonement In Type And Antitype;” “The Judgment;” and “The Judgment-Hour Message.”