

Before Jesus died, what did you need to do if you sinned and wanted to be forgiven? You would put your hands on the head of a lamb and confess, or tell, what you had done wrong. Then the lamb would be killed. It was punished for your sins, and you would be free.

Of course, the lamb couldn't actually pay for those sins. It represented Jesus. It reminded people that Jesus would come someday to our world and die in our place. He is the real substitute for sinners, and the lamb sacrifice helped people understand that. That's why the Bible sometimes calls Jesus "the Lamb of God."

A person who sacrificed a lamb was showing that he believed he deserved to die, and that someday Jesus would take his punishment for him.

In lesson 3, we talked about what to do with guilt. We do not need to put our load of sins on the head of a lamb anymore, do we? No. Why not? Because Jesus, the Lamb of God, has died in our place. We can pray directly to Him, confess our sins to Him, and receive forgiveness.

1 If we confess our sins to Jesus, what will He do?
1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to _____ us our sins and to _____ us from all unrighteousness."

2 Jesus wants children to come directly to Him!
Luke 18:16 "But Jesus called them to Him and said, 'Let the little _____ come to Me, and do _____ forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.'"

We don't confess our sins to another person, because only Jesus can forgive sins. (Of course, if you have hurt someone, you need to ask that person's forgiveness.) Even if someone claims to represent Jesus, we don't confess our sins to him.

3 What does Jesus say about that?
John 14:6 "**I am** the way, the truth, and the life. _____ comes to the Father except through _____."



4 Why did the Israelites build a sanctuary tent in the desert?
Exodus 25:8 God said, "And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may _____ among them."

Do you like to live with people you love? God cared about His people so much, He wanted to live right there with them.

5 What did the Israelite sanctuary look like?
Hebrews 8:1, 2 "Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the _____ tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man."
Hebrews 8:5 "who serve the _____ and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, 'See that you make all things according to the



shown you on the mountain"

Hebrews 8 and 9 explain that the sanctuary the Israelites made for God in the desert was a pattern of a real sanctuary God built in heaven.

If an expert seamstress makes a pattern for a beautiful dress, another seamstress can make an exact copy of that dress—if she carefully follows the pattern and its instructions.

Lightbulb icon **Pattern: a model or design used as a guide**

God is the expert builder. He gave Moses a pattern of the sanctuary in heaven so Moses could build a replica on earth.

After the Israelites entered the land of Canaan, they eventually built a temple to use instead of the sanctuary tent. Both buildings served the same purpose.

The sanctuary on earth explains what God is doing to fix our sin problem.

6 What is sin? **1 John 3:4** "Sin is _____."
Here's another way to say the same thing: "Sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4, KJV). A lawless person does not obey the law.

Lightbulb icon **Transgression: Breaking (disobeying) the law**

Imagine you are an Israelite boy or girl camping in the wilderness. You lied to your father about something. Lying is breaking the ninth commandment. You are a sinner and feel very guilty. First, you tell your father you are sorry. He then helps you find a sweet little lamb. Together, you carry that lamb to the sanctuary.



In the courtyard of the sanctuary, you confess your sins on the head of the innocent little lamb. Then you kill the lamb. A priest carries the lamb's blood, symbolizing your sins, into the sanctuary. Now you no longer have the guilt and sin of that lie. It has been transferred, through the lamb's blood, into the sanctuary.

As day after day Israelites brought their lambs, lots of sins, represented by the blood, accumulated in the sanctuary.

By the end of the year, the sanctuary was very dirty and needed to be cleaned. So once a year, the sanctuary was cleansed on a special day called the "Day of Atonement." This was the only day that the high priest was allowed to enter into God's presence in the Most Holy Place.

7 As an Israelite boy or girl, if you faithfully confessed your sins on the head of a lamb all year long, where were your sins?

a. Still on you

c. In the courtyard

b. On the head of the lamb

d. In the sanctuary

On the Day of Atonement, two goats were chosen. One represented Jesus, and the other represented Satan. The priest killed, or sacrificed, the goat that represented Jesus. He carried its blood into the sanctuary. This blood represented Jesus' forgiveness for all the sins that had been collected in the sanctuary that year. Then the high priest would take all the sins in the sanctuary onto himself, carrying them out of the sanctuary and placing them on the head of the goat representing Satan. That goat was sent into the wilderness. He, and the sins, were gone forever!



After the sins were placed on the scapegoat and carried away, the sanctuary was clean. The Israelites rejoiced, because now all their sins were completely gone!

Remember, the sanctuary shows how God is taking care of OUR sin problem. After a lamb was sacrificed, its blood was carried into the sanctuary



by the priest. This showed that after Jesus (the Lamb of God) was sacrificed for our sins, He would go back to heaven and take the sins of His people into the heavenly sanctuary. (Hebrews 7:24–28)

As we confess our sins day by day, these sins are symbolically transferred, through Jesus' blood, into the heavenly sanctuary. So do you think that the temple in heaven would eventually need to be cleansed from sin? Oh yes! And God even told Daniel exactly when that would happen.

8 When did God say the sanctuary in heaven would be cleansed?
Daniel 8:14 "And he said to me, 'For _____ thousand _____ hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be _____.'"

9 What happened to Daniel immediately after this vision?
Daniel 8:27 "And I, Daniel, fainted and was _____ for days; afterward I arose and went about the king's business. I was astonished by the vision, but _____ understood it."

Later, God sent the angel Gabriel to help Daniel understand.

10 How did the angel begin his explanation?
Daniel 9:24 "_____ weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city."

The first seventy weeks of the 2,300-day prophecy was a time of probation for the Israelites. We learned about this in the previous lesson.

Do you remember the starting date for the 70 weeks from our last lesson?

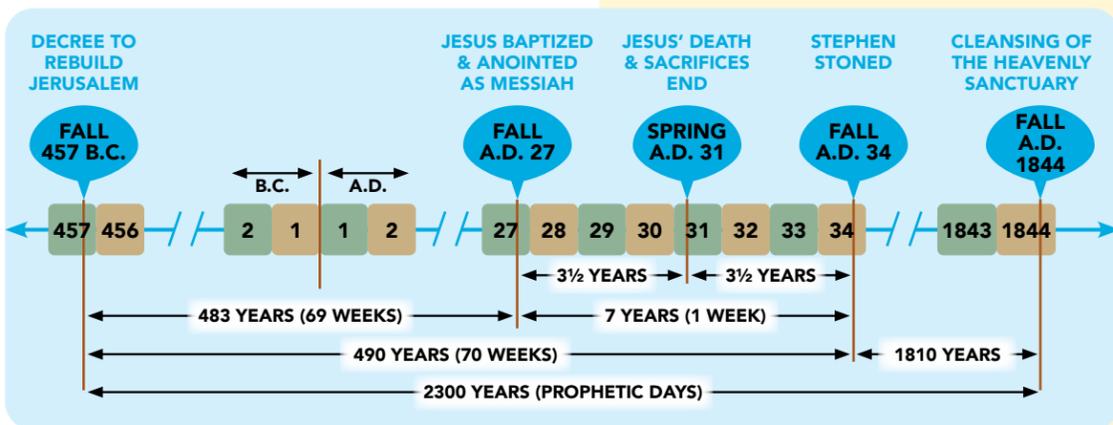
It was the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem in 457 B.C. Remember that a day in Bible prophecy is a literal year, and also that there is no "0" year.

11 After the 490 years finished in A.D. 34, how many of the 2,300 years were left?

$$\begin{array}{r} 2,300 \text{ years} \\ -490 \text{ years} \\ = \text{_____ years} \end{array}$$

12 So in what year would the 2,300 years be finished?

$$\begin{array}{r} 1810 \text{ years} \\ +34 \text{ A.D.} \\ = \text{_____ A.D.} \end{array}$$



So the 2,300-day prophecy in Daniel 8:14 points to the year A.D. 1844. Did the cleansing of the sanctuary in heaven begin then? Yes! We know that is true, because all the other parts of this prophecy came true.

So what happened in 1844? Just like the high priest went into the Most Holy Place and cleansed the earthly sanctuary on the Day of Atonement, Jesus went into the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary to cleanse it. You can read about it in Daniel 7:9-14.

13 What happened when the thrones were put in place?
Daniel 7:10 "The court was seated and the _____ were opened."

This sounds like a judgment is going on in a courtroom.



What would they do with those books that they opened? They would *investigate* them. An **investigative judgment** is going to take place.



Investigate: To study something, usually to determine the truth

Judgment: A final decision about the outcome or truth of something

14 Would it be fair to make a judgment before an investigation is done?
 Yes / No

In a courtroom, a case is *investigated* to see if the accused is guilty or innocent. Then a *judgment* is made stating whether the person is guilty or innocent.

God is fair. So before Jesus comes, there is an investigation into the life of every person who has ever claimed Jesus as Savior.

These books contain a record of everything that we have ever said, done, or thought. (Malachi 3:16; Revelation 20:12.) These books will be **investigated** to determine what the record of our lives shows. Did we really love Jesus enough to let Him change us completely? Or did we just **say** we loved Jesus, but didn't let Him change the way we act and think?



Have you ever met people who say they are Christians (like Christ), but who are very mean? Their lives deny, or contradict, what they say.

15 Why shouldn't this surprise us? Did God warn us about this problem?
2 Timothy 3:1-5 "But know this, that in the _____ days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ... having a _____ of godliness but denying its _____. And from such people turn away!"

If we truly have Jesus in our hearts, our lives will show it. Like the moon which reflects the sun's light, Jesus' lovely character will shine from us. If your life doesn't reflect Jesus' kind, unselfish character, examine your heart to see if you really have repented and surrendered your entire will to Jesus.

16 In the judgment, Jesus will stand up for all who are His true followers.
Hebrews 2:11 "He is not ashamed to _____ them brothers."

Instead of seeing our sins and the bad things we have said or done or thought, God and the heavenly universe will see the sinless life of Jesus. How amazing!

When all the books have been investigated and the entire world has had a chance to choose for or against Jesus, He will stand up and probation will close for everyone.

17 When that happens, what will Jesus say?
Revelation 22:11 "He who is unjust, let him be unjust _____; he who is filthy, let him be filthy _____; he who is righteous, let him be righteous _____; he who is holy, let him be holy _____."

No more will Jesus plead with the sinner to repent and be saved. Time will be up, everyone will have decided, and probation will close. Then Jesus will come again to take His faithful people to be with Him in heaven.

18 How can we get ready for that time?
Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14 "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: _____ God and _____ His commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring _____ work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil."



19 Very soon, the great heavenly investigation will be over. Then Jesus will come to get His own people. While the wicked will run and hide from the face of Jesus (Revelation 6:15-17), what will the righteous say?
Isaiah 25:9 "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will _____ us."

20 To which group of people do you want to belong?

a. Group that hides from Jesus

b. Group that welcomes Jesus

Just like a leopard cannot change its spots, we sinners cannot change ourselves and make our hearts good.

21 How can we be ready to welcome Jesus?
Isaiah 55:6, 7 "_____ the Lord while He may be found, _____ upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him _____ to the Lord, and He will have _____ on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon."



22 Will you choose to seek Jesus today? _____

Answers

- | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. forgive / cleanse | 7. d. | 13. books | 19. save |
| 2. children / not | 8. two / three / | 14. no | 20. b |
| 3. no one / Me | cleansed | 15. last / form / power | 21. Seek / call / return |
| 4. dwell | 9. sick / no one | 16. call | / mercy |
| 5. true / copy / | 10. Seventy | 17. still / still / still / | |
| pattern | 11. 1810 | still | |
| 6. lawlessness | 12. 1844 | 18. Fear / keep / every | |