

*Cleansed
By the Blood
of Jesus*

Adrian Ebens

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In memory of my father

Abel Ebens

Ab (The Father) el (is God)

Eben (stone) 's (...of the)

4th October 1935 – 5th November 2023

*Who taught me to do what is right
regardless of the cost*



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1. Purging the Conscience

At the heart of the gospel is the teaching concerning the blood of Jesus and its power to cleanse us from sin.

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and **the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.** 1 John 1:7 NKJV

How exactly does the blood of Jesus cleanse us of sin? It is an important question for many reasons, not least of which is that blood brings up disturbing thoughts of gore, especially to a non-Christian. Is that what God wants?

Cleansing is directly connected to being justified or made right with God. The following is the key verse for connecting blood to the justification of the sinner in the context of God's justice.

For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed His life, shedding His blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when He held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, for He was looking ahead and including them in what He would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate His righteousness, for He Himself is fair and just, and He declares sinners to be right in His sight when they believe in Jesus. Romans 3:25,26 NLT

This modern translation states that God holding back to not punish sinners would be unjust if He didn't put all that punishment on His Son. Sinners must recognize this as right and fair and believe on the object of punishment - Jesus. Thus God declares a sinner to be right with Him when the sinner believes that Jesus shed His blood on the cross to meet the requirements of God's justice. Prominent Protestant preacher Charles Spurgeon expressed it like this:

Christ, now under the Gospel, is the Propitiation for our sins. It is through the blood that God, infinitely just, without the violation of His Character, can pass by the transgression of the guilty. It is not possible that any one attribute of God should ever shadow another.

He is perfect. He is infinitely merciful, but He will not be merciful at the expense of justice! Justice shall never triumph against mercy! Mercy, on the other hand, shall never cut off the skirts of the flowing robe of justice. **It is in the Person of Jesus and especially in the blood of Jesus, that the great riddle of the ages is solved! God can be just and yet the Justifier of him that believes in Jesus. We have sinned. God must punish sin. According to the inexorable laws which God has stamped upon the universe, the sinner cannot go unpunished.**

– Charles Spurgeon, *The Precious Blood of Christ*

But how does this declaration of righteousness actually cleanse the sinner? Spurgeon continues:

When the soul comes to Jesus Christ by faith and relies upon Him, then the sentence of the perfect pardon goes forth from God and the soul is purged from all the stains of accumulated years! In a single moment those who were black as Hell become white as Heaven **through the application of the blood of sprinkling—for all sin disappears as soon as the blood falls on the conscience! That which the blood of bulls and of goats could not do, the blood of Jesus effectually accomplishes—cleansing from all sin!** – Ibid

Ellen White gives a more relational context for how this happens:

When sin is removed through the blood of sprinkling, the soul will be melted by a sense of the love of Jesus, and by an abhorrence of sin. Repentance for this or that particular act is not sufficient. **The heart must be cleansed. Wrong-doing is the overflowing of the fountain of an unclean, unconverted heart.** { SpTB07 22.1 }

Spurgeon emphasizes that the blood falling on the conscience, which I would understand him to mean that when we believe that Jesus shed His blood to pay the price of our sins, we take hold of pardon. God has pardoned us. But does this simple truth cleanse us of sin? Spurgeon deals with sins of the past, but not of the future.

Ellen White speaks of the heart being melted by a sense of the love of Jesus, and an abhorrence of sin. What Ellen White describes are actions that take place in the human heart. The cleansing is more than simple acceptance of forgiveness, it includes a sense of the love of Jesus and a hatred for sin. Without this, we could not be cleansed for future sins.

In my late teens, I had this exact experience. As I thought about Jesus' suffering on the cross for me, my heart was melted by the sense of His love in suffering in my place. The sense of guilt I carried because of my sins was lifted through looking to Jesus. By faith in Christ, my conscience was cleansed of its guilt. I had the assurance that all my sins were forgiven. My heart was changed. I experienced conversion. I believed that God accepted me. I believed I could talk to Him rather than hiding in a corner with a weight of guilt upon me.

What a delight to walk in the sunshine of God's love through Jesus Christ our Lord. The joy and wonder of this experience has been captured for me in the words of the Welsh revival hymn, 'Here is love, vast as the ocean'.

Here is love, vast as the ocean,
lovingkindness as the flood:
when the Prince of Life, our Ransom,
shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten
throughout heav'n's eternal days.

On the mount of crucifixion
fountains opened deep and wide;
through the floodgates of God's mercy
flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,
poured incessant from above,
and heav'n's peace and perfect justice
kissed a guilty world in love.

I experienced peace beyond measure, and a constant yearning for Jesus. I felt always the desire to hold His hand, and walk with Him through this dark world. His Word became food for my soul and I began to grow in grace. I hated the way I lived. I broke my record collection, destroyed my music tapes, changed my diet. I went to several people I had wronged and asked forgiveness; I made right the things I had done wrong to the best of my ability.

My language changed, my habits changed, my circle of friends changed, all of which was due to the gift of the Spirit promised to those who receive Christ. My heart was *being* cleansed.

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38

Here we see a connection between a cleansing of the conscience that began with the literal blood of Christ shed on the cross, which then transitions to a cleansing of the heart by the Spirit of Christ. The literal blood releases us from the guilt of the past, but the Spirit is what cleanses us of present and future sins, and prepares us for our future life in heaven and the new earth.

This two-step process is vital in understanding how the promises of the New Covenant are achieved in the sinner.

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: Hebrews 8:10 KJV

Paul is quoting from the book of Jeremiah.

But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: **I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.** No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. **For I will**

forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

Jeremiah 31:33-34

Not only does God forgive our sins, but He also writes His laws in our minds, and removes from us our sinful practices.

So there is a close connection between the literal shedding of the blood of Christ cleansing us of guilt through forgiveness followed immediately by the gift of the Spirit which begins to cleanse us of our sinful practices.

For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, **how much more shall the [1] blood of Christ, who [2] through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works** to serve the living God? Hebrews 9:13,14

We understand that Paul here means the literal blood of Christ because He is contrasting this to the literal blood of bulls and goats. The blood of Christ has power to purge our conscience of dead works, but this is done by the eternal Spirit.

When the sinner looks upon the dying form of Jesus upon the Cross and sees the blood of Christ, the Spirit of Christ convicts the sinner that God forgives him. This is symbolised by the fact that when Christ died, and was pierced by the soldier, two streams came forth from His side, water and blood.

But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. John 19:34

2. Counterfeit Justice Demanded Death

The cleansing of the soul involves a two-step process between the blood of Christ and the Spirit of Christ. But it is vital to understand that God is not the one who required the blood, for we read:

Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; My ears You have opened.
Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require. Psalm 40:6

Not only did God not require the blood of bulls and goats, but He did not require the blood of His Son.

He says, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head."

Four thousand years before a voice of strange and mysterious import was heard in heaven from the throne of God: "Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required. Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart." Christ in counsel with His Father laid out the plan for His life on earth. It was not a chance, but a design that the world's Redeemer should lay off His crown, lay aside His kingly robe, and come to our world as a man. He clothed His divinity with the garb of humanity, that He might stand at the head of the human family, His humanity mingled with the humanity of the race fallen because of Adam's disobedience. – Southern Work 85

Men believe that God's justice requires death. But this idea has come from Satan.

The condemning power of Satan would lead him to institute a theory of justice inconsistent with mercy. He claims to be officiating as the voice and power of God, claims that his decisions are justice, are pure and without fault. Thus he takes his position on the judgment seat and declares that his counsels are infallible. **Here his merciless justice comes in, a counterfeit of justice, abhorrent to God.** Christ Triumphant 11.4

In the opening of the great controversy, Satan had declared that the law of God could not be obeyed, that justice was inconsistent with mercy, and that, should the law be broken, it would be impossible for the sinner to be pardoned. **Every sin must meet its punishment, urged Satan;** and if God should remit the punishment of sin, He would not be a God of truth and justice. Desire of Ages 761.4

It was most difficult to make the deceiving power of Satan apparent. His power to deceive increased with practice. If he could not defend himself, he must accuse, in order to appear just and righteous, **and to make God appear arbitrary and exacting. In secret he whispered his disaffection to the angels. There was at first no pronounced feeling against God; but the seed had been sown, and the love and confidence of the angels was marred. The sweet communion between them and their God was broken. Every move was watched; every action was viewed in the light in which Satan had made them see things.** That which Satan had instilled into the minds of the angels--a word here and a word there--opened the way for a long list of suppositions. In his artful way he drew expressions of doubt from them. Then, when he was interviewed, he accused those whom he had educated. He laid all the disaffection on the ones he had led. **As one in holy office, he manifested an overbearing desire for justice, but it was a counterfeit of justice, which was entirely contrary to God's love and compassion and mercy.** {*Review and Herald*, September 7, 1897 par. 3-4}

These ideas of justice were embraced by the human race when Adam fell. His mind was darkened with Satan's idea of justice.

...the great deceiver **who, by a lie framed against the government of God, caused the fall of man** who thus forfeited all claim to be called a loyal subject of God's kingdom. Satan refused to let his captives go. **He held them as his subjects because of their belief of his lie.** {Lt20-1903.11,12}

The use of the language "by a lie framed against the government of God" leads us to the book of Psalms.

Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee, which frameth mischief by a law? Psalms 94:20 KJV

Satan convinced Adam that if you broke God's law that He would punish you with death. With cunning, **Satan framed the truth that the natural consequence of sin is suffering and death into the lie that God's justice demands payback and death,**

and thus He will torment and execute the sinner. This sin against the character of God passed to all men, and therefore all men sin by believing that God's justice demands death.

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned--
Romans 5:12 NKJV

Death spread to all men, because they continued in the sin of falsely attributing to God's character a justice system which originated with Satan.

Christ looked upon our world before He came to it, and He saw that Satan's power was exercised upon the human family. And because of the transgression of Adam he claimed the whole human family. He pointed to their calamities and diseases and reflected [them] upon God. **He said God would have no mercy upon them and they might as well be under his control.** {Ms16-1893.2-3}

So the human race is trapped by a lie framed by Satan that God's justice demands calamities, diseases, and death.

Christ's mission to the world made it evident that the human race was standing under the menace of incensed justice, on the verge of eternal ruin, in helplessness and ignorance. {ST, February 5, 1894 par. 5}

Under this menace of incensed justice, man needed a sacrifice for sin; man needed the blood of a divine substitute to deliver his darkened minds from the thought that he stood under God's condemnation; man needed a priest to present this blood offering to God in order to appease Him.

Justice demanded not merely that sin be pardoned; the death penalty must be met. The Saviour has met this demand. His broken body, his gushing blood, satisfied the claims of the law. Thus he bridged the gulf made by sin between earth and heaven. He suffered in the flesh, that with his robe of righteousness he might cover the defenseless sinner. Youth Instructor April 16, 1903, par. 6

The broken law of God demanded the life of the sinner. In all the universe there was but one who could, in behalf of man, satisfy its claims. Since the divine law is as sacred as God Himself, only one equal with God could make atonement for its transgression. None but Christ could redeem fallen man from the curse of the law and bring him again into harmony with Heaven. Christ would take upon Himself the guilt and shame of sin—sin so offensive to a holy God that it must separate the Father and His Son. Christ would reach to the depths of misery to rescue the ruined race. Patriarchs and Prophets 63.2

Note carefully that it is not the law of God that demands the death of the transgressor but the *broken* law. The law is a transcript of God's character and when man embraced Satan's idea that God demanded death for transgression, this broke the law of God's character. It was a lie framed by Satan to trap both angels and men. It is not the sacred law that demands death, because God is not the author of death, but man's perception of that law once he has sinned and broken it.

The sin of Adam comes directly out of his wrong idea that God would kill him and his wife for eating the fruit. The law states clearly not to kill or even think evil thoughts of others, because that is God's character. Thus it is a sin to believe God is the author of and cause of death. The broken law demands death because man has projected his own ideas of God onto the law. Because He believes God is a destroyer, he thinks that the law demands death. But in reality, death is the natural consequence of rejecting the truth of God's character.

Let us give an illustration of how Satan convinced a third of the angels and the human race to misunderstand God's character. It as if Satan had said that if you jump from the cliff of God's commandments, that God would strike you with lightning on the way down as punishment. Believing this obscures the fact that sin pays its own wages and that jumping from a cliff will bring the inherent consequence of death when we hit the ground. Death came from the consequence of jumping, not God throwing a lightning bolt at the man for daring to jump. But we can't see that, because sin confuses our minds making us unable to be

reconciled to God to have His character written on our hearts, because we misunderstand His law and the purpose of His law.

This is the curse of the law. Once you break the law, there is no way to find redemption other than through death. This is simply because no being would ever desire to break God's law unless they believed something about Him that was false. We think He needs something to die, something in our place, something as high and good as His law.

In order for God to release man from the curse of false justice, He allowed His Son to satisfy our perceptions of justice. God accommodated Himself to the darkened minds of men to save them. Christ would come down and bear the consequence of sin, which is to be disconnected from His Father, to show us what the consequence of sin was and open for us an avenue to believe that God was willing to forgive us.

What amazing love is this! How far has God stooped down to reach us and to save us! He provided for us the sacrifice that we needed. He offered up to us His dearly beloved Son and let us kill Him, so that we could believe in the mercy of God once again. Through the Cross, Christ reconciled our false justice to God's mercy!

Justice and Mercy stood apart, in opposition to each other, separated by a wide gulf. The Lord our Redeemer clothed His divinity with humanity, and wrought out in behalf of man a character that was without spot or blemish. He planted His cross midway between heaven and earth, and made it the object of attraction which reached both ways, **drawing both Justice and Mercy across the gulf. Justice moved from its exalted throne, and with all the armies of heaven approached the cross. There it saw One equal with God bearing the penalty for all injustice and sin. With perfect satisfaction Justice bowed in reverence at the cross, saying, It is enough.**--General Conference Bulletin, Fourth Quarter, 1899, vol. 3, p. 102.

It is tempting to think that God is the one above represented as Justice moving from its exalted throne. But God does not bow in reference to anyone or anything. Consider this again from another perspective:

Satan refused to let his captives go. He held them as his subjects because of their belief of his lie. **He had thus become their jailor. But he had no right to demand that a price be paid for them;** because he had not obtained possession of them by lawful conquest, but under false pretenses. God, being the creditor, had a right to make any provision for the redemption of human beings. **Justice demanded that a certain price be paid. The Son of God was the only One who could pay this price.** He volunteered to come to this earth and pass over the ground where Adam fell. {Lt20-1903.12,13}

Let us parallel these two statements in the quote above:

he [Satan] had no right to demand that a price be paid for them

Justice demanded that a certain price be paid

Satan was the one who demanded a price be paid. Then a little further down it says justice demanded that a price be paid. In the context of the paragraph, justice is aligned with Satan, not God. This gives proof of Satan's justice system which divorced justice from mercy.

The blood of Jesus was the only thing which could release humanity from the lie of Satan.

...to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.' Acts 26:18

Let us look at one more line of thought related to this.

And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission. Heb. 9:22

But what is the law of Moses reflecting in this statement about blood?

As Jesus came into the temple, He took in the whole scene. He saw the unfair transactions. **He saw the distress of the poor, who thought that without shedding of blood there would be no forgiveness for**

their sins. He saw the outer court of His temple converted into a place of unholy traffic. The sacred enclosure had become one vast exchange. Desire of Ages 157.2

It was the people who thought that the law demanded blood. This is further evidence of the lie sold to humanity that “every sin must be punished.”

Only the precious blood of Jesus could release us from Satan’s justice system. Only the blood of Jesus could cleanse our minds of the lie that God condemns us and would destroy us for our sins. The literal blood of Christ broke the power of the curse of the law hanging over us.

3. Speak to the Rock

But the death of Christ is the beginning of the work of reconciliation. Christ’s blood opens to us the mercy of God within our own framework of justice. To be able to come into complete harmony with God, we must transition back to heaven’s framework of justice.

In seeking to transition Israel from its wrong framework, God provided an illustration. At the beginning of their journey, Moses was commanded to strike the rock to give the people water to drink. The rock was a symbol of Christ, and the water was a symbol of the live giving Spirit of God coming from Christ, the rock. The striking of the rock was a symbol of Christ being struck on the Cross. The symbol here reflects human justice. Healing, forgiveness and restoration can only come through punishment or striking of a substitute.

At the end of their journey, Moses was commanded to speak to the rock. The symbol of the Cross was not required in this scenario. God would freely provide water simply by being asked. No punishment was required. But the justice system still operating in the mind of Moses was justice that required punishment. Moses was tempted on this because the Israelites had treated him terribly with their constant murmuring and complaining.

He naturally felt grieved by their ingratitude to God, and in anger he struck the rock twice. It is a hard thing to remove our incorrect justice system from our minds.

Regardless, we see the effort of God to begin the process of cleansing the people from their wrong thinking.

4. Brass and Gold

The Psalmist tells us that God's way is in the Sanctuary (Ps 77:13). The symbolism of the articles of furniture in the court yard being made of brass compared to the articles of furniture inside the Sanctuary itself being made of gold speak of a shift in thinking.

Brass is symbolically considered a negative element in the Scriptures – a reflection of hardness of heart.

Is my strength the strength of stones? or is my flesh of brass?
Job 6:12 (KJV)

Because I knew that thou art obstinate, and thy neck is an iron sinew,
and thy brow brass. Isaiah 48:4 (KJV)

They are all grievous revolters, walking with slanders: they are brass
and iron; they are all corrupters. Jeremiah 6:28 (KJV)

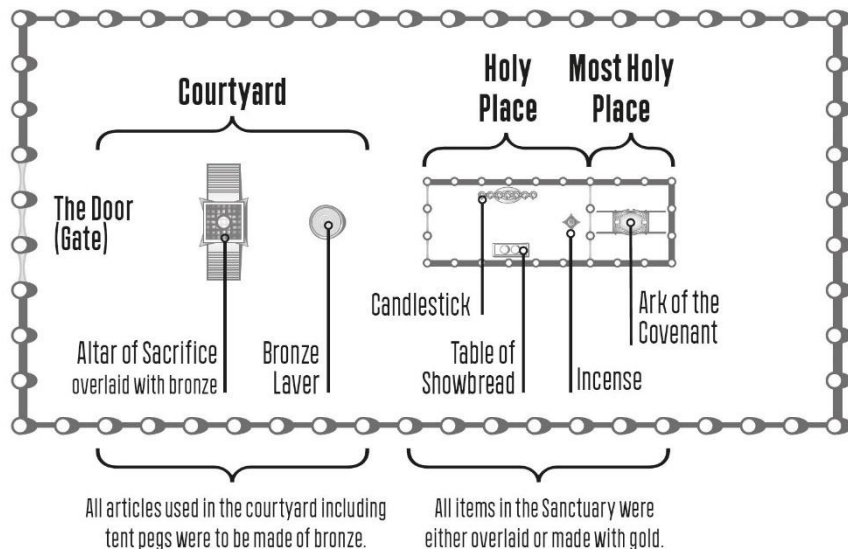
Son of man, the house of Israel is to me become dross: all they are
brass, and tin, and iron, and lead, in the midst of the furnace; they
are even the dross of silver. Ezekiel 22:18 (KJV)

Brass is an alloy of copper and zinc and was developed by Tubal-Cain, a descendant of Cain. Brass is a man-made element. Its use in the altar of sacrifice and the laver reveal that God is responding to man's thinking in this aspect of the sanctuary service.

The altar of sacrifice is symbolic of Christ's work on the Cross. The fact that it is made of brass tells us that the need for the sacrifice was man-made. It is a satisfaction of human justice, inspired by Satan. God in His infinite mercy delivered up His Son to meet man's requirement.

If we allow this truth to sink into our minds, the gospel is dramatically transformed into something infinitely more beautiful than originally thought.

The Sanctuary



In the courtyard we see the altar of sacrifice and the laver. The altar cleanses with blood and the laver with water. The blood of Christ opens our hearts to the forgiveness of God, and the Spirit of Christ, now granted access to the soul, begins the work of cleansing our minds of our darkened thinking.

This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. 1 John 5:6

This relationship between the blood, the water and the Spirit are expressed by John in the next two verses.

For there are three witnesses— the Spirit, the water, and the blood— and these three are one. 1 John 5:7-8 ISV

The KJV version includes an extra statement not in the original in an effort to support the Trinity doctrine. It is called the *Johannine Comma*, and it is the most generally acknowledged later addition to the text in all the Bible, and that is why Ellen White, the pioneers, and almost all scholars never quote it. The above

version, along with most modern versions and the Luther Bible, give us the correct understanding of the text.

The cleansing process involves blood, water, and Spirit. They have the one goal of removing from us our sin.

1. The blood of Jesus, aided by the Spirit, speaks to us in our false justice framework; that God forgives us and loves us.
2. The waters of baptism open to us the Spirit like a dove descending upon us so that we might have confirmation that we are God's beloved child. We are reunited to God.

5. Blood in the Sanctuary

It is vital to understand that the blood has no power to cleanse except the Spirit of Christ convicts the sinner of its value. It is the Spirit which convicts us of sin and leads us to Christ. When the sinner sees the blood of Christ, the Spirit convicts him that justice has been satisfied, but as we have noted, it is the justice which man believes in.

Christ, as man's mediator, presents His blood to the Father on behalf of man. God does not require sacrifice and offering but man does require it. As men behold Christ by faith, presenting His blood to the Father, man's justice is satisfied, and the sinner has full assurance of His sins forgiven.

Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. Hebrews 9:12 KJV

Christ presents His blood to the Father as our representative. He does not present it to the Father for the Father's sake but for ours.

I saw four angels who had a work to do on the earth, and were on their way to accomplish it. Jesus was clothed with priestly garments. He gazed in pity on the remnant, then raised His hands, and with a

voice of deep pity cried, "My blood, Father, My blood, My blood, My blood!" Early Writings 38.1

It is vital to remember that Christ is not only a mediator for God, but also for man.

For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, 1 Timothy 2:5 NKJV

Each time we sin, we claim the merits of the shed blood of Jesus, and the Father sends forth His Spirit to us to cleanse and heal us. But this process is in the context of a brass framework of justice.

Our Father in heaven wishes us to progress further along the way of the Sanctuary. In Revelation we are told:

Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. **But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles.** And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months. Revelation 11:1-2

Our Father wants us to leave the brass court behind. The symbols of cleansing in the Holy place are oil, light, and bread. There is the occasional sprinkling of blood on the horns of the altar of incense because the false justice system is not yet removed. But as we move from the Courtyard to the Holy Place and finally to the Most Holy Place, the amount of blood reduces significantly each time.

All the blood for burnt offerings, peace offerings, and sin offerings were sprinkled and poured out at the base of the altar of sacrifice, except for a sin offering for a priest, or for the whole congregation. In these cases, it was sprinkled seven times before the veil at the altar of incense.

if the anointed priest sins, bringing guilt on the people, then let him offer to the LORD for his sin which he has sinned a young bull without blemish as a sin offering.... The priest shall dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle some of the blood seven times before the LORD, in front of the veil of the sanctuary. Leviticus 4:3,6

'Now if the whole congregation of Israel sins unintentionally, and the thing is hidden from the eyes of the assembly, and they have done something against any of the commandments of the LORD in anything which should not be done, and are guilty; when the sin which they have committed becomes known, then the assembly shall offer a young bull for the sin, and bring it before the tabernacle of meeting.... The anointed priest shall bring some of the bull's blood to the tabernacle of meeting. Then the priest shall dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle it seven times before the LORD, in front of the veil.
Leviticus 4:13-17 NKJV

The use of animal blood went from many litres of blood at the altar of sacrifice, to periodic sprinkling of blood in the Holy Place for the sin offerings of the whole congregation or a priest (which would not be very often), and then to blood coming in one time into the Most Holy Place on the day of atonement.

6. The Divine Pattern of Blood

For those familiar with the message of the Father of love movement, you will know of the principles of the Divine Pattern. If you are not familiar with this principle please read the books *Divine Pattern of Life* and *The Divine Pattern* available for download from maranathamedia.com.

The physical blood of Christ is the channel which opens the human heart to receive true cleansing by the Spirit of Christ. Christ refers to His life-giving Spirit as blood in the following way:

Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you **eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.** As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, **so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.** John 6:53-57

Jesus tells us to eat His flesh and drink His blood. The disciples are shocked at the words of Jesus. They are familiar with the Law of Moses which tells them they are forbidden to drink blood.

This shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all your dwellings: you shall eat neither fat nor blood. Leviticus 3:17

You shall not eat anything with the blood, nor shall you practice divination or soothsaying. Leviticus 19:26

Why would Jesus tell them to drink His blood? Thankfully, He explains clearly His meaning.

When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, "Does this offend you? What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before? **It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.** John 6:61-63 NKJV

Christ is using His blood and His flesh as a symbol of His Spirit. He then tells them plainly that the flesh profits nothing. Physical flesh and blood cannot remove sin from the heart of the sinner, only the Spirit can do this.

Using another emblem related to this, before Christ died, He presented to them the cup of grape juice.

Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. **For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed [G1632] for many for the remission of sins.** But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom." Matthew 26:27-29

He said, this is my blood of the New Covenant which is shed for many for the remission of sins. Obviously grape juice is not the blood of Christ, but it points both to the gift of His physical blood which we needed to accept forgiveness, but much more to His Spirit which is poured out upon all who accept Him as their Saviour and does the work of cleansing and regeneration in the heart.

The same word used to record Jesus saying “shed for many” is also used later in the New Testament in this way.

Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and **having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth** [G1632] **this, which ye now see and hear.** Acts 2:33 KJV

And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because **the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out** [G1632] **on the Gentiles also.** Acts 10:45

Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been **poured out** [G1632] **in our hearts by the Holy Spirit** who was given to us. Romans 5:5

But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and **renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out** [G1632] **on us** abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, Titus 3:4-6

When Jesus pours out His life on us through the Spirit, this is how we are cleansed by the blood of Jesus, for the Life of Jesus is symbolised in the New Covenant as His blood.

In this context we can better appreciate the meaning of John in his first epistle.

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life--**the life was manifested**, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you **that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us**--that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that **God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.**

If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, **and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.** 1 John 1:1-7

John speaks about Christ as the life manifested to us. He then speaks of the fellowship which we have with the Father and the Son. This fellowship is only possible through the Holy Spirit of Christ.

Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, Philippians 2:1

John then says there is no darkness in God. Darkness is associated with death. Death is often present with the shedding of literal blood.

He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, And broke their chains in pieces. Psalm 107:14

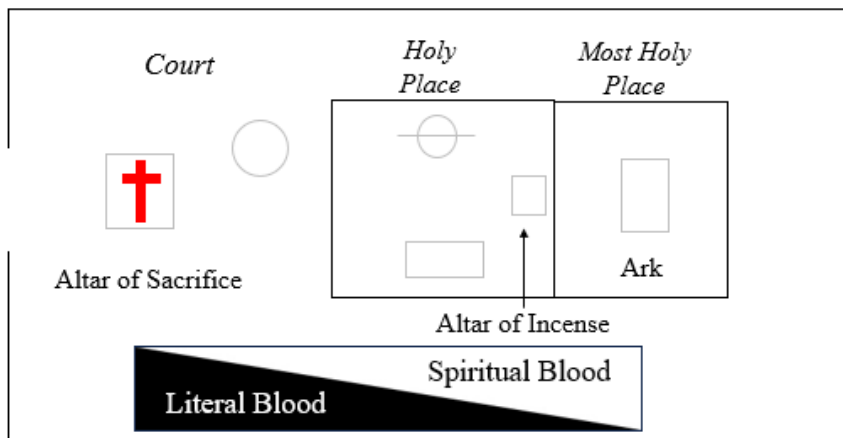
To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace. Luke 1:79

If God has no darkness in Him, then He does not demand death and blood. What a fellowship it is to know such a God and His Son. This is precious fellowship indeed. Then John says, the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from ALL sin. This is a reference to the Spirit of Christ; it is referring to His Spirit.

The literal blood of Christ does not cleanse us from ALL sin. Paul states in Hebrews 9:22 that almost all things are cleansed by the blood, but this means that not all things are cleansed in this way. Christians are well aware that after they accept Christ as their Saviour, they do not immediately stop sinning. Therefore, it is the outpouring of Christ's life to us through the eternal Spirit that we are cleansed of ALL sin.

Returning to the Sanctuary system, as a person takes the spiritual journey from the Altar of Sacrifice to the Ark of the Covenant, his reliance on the literal blood of Christ diminishes and his reliance on the Spiritual blood of Christ becomes all in all.

Literal to Spiritual Blood



1. The physical blood of Christ satisfies man's need and opens His mind to the love of God. It frees or cleanses his mind of his wrong idea that God condemns him.
2. The spiritual blood of Christ cleanses, heals and restores man to Christlikeness, and prepares him to live forever with the Father and the Son.

When sinners feel completely condemned, it is their perception of God's character and their ideas of justice that cause this. Men need the intercession of Christ through the means of His literal blood to assist them to believe that God accepts him. But as men grow in their confidence in Christ and they learn the character of the Father as reflected in Christ's life on earth, they have the opportunity to learn that God does not judge or condemn – we simply need to ask Him to forgive us and to help us by giving us the Spirit of His Son. We can speak to the rock rather than requiring it to be struck. We can be cleansed by the blood of Christ in the knowledge that this is His Spirit.

Looking down through the way of the Sanctuary we discover that literal blood defiles the sanctuary while spiritual blood cleanses it.

The Sanctuary is also a symbol of our body temple. When we believe that God's justice demands death, we defile our body temple. When we see God as

demanding the of death of the transgressor, we fall victim to demanding the death of those who we consider transgressors which also defiles our body temple.

But when we learn the truth of God’s character as revealed in Christ, we then receive the Spirit of one who does not judge, condemn or destroy. This begins to cleanse our body temple to the point that sacrifice and offering for sin will cease.

From this perspective of the mediation of Christ and the work of atonement, we see that when Jesus is saying “my blood, my blood” in front of His Father, it means He is willing to continue to give His life giving spirit to the human race in the face of their rejection of Him, which God will never force Him to do if Jesus feels they completely cut Him off.

7. The Time of Jacob’s Trouble

For the 144,000 who are sealed in the final movements of earth’s history, they will be able to live in the presence of God without an intercessor for literal blood. They have washed their robes in the spiritual blood of Christ and made them white. There is no condemnation, for the justice system of Satan has been purged out of them. Hallelujah.

But the presence of blood in the Sanctuary on the Day of Atonement during the time of Ancient Israel points to the final wrestle for God’s people to trust in the Character of God.

There is a connection between the ceremony of cleansing the temple from sin on the Day of Atonement and the cleansing of the sinner from leprosy; a symbol of sin.¹

Cleansing the Sanctuary on Day of Atonement Leviticus 16	Cleansing the Sinner from Leprosy Leviticus 14
Two goats selected Lev 16:5	Two birds selected Lev 14:4

¹ Thanks to Sean Sutton for sharing this parallel with me.

One goat slain, the other presented alive Lev 16:9,10	One bird slain over running water in an earthen vessel, the living bird is dipped in the blood of the slain bird over running water. Lev 14:5,6
Blood of the slain goat sprinkled seven times on the altar of incense. Sanctuary made clean. Lev 16:18,19	Blood of the slain bird sprinkled seven times on the person that is cleansed. Man is pronounced clean. Lev 14:7
High Priest confesses sins over the living goat which is then sent away into the wilderness. Lev 16:21	Living bird loosed into the open field. Lev 14:7

These two ceremonies connect the cleansing of sin from both the sanctuary and the individual. This process will take place for God's people during the sealing right before the Second Coming. This occurs in the time of Jacob's trouble.

Faced with death from his brother Esau, Jacob pled with God for deliverance. When his deliverer came Jacob thought he was an enemy and wrestled with him, not realizing that it was Christ. This was symbolic of Jacob having to face all his guilt and shame to believe that God would help him in his crisis with Esau. In a similar manner, God's people at the end of time will be faced with all of their sins as Christ comes close to them.

The people of God will then be plunged into those scenes of affliction and distress described by the prophet as the time of Jacob's trouble. "Thus saith the Lord: We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace.... All faces are turned into paleness. Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it." Jeremiah 30:5-7. Jacob's night of anguish, when he wrestled in prayer for deliverance from the hand of Esau (Genesis 32:24-30), represents the experience of God's people in the time of trouble. Great Controversy 616.

As God's people face the death decree of the Sunday law, they feel cut off from God. Satan presents their sins to them in the most exaggerated light and they feel overwhelmed.

As Satan influenced Esau to march against Jacob, so he will stir up the wicked to destroy God's people in the time of trouble. And as he accused Jacob, he will urge his accusations against the people of God. He numbers the world as his subjects; but the little company who keep the commandments of God are resisting his supremacy. If he could blot them from the earth, his triumph would be complete. He sees that holy angels are guarding them, and he infers that their sins have been pardoned; but he does not know that their cases have been decided in the sanctuary above. He has an accurate knowledge of the sins which he has tempted them to commit, and he presents these before God in the most exaggerated light, representing this people to be just as deserving as himself of exclusion from the favor of God. He declares that the Lord cannot in justice forgive their sins and yet destroy him and his angels. He claims them as his prey and demands that they be given into his hands to destroy. Great Controversy 618.2

We notice in their struggle with their sins that God's people point to their past repentance as part of their assurance that God does not forsake them.

On every hand they hear the plottings of treason and see the active working of rebellion; and there is aroused within them an intense desire, an earnest yearning of soul, that this great apostasy may be terminated and the wickedness of the wicked may come to an end. But while they plead with God to stay the work of rebellion, it is with a keen sense of self-reproach that they themselves have no more power to resist and urge back the mighty tide of evil. They feel that had they always employed all their ability in the service of Christ, going forward from strength to strength, Satan's forces would have less power to prevail against them. Great Controversy 619.2

They afflict their souls before God, **pointing to their past repentance of their many sins, and pleading the Saviour's promise:** "Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me." Isaiah 27:5. Their faith does not fail because their prayers are not immediately answered. Though suffering the

keenest anxiety, terror, and distress, they do not cease their intercessions. They lay hold of the strength of God as Jacob laid hold of the Angel; and the language of their souls is: "I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me." Great Controversy 619.3

As God's people face their final struggle, the last vestiges of the false justice system in them come forth. As the goodness of God's character is revealed to them, they see the enormity of their sin. They are tempted to retreat from their identity as children of God. But the victory of Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane, where He sweat drops of blood holding onto the Father's love, is brought to them in the Spirit giving them the victory also.

This is what is symbolised in the final act of atonement in the Most Holy Place. A sprinkle of blood assures them as they wrestle with self-condemnation for their sins. As they plead for the Spirit, they receive it and their consciences are purged completely and they are sealed. The last remnants of enmity are gone; the false justice system is uprooted and defeated. Christ has slain the enmity within them, and now the temple can be completed. What a glorious day that will be!

Before we move on, I just want to share with you a quote from the Spirit of Prophecy which confirm that Christ's blood is His life, His Spirit, and in this quote we are taken to the source of Christ's life which is His Father.

All things come of God. We have nothing that we have not received; and, more than this, we have nothing that has not been purchased for us by the blood of Christ. Everything we possess comes to us stamped with the cross, bought with **the blood that is precious above all estimate, because it is the life of God.** Mount of Blessing 66.2

8. The Sufferings of Christ and the Present Cross

Why is the pouring out of Christ's Spirit represented as blood? It is because when the Spirit of Jesus enters into the heart of man, He comes into a den of iniquity. The human heart is putrid; full of all manner of evil. To abide in the heart of a

repentant sinner is a great sacrifice for Christ. As all Christian's know well, even our best efforts fall far short of the life of Jesus. When we express frustration at others, when we condemn people with our words, Jesus is pierced right through. It causes Him agony.

"And they also which pierced Him." These words apply not only to the men who pierced Christ when He hung on the cross of Calvary, but to those who by evil-speaking and wrong-doing are piercing Him today. Daily He suffers the agonies of the crucifixion. Daily men and women are piercing Him by dishonoring Him, by refusing to do His will. ST January 28, 1903, par. 8

In giving us life, Christ must bear with our sins which cause Him much suffering. This is why the symbol of blood is so appropriate. This reality opens to us the reality that while Christ was crucified in the flesh once, He has been crucified in the Spirit since the fall of Lucifer.

Those who think of the result of hastening or hindering the gospel think of it in relation to themselves and to the world. Few think of its relation to God. Few give thought to the suffering that sin has caused our Creator. **All heaven suffered in Christ's agony; but that suffering did not begin or end with His manifestation in humanity. The cross is a revelation to our dull senses of the pain that, from its very inception, sin has brought to the heart of God.** Education 263.1

The Bible expresses this principle in this way.

All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of **the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.** Revelation 13:8 NKJV

Christ cannot simply share His Spirit with the sinner, He must shed it upon us in infinite love, often while shedding tears at the same time. How great is the love of our Saviour. As Paul expresses it:

...always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. 2 Corinthians 4:10

As Christians, is it possible for us to be completely ignorant of how much pain we can cause Him? For those of us who have walked into the truth of Father and Son, and His character, how does Jesus feel when His children speak of the Trinity or that His Father is violent? It causes Him pain. Christians condemning others or desiring punishment upon others pierces him.

Take that to the level of pastors, priests and teachers sexually abusing children in the name of God. Our dear and blessed Saviour! What agony He endures for all of us.

If we limit the blood of Jesus to His death 2000 years ago, we can't really see His agony today, nor comprehend the true magnitude of His Cross. "Daily Christ suffers the agonies of crucifixion" – how can we even comprehend this?

But the point here is that it costs Christ much pain to give us His Spirit. The more He reaches out to us, and the more vulnerable He makes Himself to us, the higher the risk of Him suffering pain, if we reject His advances, or block His appeals.

This is why the sacrifices commanded in Numbers 28 in regard to the Sabbath show that twice as many lambs were sacrificed on the Sabbath as on a regular day. The Sabbath is a special day of fellowship for God's people. This means Christ attempts to come closer to our hearts and fellowship with us. But as most people reject the Sabbath, or reject His gentle Father, or despise His statutes and judgments, Christ is pierced.

Again, this is why the symbolism of the sacrifice of more animals at Passover and Tabernacles reveal both the yearning of our Saviour to draw us to Himself and the great sorrow He experiences when most of the human family reject Him.

Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath, and He longs to draw His children to His Father that we may fellowship with Them. Let us remember our beloved Saviour and how much it costs Him to give us His Spirit; His life blood.

9. Understanding the Sacrificial System

One of the great reasons why Christians think that God requires a literal blood sacrifice is because of the institution of the sacrificial system, and particularly the

Passover story from Egypt. Statements like this seem to indicate that God wanted the sacrifices.

Christ, in counsel with His Father, instituted the system of sacrificial offerings; that death, instead of being immediately visited upon the transgressor, should be transferred to a victim which should prefigure the great and perfect offering of the Son of God. 1SM 230.1

The question that needs to be asked is why did God institute this system, when the Bible says in a number of places that God didn't want sacrifice and offering?

Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; My ears You have opened.
Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require. Psalms 40:6

As further evidence of this, consider the following:

Before the foundation of the world was laid, the plan of redemption was devised. In heaven a mysterious voice was heard saying, "Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me.... Lo, I come to do thy will, O God;" "yea, thy law is within my heart." RH Sep 16, 1902

Here we see clear evidence that when the plan of redemption was devised a voice was heard by all the angels that God didn't want sacrifice and offering. This apparent contradiction indicates to us that there is a mirror operating on one side of this discussion; meaning one of these statements is a reflection of God's character and one of these statements is an accommodation to man's thinking. In our search to harmonise these two statements, we see something of interest in the story of Abraham.

Still the patriarch begged for some visible token as a confirmation of his faith and as an evidence to after-generations that God's gracious purposes toward them would be accomplished. **The Lord condescended to enter into a covenant with His servant, employing such forms as were customary among men for the ratification of a solemn engagement. By divine direction, Abraham sacrificed a heifer, a she-goat, and a ram,** each three years old, dividing the bodies and laying the pieces a little distance apart. To these he added

a turtledove and a young pigeon, which, however, were not divided. This being done, he reverently passed between the parts of the sacrifice, making a solemn vow to God of perpetual obedience. PP 137.1

Abraham was divinely directed to sacrifice three animals, but what God directed him to do was something *customary among men*. It was a condescension for God to come to Abraham's level to encourage him in faith. It was not something that God wanted or needed, but it was something which Abraham needed, and God met him in his need.

If we go back to the beginning, it is interesting that there is no recorded instruction from God about the sacrificial system. It just records the following:

And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, Genesis 4:3-4

But as we have read, the Spirit of Prophecy tells us that God instituted the sacrificial system. But the reason He did this was to help Adam see what was inside of himself. When Adam ate the fruit of the tree, the spirit of Satan entered into him. As the book of Hosea records:

And they, as Adam, transgressed a covenant, there they dealt treacherously against me. Hosea 6:7 (YLT)

Treachery is something hidden or covert. Adam was not aware of the enmity that was inside of him.

Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. Romans 8:7

Our Father in heaven gave to Adam the sacrificial system to show to him what was in his heart. It was a diagnostic tool to show him how serious his condition was. How gracious of God to condescend to allow the precious lambs He created to be used to help Adam grasp the severity of his situation. It was very painful for our Father to see these lambs slaughtered.

The seed in Adam's heart manifested in Cain when he killed his brother. Abel was filled with the Spirit of Christ. Cain remained in the natural carnal mind. This same seed would manifest 4000 years later when the Jewish nation, aided by Gentiles murdered the Son of God.

As Adam became aware of His problem, he repented of his enmity and humbly followed his Saviour, choosing to deny his carnal nature.

To Adam, the offering of the first sacrifice was a most painful ceremony. His hand must be raised to take life, which only God could give. It was the first time he had ever witnessed death, and he knew that had he been obedient to God, there would have been no death of man or beast. As he slew the innocent victim, he trembled at the thought that **his sin must shed the blood of the spotless Lamb of God**. This scene gave him a deeper and more vivid sense of the greatness of his transgression, which nothing but the death of God's dear Son could expiate. PP 68.1

Adam could never have imagined that eating the forbidden fruit would allow Satan to pervert Adam's nature, pervade his mind with false justice that demanded death, and lie to him about the character of God. We note carefully the words that "his sin must shed the blood of the spotless lamb of God."

You can read these words as God's justice required the death of His Son to provide forgiveness for Adam and the human race. But if God was the one requiring this death, why did Adam have to slay the lamb? Why didn't God slay the lamb to symbolise the fact that His justice required this?

It must be that Adam was required to slay the lamb because he was the one who believed that every sin must be punished, along with the shocking reality that he unwittingly carried within himself the seeds of Satan's desire to murder the Son of God.

10. The Mirror²

In this context God instituted the sacrificial system as a mirror into what was happening in Adam. We receive an insight into how God deals with us through the way Christ dealt with those listening to him tell the story of the rich man and Lazarus.

In this parable [of the Rich man and Lazarus] Christ was meeting the people on their own ground. The doctrine of a conscious state of existence between death and the resurrection was held by many of those who were listening to Christ's words. **The Saviour knew of their ideas, and He framed His parable so as to inculcate important truths through these preconceived opinions. He held up before His hearers a mirror wherein they might see themselves in their true relation to God.** He used the prevailing opinion to convey the idea He wished to make prominent to all—that no man is valued for his possessions; for all he has belongs to him only as lent by the Lord. A misuse of these gifts will place him below the poorest and most afflicted man who loves God and trusts in Him. COL 263.2

Applying this mirror principle to the sacrificial system, we see that God knew Adam's ideas of atonement. He knew that Satan had convinced him that every sin must be punished. In asking Adam to take the life of the innocent lamb, God was holding up before Adam a mirror wherein he might see himself in his true relation to God.

Christ might have told His hearers that the soul is not immortal and that the story of the rich man crying out from Hades was nonsense. But his hearers believed this and trying to convince them that this was wrong would only have aroused opposition. The only thing Christ could do was seek to present truth to them in the framework of their wrong ideas.

In the context of the mirror, we find a harmony between God instituting the sacrificial system while at the same time not requiring sacrifice and offering.

² For an expanded view of the mirror see the book *Mirror Principle*.

11. The Sacrifices Perverted

Another point we need to consider is the frequency of the sacrifices. In the beginning it says:

And it cometh to pass **at the end of days** that Cain bringeth from the fruit of the ground a present to Jehovah; and Abel, he hath brought, he also, from the female firstlings of his flock, even from their fat ones; and Jehovah looketh unto Abel and unto his present, Genesis 4:3,4 YLT

In commenting on this verse John Wesley states:

In process of time - At the end of days, **either at the end of the year when they kept their feast of in-gathering, or at the end of the days of the week, the seventh day;** - Wesley comment on Genesis 4:3

In the context of the tenderness of God, and His love for animals (Jonah 4:11), offering a sacrifice once a year would have made the point clear. Offering a sacrifice every week runs the risk of hardening the heart to the lesson taught.

Satan made efforts to destroy the meaning of the sacrifices.

The sacrificial system, committed to Adam, was also perverted by his descendants. Superstition, idolatry, cruelty, and licentiousness corrupted the simple and significant service that God had appointed. PP 364.3

Soon the antediluvians were offering human sacrifices to appease their perceptions of an angry deity.

The altars on which human sacrifices had been offered were torn down, and the worshipers were made to tremble at the power of the living God, and to know that it was their corruption and idolatry which had called down their destruction. PP 99.2

It is in this context that Caiaphas was motivated to offer Christ as a sacrifice.

On the lips of Caiaphas this most precious truth was turned into a lie. **The policy he advocated was based on a principle borrowed from heathenism.** Among the heathen, the dim consciousness that one was to die for the human race had led to the offering of human sacrifices. So Caiaphas proposed by the sacrifice of Jesus to save the guilty nation, not from transgression, but in transgression, that they might continue in sin. DA 540.2

The proclivity of men to offer sacrifices as an appeasement to God for their sins is expressed in these words:

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, Ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? Micah 6:7 NKJV

The simple service which God provided to Adam to diagnose the enmity in his heart eventually became completely perverted. The fact that both the nation of Israel and the heathen came under an influence that moved fathers to slay their own children as a sacrifice, echoes the original understanding that God would offer His Son to us to sacrifice to satisfy our perceptions of justice. But this was twisted into the idea that God the Father would slay His own Son to satisfy His offended justice.

Satan was seeking to bring contempt upon the sacrificial offerings that prefigured the death of Christ; and as the minds of the people were darkened by idolatry, he led them to counterfeit these offerings and sacrifice their own children upon the altars of their gods. As men turned away from God, the divine attributes—justice, purity, and love—were supplanted by oppression, violence, and brutality. PP 120.3

In taking these steps, Satan led men to repeat what Satan had done in placing his own attributes upon God.

Thus the archfiend clothes with his own attributes the Creator and Benefactor of mankind. Cruelty is satanic. God is love; and all that He

created was pure, holy, and lovely, until sin was brought in by the first great rebel. GC 534.2

The deceitfulness of the human heart under the inspiration of Satan led men to hide their enmity for God within the very sacrifice provided for them. This is what has led the whole Christian world to believe that the literal blood of Jesus is what satisfies God's justice and releases them from His condemnation.

God wanted to release the world from its self-condemnation and encourage us to take hold of His love by faith, allowing the Spirit or spiritual blood of Christ to cleanse, heal and transform us into His image.

The belief that God's justice demands blood conceals the indignation residing in the souls of men. It is an indignation that aims to destroy the Son of God while professing love and reverence for Him. This indignation groomed in the temples of paganism would eventually find its supreme manifestation in the Transgression of Desolation (The Papacy) as described in Daniel 8.

12. Passover and Mt Sinai Commands on Sacrifice

In the same way in which God held up a mirror to Adam in instituting the sacrificial system, the Lord instituted for Israel the sacrifice of the Passover.

Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. Exodus 12:3-7

While in Egypt, many of the Israelites became corrupted in their worship of God. Their slavery in the flesh was a reflection of the slavery of their hearts.

Victims of lifelong slavery, they were ignorant, untrained, degraded. They had little knowledge of God and little faith in Him. They were confused by false teaching and corrupted by their long contact with heathenism. Ed 34.1

The degradation of the Israelites was a deep sorrow for God and His Son. Christ was daily pouring out His life blood to them by His Spirit while they were ignorant of the suffering their actions caused Him. In the apostasy in Egypt, Christ was crucified.

And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and **Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.** Revelation 11:8

From heaven's perspective, the Passover lamb was a mirror of what Israel was doing to Christ in Egypt. To the Israelites, the blood of the lamb accorded with their confused ideas about sacrifice, for they had been living near the Egyptians for hundreds of years.

While the Israelites were in Egyptian bondage, they were surrounded with idolatry. **The Egyptians had received traditions in regard to sacrificing.** They did not acknowledge the existence of the God of Heaven. They sacrificed to their idol gods. With great pomp and ceremony they performed their idol worship. They erected altars to the honor of their gods, and they required even their own children to pass through the fire. 1SP 267.2

Some of the Israelites even participated in these heathen rites, causing their own children to pass through the fire to the gods of Egypt.

Even some of the children of Israel had so far degraded themselves as to practice these abominations, and God caused the fire to kindle upon their children, whom they made to pass through the fire. They did not go to all the lengths of the heathen nations; but God deprived

them of their children by causing the fire to consume them in the act of passing through it. 1SP 268.1

In our understanding of the character of God, we would say God allowed the fire to be kindled upon their children, permitting them to be deprived of them because as a man sows, so shall he reap.

We note carefully what Ellen White says in the next paragraph of what we have just read.

Because the people of God had confused ideas of the ceremonial sacrificial offerings, and had heathen traditions confounded with their ceremonial worship, **God condescended to give them definite directions, that they might understand the true import of those sacrifices** which were to last only till the Lamb of God should be slain, who was the great antitype of all their sacrificial offerings. 1SP 268.2

Both the Passover directions in Egypt and the commands of God at Mt Sinai concerning sacrifices were a condescension to their understanding of sacrifices. This means God was using a mirror of their preconceived opinions about sacrifices to teach them important lessons. Using our statement from Christ's Object Lessons about the mirror, we can insert the subject of sacrifices into the paragraph to see what God was doing.

In this [Commands concerning sacrifice] Christ was meeting the people on their own ground. The doctrine of [appeasement of deity through blood] was held by many of those who were listening to Christ's words. The Saviour knew of their ideas, and He framed His [commands] so as to inculcate important truths through these preconceived opinions. He held up before His hearers a mirror wherein they might see themselves in their true relation to God. COL 263.2 – adapted

The frequency and extent of the sacrifices recorded in Leviticus was a condescension to Israel's perceptions of sacrifice. Neither Adam, nor Noah, nor Abraham, nor his children were commanded to offer sacrifices daily. But the Egyptian temple worship involved daily food and drink offerings to their gods along

with incense and ointment.³ While animal sacrifice was not central to Egyptian practice, they still sacrificed animals regularly. The extent of animal sacrifices in Egypt has led some to think that animal sacrifice came from Egypt.⁴

In the context that God condescended to give the Israelites instructions concerning sacrifices, He did this according their ideas of sacrifice. He knew their preconceived opinions and framed His commands so as to inculcate important truth through these opinions.

Again, it is in this context that God could say to Israel in the time of Jeremiah:

Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Add your burnt offerings to your sacrifices and eat meat. **For I did not speak to your fathers, or command them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices.** But this is what I commanded them, saying, 'Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people. And walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you.' Jeremiah 7:21-23

The daily sacrifices to God were in accordance with Israel's understanding of sacrifice, not God's understanding, for God's ways are not our ways (Isa 55:8,9).

God didn't want these sacrifices. He wanted them to listen to His voice, and obey Him by receiving His Spirit, His life blood.

Now that we see the entire sacrificial system in the context of the mirror, we can now consider this statement in Patriarchs and Prophets.

If man had kept the law of God, as given to Adam after his fall, preserved by Noah, and observed by Abraham, there would have been no necessity for the ordinance of circumcision. And if the descendants of Abraham had kept the covenant, of which circumcision was a sign, they would never have been seduced into idolatry, nor would it have been necessary for them to suffer a life of bondage in Egypt; they would have kept God's law in mind, and there

³ <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/museums-static/digitalegypt/religion/dailycult.html>

⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal_sacrifice

would have been no necessity for it to be proclaimed from Sinai or engraved upon the tables of stone. **And had the people practiced the principles of the Ten Commandments, there would have been no need of the additional directions given to Moses.**
PP 364.2

If God's people had been faithful there would have been no circumcision, no slavery, no Ten commandments written on stone, and no law of Moses. This is a vital principle to grasp. This does not at all suggest there is not truth in these things, for God taught the people through these precepts.

For instance, the fourth commandment about letting your maid servant and your man servant rest provides for the practice of slavery. These words meet the people where they are, for slavery is not a principle from God, but the principle of Sabbath rest is an eternal principle.

With this realisation, we can begin to comprehend that our Father in heaven never desired literal blood to atone for our sins, but He provided for us the gift of His Son, in order that we might escape Satan's lie that "every sin must be punished." Christ was offered to help us free ourselves of the lie that God would not forgive.

I pray that you can see this precious light coming to God's people in these last days. Our Father's character is completely free of the demand for sacrifice and offering for sin. All He requires is a contrite heart and a broken spirit. We are the ones who require blood and death for sin. As Waggoner taught us:

Of course the idea of a propitiation or sacrifice is that there is wrath to be appeased. But **take particular notice that it is we who require the sacrifice, and not God.** E.J. Waggoner, *The Justice of Mercy, Present Truth UK* Aug 30, 1894

...we have left the matter of reconciliation just where the Scriptures have put it; and while they have much to say about the necessity for man to be reconciled to God, they never once hint of such a thing as the necessity for God to be reconciled to man. To intimate the necessity for such a thing is to bring a grave charge against the character of God. **The idea has come into the Christian Church from**

the Papacy, which in turn brought it from Paganism, in which the only idea of God was of a being whose wrath must be appeased by a sacrifice. E.J. Waggoner, Present Truth UK, Sept 21, 1893

In this context all blood sacrifices are pagan sacrifices, because God never required them. It is the condescension of God which provided them as a mirror to Adam, as well as to Israel, so as to open a channel of communication with them. Because they are designed to show what is in the heart of man, and as all men are pagans by nature, it follows that all sacrifices are pagan; **all sacrifices are a mirror of the enmity or indignation of men against Christ.** But within Israel God spoke through these preconceived opinions to teach important truth. Through the sacrificial system God caused the sin of men to abound, but where this sin abounded, grace did much more abound (Rom 5:20).

Now we must take these principles into the book of Daniel. In Daniel 8 we are given in symbols the story of Satan's enmity working through men to kill Christ, and to war against each other. Gabriel then tells Daniel what happens to end this indignation or enmity (Dan 8:19).

13. The Ram and the Goat

The ritual of animal sacrifice was prevalent through most of the ancient civilisations of the world.

Animal sacrifice is the ritual killing and offering of one or more animals, usually as part of a religious ritual or to appease or maintain favour with a deity. Animal sacrifices were common throughout Europe and the Ancient Near East until the spread of Christianity in Late Antiquity, and continue in some cultures or religions today.⁵

This almost universal practice speaks to the lie which Satan had planted deep in humanity that the divine hand is only moved by blood. It is true that most pagan

⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal_sacrifice

religions followed the example of Cain in making food offerings but animal sacrifice also played a central part of their religions.

Like the Israelites, the Babylonians, Greeks, Romans, and others, had special feasts in which they honoured their gods. All of these facts speak to us, that as Ellen White said, the Israelites were confused by their neighbours in Egypt and the rituals instituted at Sinai were an adaptation of what they were familiar with.

In the Daniel 8, we read of the cleansing of the Sanctuary. Daniel sees in vision a conflict between a ram and a goat. Gabriel tells Daniel that the ram symbolises Medo-Persia and the goat represents Greece.

The ram which you saw, having the two horns—they are the kings of Media and Persia. And the male goat is the kingdom of Greece. The large horn that is between its eyes is the first king. Dan 8:20, 21

This war between Greece and Persia speaks to the enmity residing in the hearts of men towards each other. There is a complete prophetic layer involved in Daniel 8 giving to us a sequence of events from the time of Persia until the start of the cleansing of the Sanctuary in 1844.

But the events of human history are influenced by the hidden work of good and evil angels; Christ is directing the good angels and Satan is directing the evil ones. We are familiar with the principle of stepping past the visible into the invisible layer in places such as Revelation 12.

And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. Revelation 12:3-4 NKJV

The visible meaning of this passage depicts the dragon as Rome in the person of Herod, who was under Roman control, and his plan to kill Christ when he was born. The casting of the stars to the ground refers to many of Israel's leaders being persecuted and killed at this time. See how Uriah Smith interprets this.

The dragon drew the third part of the stars of heaven. If the twelve stars with which the woman is crowned, here used symbolically, denote the twelve apostles, then the stars thrown down by the dragon before his attempt to destroy the man child, or before the Christian Era, **may denote a part of the rulers of the Jewish people.**
– Uriah Smith – Daniel and Revelation.

Uriah Smith describes the visible events, but these verses also describe the original war in heaven.

When Satan became disaffected in heaven, he did not lay his complaint before God and Christ; but he went among the angels who thought him perfect and represented that God had done him injustice in preferring Christ to himself. The result of this misrepresentation was that through their sympathy with him **one third of the angels lost their innocence, their high estate, and their happy home.** Satan is instigating men to continue on earth the same work of jealousy and evil surmising that he commenced in heaven. { 5T 291.1}

So Revelation 12:2-3 speaks not only to the visible casting down of the leaders of Israel by Rome 2000 years ago, but also to the invisible history of Satan the Dragon casting down a third of the angels of heaven in the beginning.

We see a similar principle in the book of Ezekiel where the prophet describes the King of Tyre:

The word of the LORD came to me again, saying, "**Son of man, say to the prince of Tyre,** 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Because your heart is lifted up, And you say, 'I am a god, I sit in the seat of gods, In the midst of the seas,' Yet you are a man, and not a god, Though you set your heart as the heart of a god (Behold, you are wiser than Daniel! There is no secret that can be hidden from you! With your wisdom and your understanding you have gained riches for yourself, And gathered gold and silver into your treasuries; By your great wisdom in trade you have increased your riches, And your heart is lifted up because of

your riches)," Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Because you have set your heart as the heart of a god, Ezekiel 28:1-6 NKJV

The rest of Ezekiel 28 gives a description of the activities of Satan and his end. But the visible layer shows Satan's work through the King of Tyre. The invisible layer reveals the work of Satan. When we consider the term "prince of Tyre" and compare it to events happening in the book of Daniel, we see something very interesting:

Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands. And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling. Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. **But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one [First] of the chief princes, came to help me,** for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. Daniel 10:10-13 NKJV

Gabriel came to Daniel to explain things to him. He explains that he was detained from coming to him by the prince of the kingdom of Persia, but that Michael, who is Christ, helped him. Therefore the prince of the kingdom of Persia was Satan working through the Persian King. But Michael and Gabriel overcome Satan in order to encourage the King to let Israel go back to their homeland.

While Satan was striving to influence the highest powers in the kingdom of Medo-Persia to show disfavor to God's people, angels worked in behalf of the exiles. The controversy was one in which all heaven was interested. Through the prophet Daniel we are given a glimpse of this mighty struggle between the forces of good and the forces of evil. **For three weeks Gabriel wrestled with the powers of darkness, seeking to counteract the influences at work on the mind of Cyrus; and before the contest closed, Christ Himself came to Gabriel's aid.** "The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one

and twenty days," Gabriel declares; "but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia." Daniel 10:13. All that heaven could do in behalf of the people of God was done. The victory was finally gained; the forces of the enemy were held in check all the days of Cyrus, and all the days of his son Cambyses, who reigned about seven and a half years. *Prophets and Kings* 571.2

Satan is the prince of this world, but Christ is the prince of the kings of the earth. (Rev 1:5). Satan has usurped the authority of Jesus in the kingdoms of this world, but Christ is the rightful ruler. So although Satan was controlling Persia, in the events of Daniel 8 Christ was guiding the King to allow Israel to return to their home. Isaiah prophesied of the work of Christ through Cyrus, the King of Persia.

Who says of Cyrus, **'He is My shepherd**, And he shall perform all My pleasure, Saying to Jerusalem, "You shall be built," And to the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid." ' Isaiah 44:28 NKJV

The Psalmist says, "The Lord is my Shepherd" and Christ tells us Himself:

I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. John 10:14

In another parallel we notice a comparison between the work of John the Baptist in preparing the way for Christ, the anointed one to come, and what God does for Cyrus in destroying Babylon.

"Thus says the LORD to His anointed, To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held-- To subdue nations before him and loose the armor of kings, To open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be shut: **'I will go before you and make the crooked places straight**; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze and cut the bars of iron. Isaiah 45:1-2

The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; **The crooked places shall be made straight** and the rough places smooth;

The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." Isaiah 40:3-5 NKJV

The events of Cyrus conquering Babylon by diverting the Euphrates river in order to enter the city are used in the language of the seven last plagues to prepare the way for the kings of the east, a reference to the return of Christ.

Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. Revelation 16:12

Persia delivered Israel from their slavery to Babylon, eventually encouraging and supporting them to re-establish their homeland. All of these parallels connect the symbol of the Ram to the work of Christ.

The symbolism of the goat connects naturally to Azazel, the scapegoat used in the service on the day of Atonement.

Most versions leave the Hebrew word for scapegoat, 'azazel, untranslated, since there is no unanimity of opinion in regard to its meaning. Many modern scholars hold, with the Jews, that Azazel denotes a personal, wicked, superhuman spirit, and nearly all agree that its root meaning is, "one who removes," "a remover," specifically, one who removes "by a series of acts." Others suggest that it is a combination of 'ez, "goat," and 'azal, "to go away," "to depart."

As one goat is for the Lord, a personal Being, so the other goat must also be for a personal being; and as they are evidently antithetical, the most consistent view would be that Azazel stands in opposition to the Lord, and hence can be no other than Satan. – SDA Bible Commentary on Lev 16:8

The symbolism of the two goats takes us to the events of Calvary when Israel was asked by Rome to choose between Christ and Barabbas. Christ was sacrificed and Barabbas was led away but was not killed. Christ is symbolised as the slain goat because He was made sin for us; He was killed according to Satan's justice system.

When we read the prophecies of Daniel, we see the visible events described as prophecies of human events, but these events are controlled by the spiritual world. Behind the visible is the invisible, and therefore the war that Satan began in heaven is revealed by the events of human history where Satan continued his warfare on earth.

The warfare against God's law commenced in heaven. Satan was determined to bring God to his ideas, his way, to force Him to change the law of His government. This was the cause of the war in heaven. Satan worked upon the sympathies of the angelic host by his deceptive attitude, but he was expelled from heaven, and now he is determined to carry out on this earth the plans [he] instituted in heaven. 12MR 37.1

Just as we saw in Revelation 12 that the events relating to the Jewish leaders being cast down just before the time of Christ gave us a window into the original war in heaven, so also the events of Daniel 8 give us a window into the original war in heaven through the war between Medo-Persia and Greece.

This is where an understanding of the divine pattern becomes a powerful tool to bring light to the books of Daniel and Revelation. The invisible is revealed through the visible. The war on earth depicted in Daniel and Revelation are a revelation of the war in heaven and the issues at stake in this war.

14. The Meaning of the Horns

With regard to the ram, Daniel sees two horns:

Then I lifted my eyes and saw, and there, standing beside the river, was a ram which had two horns, and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last.
Daniel 8:3

A horn in Bible prophecy represents a king, as well as the power or strength of the king.

The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and **he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.** 1 Samuel 2:10 KJV

The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, **my strength**, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and **the horn of my salvation**, and my high tower. Psalm 18:2 KJV

And the male goat is the kingdom of Greece. **The large horn that is between its eyes is the first king.** Daniel 8:21 NKJV

Samuel filled a horn with oil to use to anoint David as king. The horn is the source of power from which the Spirit of God is poured onto the king. It is also fitting that the emergence of a new king should be created through the use of a horn, being a representation of the king himself.

And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? **fill thine horn with oil**, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons. 1 Samuel 16:1 KJV

We might consider the two horns of the ram representing the Divine Pattern form of government in heaven. The Father is the source, and He poured His Spirit upon His Son who grew to be the brightness of His Father's glory and thus grew higher than the first horn.

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:9-11

Satan, the one most honoured next to Christ, was a murderer from the beginning. As the goat is described as being enraged at the ram (Dan 8:6), so Satan was enraged at the Son of God. The enmity of Satan against Christ is manifested in the work of the goat against the ram.

By the abundance of your trading **you became filled with violence within, and you sinned**; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God; and I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones. Ezekiel 28:16

The power of Satan is in his lies. These are the only things originating from him. Everything else has been given to him by God. This is further confirmed by the connection of the lifting up of the wicked through the process of speaking.

I said to the boastful, 'Do not deal boastfully,' **And to the wicked, 'Do not lift up the horn. Do not lift up your horn on high; Do not speak with a stiff neck.'** Psalms 75:4-5 NKJV

The words or lies by Satan gave him power.

The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 2 Thessalonians 2:9

The goat had a notable horn between his eyes:

And as I was considering, suddenly a male goat came from the west, across the surface of the whole earth, without touching the ground; and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes. Daniel 8:5

This horn between the eyes of the goat represents Satan and the lie he told concerning the identity of the Son of God, and the power of this lie resides in the fact that others believed these lies.

Angels were expelled from heaven because they would not work in harmony with God. They fell from their high estate because they wanted to be exalted. **They had come to exalt themselves, and they forgot that their beauty of person and of character came from the Lord Jesus. This fact the [fallen] angels would obscure, that Christ was the only begotten Son of God, and they came to consider that they were not to consult Christ.** {TDG 128.2}

The goat ran at the ram and struck it with his sharp horn. The power in this notable horn contained four other lies which were not visible until the first lie was exposed,

because after the notable horn was broken off, the four other horns grew out of the same place as the first horn.

Therefore the male goat grew very great; but when he became strong, the large horn was broken, and in place of it four notable ones came up toward the four winds of heaven. Daniel 8:8 NKJV

By obscuring the fact that Jesus was the begotten Son, the precious Divine Pattern relationship between Father and Son was broken. This broke the power of the two horns on the ram. Christ is the only way to the Father. When Satan attacked the identity of the Son of God, that access was obscured. All of the angels were affected by Satan's deception. As we quoted in chapter 2:

It was most difficult to make the deceiving power of Satan apparent. His power to deceive increased with practice. If he could not defend himself, he must accuse, in order to appear just and righteous, **and to make God appear arbitrary and exacting. In secret he whispered his disaffection to the angels. There was at first no pronounced feeling against God; but the seed had been sown, and the love and confidence of the angels was marred. The sweet communion between them and their God was broken. Every move was watched; every action was viewed in the light in which Satan had made them see things** {*Review and Herald*, September 7, 1897 par. 3-4}

In the symbolism of the two horns of the ram being broken, we see that Ellen White states that the sweet communion between God and the angels was broken. All of the angels were unconsciously viewing God through the lens that Satan had created for them, and they became agitated and uncertain of what was right and wrong.

God intervened by assembling all the angels and explaining to them the true relation of His Son to Himself.

The King of the universe summoned the heavenly hosts before Him, that in their presence He might **set forth the true position of His Son and show the relation He sustained to all created beings. The Son of God shared the Father's throne, and the glory of the eternal, self-**

existent One encircled both. About the throne gathered the holy angels, a vast, unnumbered throng—“ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands” (Revelation 5:11.), the most exalted angels, as ministers and subjects, rejoicing in the light that fell upon them from the presence of the Deity. **Before the assembled inhabitants of heaven the King declared that none but Christ, the Only Begotten of God, could fully enter into His purposes, and to Him it was committed to execute the mighty counsels of His will.** The Son of God had wrought the Father’s will in the creation of all the hosts of heaven; **and to Him, as well as to God, their homage and allegiance were due.** Christ was still to exercise divine power, in the creation of the earth and its inhabitants. But in all this He would not seek power or exaltation for Himself contrary to God’s plan, but would exalt the Father’s glory and execute His purposes of beneficence and love. PP 36.2

This event broke the strength of Satan’s power over the angels. Even Satan himself was subdued, and his heart went out in love to the Father and the Son.

The angels joyfully acknowledged the supremacy of Christ, and prostrating themselves before Him, poured out their love and adoration. Lucifer bowed with them, but in his heart there was a strange, fierce conflict. Truth, justice, and loyalty were struggling against envy and jealousy. The influence of the holy angels seemed for a time to carry him with them. As songs of praise ascended in melodious strains, swelled by thousands of glad voices, **the spirit of evil seemed vanquished; unutterable love thrilled his entire being; his soul went out, in harmony with the sinless worshippers, in love to the Father and the Son.** PP 36.3

But soon after this, Satan’s pride returned. The four other lies which Satan had spread under his main objective of obscuring the identity of the Son of God became more visible and began to grow. These lies are connected to the pentagon

of lies.⁶ We notice that the goat developed five horns because a little horn came forth from one of the other four.

Therefore the male goat grew very great; but when he became strong, the large horn was broken, and in place of it four notable ones came up toward the four winds of heaven. And out of one of them came a little horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Glorious Land. Daniel 8:8-9 NKJV

This makes the four horns on the goat fit the pattern of 3+1. For example there are four metals described in Daniel 2, but the fourth metal is different because it eventually becomes mixed with clay. In Daniel 7, four beasts are described, but the fourth beast was different from the others.

"After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. **It was different from all the beasts that were before it**, and it had ten horns. Daniel 7:7 NKJV

Again, there were four men who accused Job, but the fourth one was different from the others; he came later and also is not addressed by the Lord at the end. We even see this pattern in the earthly Sanctuary buildings. There were four temples built but the fourth one was different.

1. Moses' sanctuary
2. Solomon's temple
3. Zerubbabel's temple
4. Herod's temple, a replacing of the previous temple and was financially supported by Rome.

This pattern even reaches to the four gospels. There are the three synoptic gospels and the gospel of John which is different from the other three. Of course, this opens many doors into different subjects, but we now return to the war in heaven.

⁶ See the book *Escaping the Pentagon of Lies* available from maranathamedia.com

Satan, in denying that Jesus was begotten of the Father and that Satan owed his life to Him, developed the lie that the angels were inherently immortal.

Little by little Lucifer came to indulge the desire for self-exaltation. The Scripture says, “Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness.” Ezekiel 28:17. Thou hast said in thine heart, ...I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.... I will be like the Most High.” Isaiah 14:13, 14. **Though all his glory was from God, this mighty angel came to regard it as pertaining to himself.** PP 35.2

The high honors conferred upon Lucifer were not appreciated as God’s special gift, and therefore, called forth no gratitude to his Creator. **He gloried in his brightness and exaltation and aspired to be equal with God.** {PP 37}

The denial of Jesus being the begotten Son led Satan naturally to assume that his life came from himself. This lie of inherent life led to an inevitable war on the law of God.

Satan was warring against the law of God, because ambitious to exalt himself, and unwilling to submit to the authority of Gods’ Son, Heaven’s great commander.... **He claimed that angels needed no law; but should be left free to follow their own will, which would ever guide them right.** {1SP 22}

The law is a transcript of God’s character. As all created beings owed their life to God, the law was an expression of liberty and freedom ensuring connection to God. Through the lie of inherent life that meant connection to God wasn’t required to live, Satan presented the law as arbitrary and restrictive.

God requires perfection of His children. His law is a transcript of His own character, and it is the standard of all character. {COL 315.1}

The law of love being the foundation of the government of God, the happiness of all intelligent beings depends upon their perfect accord with its great principles of righteousness. {PP 34.3}

The Son of God presented before him the greatness, the goodness, and the justice of the Creator, and the sacred, unchanging nature of His law. God Himself had established the order of heaven; and in departing from it, Lucifer would dishonor his Maker and bring ruin upon himself. {PP 35.3}

From these events we can see the four key elements making up the four horns of the goat:

1. Lying by obscuring the fact Christ is begotten
2. Lying that life is inherent
3. Lying that the law is unnecessary
4. Lying that God is arbitrary and controlling in character.

These four horns stand in the place of Satan's original lie concerning the Son of God. The first lie continues as manifested in these four. These stem from Satan's enmity for Christ and his desire to murder Him. Satan had held almost half the angels through his lies:

Satan exultingly pointed to his sympathizers, comprising nearly one half of all the angels, and exclaimed, These are with me! 1SP 22.2

After God had made clear the position of His Son, many of Satan's sympathisers were inclined to return to God. In order to secure his angels, Satan introduced another lie related to the law of God.

Many of Satan's sympathizers were inclined to heed the counsel of the loyal angels, and repent of their dissatisfaction, and **be again received to the confidence of the Father and his dear Son**. The mighty revolter then declared that **he was acquainted with God's law**, and... that **himself and they also had now gone too far to go back**, and he would brave the consequences; for to bow in servile worship to the Son of God he never would; **that God would not forgive**, and now they must assert **their liberty and gain by force** the position and authority which was not willingly accorded to them. {1SP 20.2}

This led Satan to institute a new theory relating to justice.

In the opening of the great controversy, Satan had declared that the law of God could not be obeyed, that justice was inconsistent with mercy, and that, **should the law be broken, it would be impossible for the sinner to be pardoned. Every sin must meet its punishment**, urged Satan; and if God should remit the punishment of sin, He would not be a God of truth and justice. {DA 761.4}

And out of one of them came a little horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Glorious Land. Daniel 8:9

This was a new lie/horn which grew out of Satan's attack on the law. Satan had originally stated that angelic beings needed no law. Now Satan attacks from a different angle. He claims to uphold the law through his principle of justice, but his ultimate aim is to destroy the law, by presenting it in a false light.

The condemning power of Satan would lead him to institute **a theory of justice inconsistent with mercy**. He claims to be officiating as the voice and power of God, claims that his decisions are justice, are pure and without fault. Thus he **takes his position on the judgment seat and declares that his counsels are infallible**. Here his **merciless justice comes in, a counterfeit of justice, abhorrent to God**. {CTr 11.4}

Shall the throne of iniquity, which devises evil by law, Have fellowship with You? Psalm 94:20

Through the lie of false justice, Satan succeeded in taking a third of the heavenly angels with him. They believed that God would not forgive them, and so God was not able to forgive them. They believed Satan and thus could not believe God. As they judged, they were judged.

And it grew up to the host of heaven; and it **cast down some of the host and some of the stars to the ground**, and trampled them. Daniel 8:10

And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his

heads. **His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth....** Revelation 12:3-4

In taking one third of the angels, the power of this lie made the little horn exceeding great. This horn grew even greater when the human race fell. Human nature became infused with the principles of lies or horns of the goat.

1. Enmity towards the Son of God. (Gen 3:12)
2. Believing we would not surely die. (Gen 3:4)
3. The carnal mind is enmity against the law of God. (Rom 8:7)
4. God is arbitrary, punishing and controlling. (Gen 3:17-19)
5. [Coming out of point 3] Justice of the law demands death for transgression (John 19:7)

It is important to note that when Satan planned to overthrow the human race, he hesitated; he trembled and wavered as to whether he should do this.

He shuddered at the thought of plunging the holy, happy pair into the misery and remorse he was himself enduring. He seemed in a state of indecision; at one time firm and determined, then hesitating and wavering. His angels were seeking him, their leader, to acquaint him with their decision. They will unite with Satan in his plans, and with him bear the responsibility, and share the consequences. Satan cast off his feelings of despair and weakness, and, as their leader, fortified himself to brave out the matter, and do all in his power to defy the authority of God and his Son. 1SP 32

We are told that the fallen angels said they would unite with Satan to overthrow the human race. The four horns may therefore represent not only the lies which Satan told but key angels who were his military generals in the war against God and His Son.

It is interesting to note that in 2 Sam 21:15-22 we are given a list of four giants besides Goliath who were overcome by David and his men.

These four Philistines were descendants of the giants of Gath, but David and his warriors killed them. 2 Samuel 21:22 NLT

Is it possible that Satan was seeking to duplicate the throne of God where four living creatures stood before the throne? Is there a connection between Satan's four generals and the four winds which seek to blow upon the earth? (Rev 7:1-3, Zech 6:1-8). And is there a connection between four potential generals and the four different kingdoms that are described in Daniel 7 as four beasts? These four beasts are referred to as four kings.

Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise out of the earth. Daniel 7:17 NKJV

Within the history of these four beasts, many individual earthly kings ruled on the throne, but in the invisible realm were there four individuals, like the prince of Persia, guiding these kings and kingdoms?

These are things for further study, but the principle is that the five keys lies of Satan, which establish his power, are carried by himself and four other key fallen angels.

The condition of Satan and the fallen angels was not reversible. They believed the lie that God would not forgive. This was a lie against His character. They sinned in the light of the knowledge of God's character, but man was in a different position.

But even as a sinner, man was in a different position from that of Satan. Lucifer in heaven had sinned in the light of God's glory. To him as to no other created being was given a revelation of God's love. Understanding the character of God, knowing His goodness, Satan chose to follow his own selfish, independent will. This choice was final. There was no more that God could do to save him. But man was deceived; his mind was darkened by Satan's sophistry. The height and depth of the love of God he did not know. For him there was hope in a knowledge of God's love. **By beholding His character he might be drawn back to God.** {DA 761.5}

The mercy extended to man in giving him probation enabled Satan to activate his principles of mercy through the punishment of death. Satan had stated that every sin must be punished. He convinced the human race that in order for forgiveness

to be obtained, one equal with God would have to die to satisfy the demands of the law.

As we read above, this separation of justice from mercy was abhorrent to God. The word *abhorrent* in Webster's dictionary carries the meaning *to abominate*. Therefore the lie of justice demanding death is at the heart of the abomination or transgression that makes desolate.

Through this little horn of false justice, Satan was enabled to magnify himself to the prince of the host. (Dan 8:11). To give a summary of this process in heaven, I quote from the book *Key to Empowering the Third Angel's Message*:

1. **A rejection of the begotten Son who inherited all things.**
2. Which led to a rejection of life as a gift.
3. **Which led to the theory of inherent immortality.**
4. **Which led to the theory that angels did not need laws to govern them.**
5. **Which made God's law appear arbitrary.**
6. Which caused Satan to declare that mercy was inconsistent with justice because beings of inherent wisdom do not need mercy – they have sufficient wisdom to guide them.
7. Which made God appear that He could not be just and forgiving.
8. Which led Satan to tell the angels that God would not forgive.
9. Which led Satan to state that every sin must be punished.
10. **Which led to the idea that justice demands death.**
11. Which means God's government is founded on force, not love.
12. Which opened the door for the principle of sacrificial atonement or penal substitution for transgression. – *Key to Empowering the Third Angel's Message* page 13.

In order to fully reconcile things in heaven and earth (Col 1:20), this false justice system had to be exposed. The only way to do this was for the sin of Satan against Christ to abound. When Christ was murdered on the Cross, Satan revealed his enmity, and the place of his sanctuary (his counterfeit theological system or refuge of lies, Isa 28:17) of enmity was cast to the ground.

Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by [from] him the daily *sacrifice* was [lifted up] taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down. Daniel 8:11 KJV

Satan saw that his disguise was torn away. His administration was laid open before the unfallen angels and before the heavenly universe. He had revealed himself as a murderer. **By shedding the blood of the Son of God, he had uprooted himself from the sympathies of the heavenly beings.** Henceforth his work was restricted. Whatever attitude he might assume, he could no longer await the angels as they came from the heavenly courts, and before them accuse Christ's brethren of being clothed with the garments of blackness and the defilement of sin. The last link of sympathy between Satan and the heavenly world was broken. { DA 761.2}

The magnification of the little horn against the prince of the host is a reference to the death of Christ on the Cross.

Prince of the host. Dan 8:25 speaks of this same power standing up against the Prince of princes. The reference is to Christ, who was crucified under the authority of Rome. See on Dan 9:25; Dan 11:22.
– SDA Bible Commentary on Dan 8:11

Satan's enmity was revealed in the lifting up of Christ on the Cross (John 3:14). But this cast down his sanctuary, his refuge of lies, to the ground.

This secured the heavenly angels. They saw the enmity of Satan fully revealed, and all sympathy for him was ended. But the human race was still controlled by this lie of false justice. The belief in the need for Christ to shed His blood to satisfy justice is at the heart of the enmity of Satan against Him.

This is why Christ came to cause sacrifice and oblation to cease (Dan 9:27). He came to reveal the Father's character as one full of mercy, without the demand for death. But in order to remove this enmity from our hearts, Christ had to be given a body containing this enmity, and in that body, slay the enmity.

15. Slaying the Enmity

We see this enmity play out when Cain cast Abel to the ground and “stamped on him” (Daniel 8:7), killing him. In the case of Abel, he was filled with the Spirit of Christ, thus representing a ram, but Cain was filled with the spirit of Satan, the opposer, therefore representing a goat. It is this enmity in the hearts of men that needs to be cleansed from the soul temple. As A.T. Jones expresses the reality of why there are divisions between people.

All men were separated from God and in their separation from God they were separated from one another. True, Christ wants to bring all to one another; He was ushered into the world with "Peace on earth; good will to men." That is His object. But does He spend His time in trying to get these reconciled to one another and in trying to destroy all these separations between men and to get them to say, "Oh, well, let all bygones be bygones; now we will bury the hatchet; now we will start out and turn over a new leaf and we will live better from this time on"?

Christ might have done that. If He had taken that course there are thousands of people whom He could have persuaded to do that; thousands whom He could persuade to say, "Well, it is too bad that we acted that way toward one another; it is not right, and I am sorry for it. And now let us just all leave that behind and turn over a new leaf and go on and do better." He could have got people to agree to that. But could they have stuck to it? No. **For the wicked thing is there still that made the division. What caused the division? The enmity, their separation from God caused the separation from one another.**

Then what in the world would have been the use of the Lord Himself trying to get men to agree to put away their differences without going to the root of the matter and getting rid of the enmity that caused the separation? Their separation from God had forced a separation among themselves. **And the only way to destroy their separation from one another was of necessity to destroy their separation from**

God. And this He did by abolishing the enmity. A.T. Jones, *The Third Angel's Message*, Sermon 11, February 17, 1895

The attack of the goat on the ram which symbolised the attack of Alexander the Great and his Greeks against Darius of Persia and His vast army is simply the manifestation of that enmity which burned in the breast of Satan and was translated into the heart of Adam.

The separation of the Greeks from the Persians is the manifestation of the separation of man from God and more specifically it is the hatred of Satan for Christ. This is what needs to be cleansed from the Sanctuary, which is intimately connected to all the people or soul temples on earth.

How did God deal with this enmity?

For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, **but a body hast thou prepared me:** In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. Hebrews 10:4-7 KJV

Paul quotes Psalms 40:6 but interprets part of the verse with the words "a body you have prepared for me." This is referring to Christ. Our Saviour took upon Himself our flesh which contained the enmity. Paul explained this process to the Ephesians as follows:

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, **so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.** And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. Ephesians 2:14-17

The word "ordinances" is *dogma* and never refers to the statutes and judgments of God in Greek Old Testament. In the Septuagint it refers to the decrees of man,

which are influenced by the justice system of Satan. Thus what is abolished in Christ's flesh is the wrong thinking we have about God, not God's law. See more about this in the booklet *Showing Respect for Colossians 2:14-17*.

Christ's gentle divine nature was blended together with our human nature containing the enmity.

Was the human nature of the Son of Mary changed into the divine nature of the Son of God? No; the two natures were mysteriously blended in one person—the man Christ Jesus. In Him dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. When Christ was crucified, it was His human nature that died. Deity did not sink and die; that would have been impossible.—The S.D.A. Bible Commentary 5:1113.

Therefore, since **Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind**, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 1 Peter 4:1 NKJV

The cross that Paul refers to is not only the physical cross which Jesus died on. The life of Christ was a continual cross. Jesus defines the cross as self-denial through life.

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." Matthew 16:24

Christ never allowed the enmity of human nature to manifest. He was crucified daily. He prayed for the Spirit of His Father to overcome the tendencies of the flesh.

What Jesus did on the cross was a visible manifestation of what happens in every human heart. Christ is the light which lights every man coming into the world (John 1:9). Those who accept Christ become partakers of the divine nature. In order for the Spirit of Christ to come into us, he must face the enmity in us. Christ is pierced by our enmity, but He endures this cross and continues to pour His life blood or Spirit upon us until we become crucified with Him.

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith

of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. Galatians
2:20 KJV

When we see what we are doing to Christ, that we are crucifying Him, and accept our sinfulness and receive of His life for healing, we die with Him and allow Him to rise within us, and we rise with Him, and thus we are born again.

For those who do not accept Christ, He is also crucified by them, but He is not granted the ability to rise within them, for they have not died with him and have not allowed him to give them newness of life. They stand guard at the tomb of Christ and prevent Him from rising from the dead to become a fountain of life within them. Without Christ, we are aliens and strangers from God, and remain in the darkness of Satan's kingdom.

Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh--who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands--that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. Ephesians 2:11-12

Notice as Paul continues to explain how we are brought close to God. He expresses it two different ways:

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been **brought near by the blood of Christ**. Ephesians 2:13

And He came and preached peace to you **who were afar off** and to those who were near. **For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father**. Ephesians 2:17-18

The reference to those who were near is a reference to the Jews who were nearer in proximity to the truth than Gentiles, although the Jews were still far off because of the enmity in them. But we notice that it is the blood of Christ, a symbol of His Spirit which draws us near to God.

16. A Host Given Him by Reason of Transgression

As we had mentioned, the place of Satan's sanctuary was cast to the ground. There was no more place for his ideas in heaven. The enmity manifested in sacrifices was dealt a huge blow, and with the spread of Christianity, many nations abandoned the use of such sacrifices. But through his cunning, Satan continued the fight by moving into the transgression of desolation.

And an host was given him against the daily *sacrifice* by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered. Daniel 8:12 KJV

As Christianity began to spread like a mighty rider on a white horse, Satan infiltrated the movement through his false justice system. By judging and condemning those who held false doctrines, the church lost its first love (Rev 2:4). The sacrifice of Christ was transformed to be understood as Christ being "smitten of God and afflicted." So, although Satan's pagan system of sacrifices was mortally wounded, through the Roman power Satan would introduce something more sinister: the *abomination that makes desolate*.

And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, **and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate**. Daniel 11:31

As we have mentioned, the place of Satan's sanctuary was cast to the ground. There was no more place for his ideas in heaven. The enmity manifested in sacrifices was dealt a huge blow, and with the spread of Christianity many nations abandoned the use of such sacrifices. But through his cunning, Satan continued the fight by modifying his sacrificial appeasement system of paganism into the more sophisticated Christian appeasement system of the *transgression of desolation*.

Satan, as a master of deception, infiltrates the Christian movement and acts the part of the agent to remove paganism through Christianity, when in reality he is using the Hegelian principle of synthesising two opposing principles to bring minds into a new understanding – his understanding. Through this process Satan brought

paganism into Christianity while *appearing* to destroy it. But it was Christianity which was deposed and paganism which was lifted up.

At the heart of the abomination that makes desolate is Satan's justice system of requiring every transgression to be punished.

The condemning power of Satan would lead him to institute a theory of justice inconsistent with mercy. He claims to be officiating as the voice and power of God, claims that his decisions are justice, are pure and without fault. Thus he takes his position on the judgment seat and declares that his counsels are infallible. **Here his merciless justice comes in, a counterfeit of justice, abhorrent to God.** CTr 11.4

As we previously noted, Satan's merciless justice is abhorrent to God; it is an abomination to God. Satan's merciless justice is the engine room of Satan's abomination that makes desolate. Millions perished in the Roman inquisition; sentenced to death for refusing her doctrines. Rome used the power of the state to enforce her teachings. She nurtured the doctrine of satisfaction for justice through blood appeasement which her daughters developed into penal substitution.⁷

The principle of sacrificial appeasement developed in paganism was lifted up into the medieval church to cause a desolating power to destroy human hearts. How? By giving them wrong ideas of God, which meant that they could not receive of His love and care as they saw Him as full of wrath and wanting blood. It was such an abomination to God to see His children prevented from coming into the light of His true character. All of this was a continuation of the enmity, or indignation, which Satan had for Christ manifested continually throughout human history.

The little horn of the goat (Satan) would continue to dominate the ram (Christ) through his merciless justice system until the end of the 2300 years, when the final movement would commence to remove the indignation, slaying the enmity, through a correct understanding of the everlasting gospel.

⁷ See the book *At-One-Ment* available at Maranathamedia.com

17. The Cleansing of the Sanctuary

As Daniel is watching with wonder the career of the goat and the power of its horns, the vision shifts to a discussion between two heavenly beings.

Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said to that certain one who was speaking, "How long will the vision be, concerning the daily *sacrifices* and the transgression of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled underfoot?" And he said to me, "For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed." Daniel 8:13-14 NKJV

The question is asked "How long will this enmity or indignation continue?" The reference to the *daily* is the system of sacrifices used in paganism. But I would add to this the perverted system of sacrifices used by Israel. Israel was constantly worshipping other gods, and their perception of the sacrifices even when done correctly was that God demanded these things. But as we have seen, God never wanted sacrifices, he wanted people to simply listen, and trust Him. He wanted them to realize that it was they that caused death through their sins.

Yet Ellen White has raised a point about the use of the word *sacrifices* in Daniel 8 as a supplied word.

Then I saw in relation to the "daily" (Daniel 8:12) that the word "sacrifice" was supplied by man's wisdom, and does not belong to the text, and that the Lord gave the correct view of it to those who gave the judgment hour cry. When union existed, before 1844, nearly all were united on the correct view of the "daily"; but in the confusion since 1844, other views have been embraced, and darkness and confusion have followed. Time has not been a test since 1844, and it will never again be a test. { EW 74.2 }

The Protestant understanding of Daniel 8 presented the idea of Antiochus Epiphanes, the Greek ruler to the north of Israel, being the little horn (rather than the Adventist understanding that it was the Papacy). They said this prophecy referred to him and that he stopped the sacrifices of the Jewish sanctuary for about 3 years. The supplied word *sacrifices* helps to support this view for many Christians.

In order to put the word of the Daily into its proper pagan context, Ellen White was shown that this word was supplied by man’s wisdom. This is because it was supplied to support the idea of the sacrifices being stopped in Jerusalem by a pagan king.

But when we understand that *all* sacrifices are a mirror of man’s enmity towards Christ and place it in that framework, the adding of the word sacrifices is no longer a concern, because it is *all* pagan. But God spoke to Israel through this mirror, so they might see themselves and the enmity in them. But Israel, along with all pagans, believed that God required these sacrifices to satisfy His justice.

The thought that Israel performed pagan rituals may be disturbing for many people. But the history of Israel reveals a constant (continual) falling away into paganism. This can only happen because they thought the same as everyone else.

When we see things in this light, we see that the cleansing of the Sanctuary is the removal of this enmity. The removal of this enmity can only come when men understand the truth of God’s character and allow the Spirit of Christ, His blood, to cleanse us of our false justice so that we might receive the seal of God.

There is therefore a parallel between Daniel 8 and Ephesians 2 with regard to this cleansing of the temple.

Daniel 8	Ephesians 2
<p>And I saw him confronting the ram; he was moved with rage against him, attacked the ram, and broke his two horns. There was no power in the ram to withstand him, but he cast him down to the ground and trampled him; and there was no one that could deliver the ram from his hand. Daniel 8:7</p>	<p>in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.</p> <p>Ephesians 2:2-3 NKJV</p>
<p>Then I heard a holy one speaking; and <i>another</i> holy one said to that certain</p>	<p>having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of</p>

<p><i>one</i> who was speaking, "How long <i>will</i> the vision <i>be</i>, <i>concerning</i> the daily sacrifices and the transgression of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled underfoot?" Daniel 8:13</p>	<p>commandments contained in ordinances, [Dogma – Death decrees] so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, Father. Ephesians 2:15</p>
<p>And he said to me, "For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed." Daniel 8:14</p>	<p>and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.</p> <p>Ephesians 2:16-22</p>

In Ephesians 2, the temple can only be put together once the enmity has been slain. For the enmity to be slain in us, we must receive of the Spirit or true blood of Christ.

But in order for men to be sealed in their foreheads with the truth of God's character, they must discern the lies contained within the horns of the goat, Satan. As long as we believe the lies of Satan, we are his slaves. The Spirit of Jesus can't enable us to overcome sin until we come out of these lies.

God has allowed man to live out and see the fruit of following the lies of Satan in the context of the gift of His Son. Through much struggle, God's spirit has brought man to a point where man can finally let go of the lies, seeing their result in history. Through much trial, the church has come to let go of its own ideas (which are infused with Satan's ideas) and look solely to the word of God in humility to understand it in spirit and truth.

Therefore, at the end of the 2300 years, which took place in 1844, a message began which would unmask this abomination and cause Babylon to fall. The Third Angels Message provides the antidote to the horns of the goat.

There are five parts to the First Angel's Message which is the first part of the Third Angel's message. These points are covered in more detail in the books *Key to Empowering the Third Angel's Message* and *Escaping the Pentagon of Lies*.

1. **Angel with the Everlasting Gospel.** The truth of the law and the gospel which writes the law in our hearts. **(Addresses lie about the law of God)**
2. **Saying Fear God...** This message addresses the who question of God. The doctrine of the Trinity and all religions that deny the begotten Son are exposed in this message. The true God of the Bible has a begotten Son. **(Addresses lie about the identity of the Son of God)**
3. **Give Glory to Him....** This message is about God's character. The only way we can truly know this character is through Jesus Christ, for He said in John 17:4 that He glorified the Father or revealed His glory. Paul said that Christ is the brightness of the Father's glory. Christ never killed any person, and this is the character of God revealed. This is the message to go to the world, the message that will produce the seal of God, which is the Father's name. **(Addresses lie about God's character)**
4. **The Hour of His Judgment...** This is a call to judge God's character. Is He only Agape and completely giving in nature, or is He a God of force and domination, inflicting death on those who resist Him? As we

judge Him to be, so we will judge ourselves when we face our sinful lives. (**Addresses the lie of false justice** – the little horn lie)

5. **Worship Him Who Made the Heavens and Earth...** This is a call to worship the Creator and honour the one who gives us life. **This addresses the lie that we have life in ourselves.**

Each part of this message addresses the lies of Satan and dismantles his kingdom, causing Babylon to fall. Adventism began to give this message in 1848 after a number of conferences working out the foundational elements of this message. But the message did not go with a loud voice until the 1888 message came.

Let every one who claims to believe that the Lord is soon coming, search the Scriptures as never before; for Satan is determined to try every device possible to keep souls in darkness, and blind the mind to the perils of the times in which we are living. Let every believer take up his Bible with earnest prayer, **that he may be enlightened by the holy Spirit as to what is truth, that he may know more of God and of Jesus Christ whom he has sent.** Search for the truth as for hidden treasures, and disappoint the enemy. **The time of test is just upon us, for the loud cry of the third angel has already begun in the revelation of the righteousness of Christ, the sin-pardoning Redeemer. This is the beginning of the light of the angel whose glory shall fill the whole earth.** For it is the work of every one to whom the message of warning has come, to lift up Jesus, to present him to the world as revealed in types, as shadowed in symbols, as manifested in the revelations of the prophets, as unveiled in the lessons given to his disciples and in the wonderful miracles wrought for the sons of men. Search the Scriptures; for they are they that testify of him. RH November 22, 1892, par. 7

This message was rejected by the Adventist Church.

Well then the latter rain--the loud cry--according to the testimony and according to the Scripture, is "the teaching of righteousness," and "according to righteousness," too. Now brethren, when did that message of the righteousness of Christ, begin with us as a people?

[One or two in the audience: "Three or four years ago."] Which was it, three? or four? [Congregation: "Four."] Yes, four. Where was it? [Congregation: "Minneapolis."] What then did the brethren reject at Minneapolis? [Some in the Congregation: "The loud cry."] What is that message of righteousness? The Testimony has told us what it is; the loud cry--the latter rain. Then what did the brethren in that fearful position in which they stood, reject at Minneapolis? They rejected the latter rain--the loud cry of the third angel's message. {February 7, 1893 ATJ, GCDB 183.5}

But Ellen White was shown when the message would return.

Now comes the word that I have declared that New York is to be swept away by a tidal wave. This I have never said. I have said, as I looked at the great buildings going up there, story after story: '**What terrible scenes will take place when the Lord shall arise to shake terribly the earth! Then the words of Revelation 18:1-3 will be fulfilled.**' The whole of the eighteenth chapter of Revelation is a warning of what is coming on the earth. But **I have no light in particular in regard to what is coming on New York, only I know that one day the great buildings there will be thrown down by the turning and overturning of God's power.** Life Sketches 411

Since the year of 2001, the loud cry of the third angel started to return. Now we are invited to have our soul temples cleansed of the enmity of Satan's false justice. In order for us to receive the Spirit of Jesus which is His blood, we must know His name; meaning that we know He is the begotten Son and that He is not in any way violent or condemning. As we pray for this Spirit, we will be convicted of sin, righteousness and judgment (John 16:8). We will see how condemning and judgmental we are, we shall be humbled in the dust, and we shall be ready to receive the precious blood of Jesus into our hearts.

18. Indignation Exposed by Spikenard

The everlasting gospel spoken of in Revelation 14 reveals the ingredients required to cause Babylon to fall in our lives and free us from the enmity of Satan. Jesus tells us that where ever the gospel is preached, what Mary did for Him must be told as a memorial of her.

Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her." Matthew 26:13 NKJV

In this story of Mary washing the feet of Jesus with precious ointment we find revealed the process of how our hearts will be cleansed. Mary experienced the joy of forgiveness. She accepted in simple faith the words of her Saviour. Through the expression of her love for her Saviour, she became the agent to cause the enmity within the disciples to be exposed.

And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table. But when His disciples saw it, **they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste?** For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor." Matthew 26:6-9 NKJV

The spirit of condemnation, the spirit of judgment causing indignation, is the fruit of false justice. Even if the disciples thought her actions were excessive, why not feel sorry for her? Why not encourage her? Why feel angry about what she did? The expressions of love pouring forth from the heart of Mary exposed the lack of gratitude in the hearts of the disciples, especially Judas.

The work of Mary was just the lesson the disciples needed to show them that **the expression of their love for Him would be pleasing to Christ.** He had been everything to them, and they did not realize that soon they would be deprived of His presence, that soon they could offer Him no token of their gratitude for His great love. **The loneliness of Christ, separated from the heavenly courts, living the life of humanity, was never understood or appreciated by the disciples as**

it should have been. He was often grieved because His disciples did not give Him that which He should have received from them. He knew that if they were under the influence of the heavenly angels that accompanied Him, they too would think no offering of sufficient value to declare the heart's spiritual affection. {DA 565.1}

The release of the fragrance of the spikenard was the perfect expression for the gratitude in Mary's heart. As the disciples inhaled the aroma, they were confronted with an experience they did not possess. Especially was Judas affronted by this act of agape love.

The treasure in the bag was often drawn upon to relieve the poor; and when something that Judas did not think essential was bought, he would say, *Why is this waste? why was not the cost of this put into the bag that I carry for the poor?* **Now the act of Mary was in such marked contrast to his selfishness that he was put to shame;** and according to his custom, he sought to assign a worthy motive for his objection to her gift. Turning to the disciples, he asked, "Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein." DA 559.2

Judas is referred to as the son of perdition by Jesus. Paul takes this term and applies it to the man of sin.

While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. John 17:12

Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first [the falling away of the Church after the Apostolic era], and **the man of sin is revealed [the Pope and His system of control over men's consciences], the son of perdition,** 2 Thessalonians 2:3

The greed and deviousness of Judas reflect the work of the man of sin. In the final movement of earth's history about to break upon us, a poor woman – a poor feeble

church group of little significance to Christianity – will display the love of Christ in their actions in such a way to bring out all the indignation of the Papacy and the Protestant Churches.

As Judas took actions that led to his own destruction, so the papacy will take actions that will cause the kings of the earth to burn her with fire (Rev 17:16). The other disciples, representing various protestant denominations who have true love for Jesus, will suffer the price of denying their Lord and fleeing from Him in His hour of trial, represented by their denying Christ in the person of his saints in the day of judgment.

But many of them will then see their true character, and the enmity they possess within themselves. They will then confess this, and their soul temples will be cleansed. They will take hold of the Spirit of Jesus and be filled with His true attributes.

May we take the steps now to be cleansed of our enmity. Let us give up the false justice system; let us be filled with gratitude to Jesus for His sweet, beautiful character as the revelation of His Father. Let us drink the blood of Jesus, which is His sweet and gentle Spirit, that has no enmity, no false justice, but only love.

Cleansed by the Blood of Jesus

What does it mean to be cleansed by the blood of Jesus? For those of us who have walked the path of the 1888 message, we know that our Father does not require literal blood.

“Of course the idea of a propitiation or sacrifice is that there is wrath to be appeased. But take particular notice that it is we who require the sacrifice, and not God.” E.J. Waggoner, *The Justice of Mercy*, Present Truth UK Aug 30, 1894

In the light of this glorious truth, we discover that blood in the New Testament is the very life of Jesus.

“But how is it that the shedding of blood, even the blood of Christ, can take away sins? Simply because the blood is the life. "For the life of the flesh is in the blood; and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that maketh atonement for the soul." Lev. 17:11. So when we read that apart from the shedding of blood there is no remission, we know it means that no sins can be taken away except by the life of Christ. In Him is no sin; therefore when He imparts His life to a soul, that soul is at once cleansed from sin.” E.J. Waggoner, *Present Truth UK*, Sept 21, 1893

These precious truths completely change the meaning of our cleansing, and the cleansing of the Sanctuary. Let's take this journey into the implications of the New Covenant meaning of being cleansed by the blood of Jesus.