

The 2300 Days and The Sanctuary



JESUS, OUR HIGH PRIEST

“There is a sanctuary in heaven, the true tabernacle that the Lord set up and not humans. In it Christ ministers on our behalf, making available to believers the benefits of His atoning sacrifice offered once for all on the cross. At His ascension, He was inaugurated as our great High Priest and, began His intercessory ministry, which was typified by the work of the high priest in the holy place of the earthly sanctuary. In 1844, at the end of the prophetic period of 2300 days, He entered the second and last phase of His atoning ministry, which was typified by the work of the high priest in the most holy place of the earthly sanctuary. It is a work of investigative judgment which is part of the ultimate disposition of all sin, typified by the cleansing of the ancient Hebrew sanctuary on the Day of Atonement. In that typical service the sanctuary was cleansed with the blood of animal sacrifices, but the heavenly things are purified with the perfect sacrifice of the blood of Jesus.”

Seventh-day Adventist Biblical Belief #24

DECODING THE DECEPTION

The 2300 Days and The Sanctuary



1. Brazen Laver



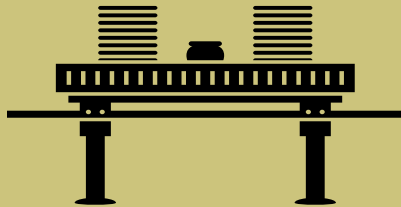
2. Altar of Sacrifice



3. Candlesticks



4. Candlesticks & Fire



5. Table of Shewbread



6. Altar of Incense



7. Ark of the Covenant

Psalm 77:13 (NKJV) “Your way, O God, *is* in the sanctuary; Who *is* so great a God as *our* God?”

PART 1- THE PURPOSE OF THE SANCTUARY

Over 2,500 years ago, God gave the prophet Daniel the longest time prophecy in the Bible— 2,300 prophetic days – a countdown that stretches across centuries leading to the most solemn phase of Christ’s work for humanity.

The key to unlocking this prophecy is hidden in something many Christians today have forgotten: the Old Testament Sanctuary Service. In the sanctuary, every service, every symbol, every feast was part of a divine calendar that tells the story of how God deals with sin and why we need a Savior.

Let us step inside the sanctuary and discover that the 2300 Days is not just a number in an ancient book – it is a prophetic clock that tells us where we are in God’s plan to end sin once and for all.

The Old Testament Sanctuary was God’s classroom for salvation. In the wilderness, God gave Israel more than 10 commandments—He gave them the living gospel in symbols.

Every function of the Sanctuary pointed forward to the ministry of Jesus in His work to save sinners and eternally blot out sin.

The **Earthly Sanctuary Services** revealed **three great truths**:

- **The penalty for sin is death** — shown in the sacrifice of an innocent lamb.
- **Salvation comes only through a substitute** — Jesus, the Lamb of God.
- **God Himself is working to remove sin forever** — shown in the priest's ministry, from the **daily service to the yearly cleansing of the sanctuary**.

The Sanctuary was God's continual means of dwelling among His people.

Exodus 25:8 (NKJV) “And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.”

Far from being just an ancient ritual, the Sanctuary was the blueprint of God's plan — from the cross, to Christ's heavenly ministry, to the final judgment and the restoration of all things. Each article of furniture revealed the identity and function of Jesus in His Antitypical Ministry. The ministry of Jesus was foreshadowed in the Sanctuary.

1. The Brazen Laver filled with water: **Jesus the Water of Life**
2. The Altar of Sacrifice: **The Cross, Jesus the Lamb, the perfect sacrifice**
3. The Seven Golden Candlesticks: **Jesus the Light of the World**
4. The Seven Golden Candlesticks with Oil: **The Holy Spirit**
5. The Table of Shewbread: **Jesus the Bread of Life**
6. The Altar of Incense: **Jesus our High Priest Intercessory Prayers**
7. The Ark of the Covenant: **God's Everlasting Covenant** where His **10 Commandment Law** and **The Mercy** meet to reveal His Character.

The Sanctuary Services were conducted according to the Ceremonial Law—which was added because of transgression and was to last only until the Cross.

Galatians 3:19 (NKJV) “What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.”

These Ceremonial Laws were in the Book of the Law by Moses (Deuteronomy 31:24-26), distinguishing them from the Ten Commandments, written by God on Tables of Stone (Exodus 31:18).

Law of Moses: Deuteronomy 31:24-26 (NKJV) “So it was, when Moses had completed writing the words of this law in a book, when they were finished, (25) that Moses commanded the Levites, who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, saying: (26) ‘Take this Book of the Law, and put it beside the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there as a witness against you.’”

Ten Commandments are complete: Exodus 31:18 (NKJV) “And when He had made an end of speaking with him on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two tablets of the Testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.”

The Ten Commandments were complete, they did not contain ceremonial rituals, there was only Ten Precepts. God did not add anything to the Decalogue.

The Ten Commandments were complete: Deuteronomy 5:22 (NKJV) “These words the LORD spoke to all your assembly, in the mountain from the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and He added no more. And He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me.”

Jesus the Anti-Type, fulfilled all the types of the ceremonial system.

Jesus ended the Ceremonial system at His crucifixion. (Colossians 2:14-17)

Colossians 2:14-17 (NKJV) “Having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. (15) Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. (16) So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, (17) which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.”

The Ceremonial System was a shadow pointing to Jesus, the Perfect Sacrifice.

Hebrews 9:11-12 (KJV) “But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; (12) 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.”

The Earthly Sanctuary had two main purposes:

1. **The Transference of Sin *from* the petitioner *to* the Sanctuary.**
2. **The Cleansing of Sin *from* the Sanctuary.**

The Transference of Sin from the petitioner meant, although the sinner was cleansed, the sin was *transferred* to the Sanctuary. Through the annual, “**Day of Atonement**” service, the record of the sins of the petitioner were blotted out. This yearly service is called the “**Cleansing of the Sanctuary.**”

Leviticus 16:29-30 (NKJV) “This shall be a statute forever for you: In the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, whether a native of your own country or a stranger who dwells among you. (30) For on that day the priest shall make atonement for you, to cleanse you, that you may be clean from all your sins before the LORD.”

Daily Services: Transference of sins to the Sanctuary.

The Day of Atonement – Removed the record of sin from the Sanctuary.

Although the sinner was cleansed, without the yearly Day of Atonement ceremony, the record of his sin will remain. This is important!

Without an “Atonement” the sins remain:

Leviticus 16:16 (NKJV) “So he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions, for all their sins; and so he shall do for the tabernacle of meeting which remains among them in the midst of their uncleanness.”

When the Day of Atonement service was complete, which removed the record of the sins of the people, there were only two conditions remaining.

Revelation 22:11 (NKJV) “He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.”

Now, allow me to transition **from the Sanctuary to the prophecy of the Cleansing of the Sanctuary**. Imagine for a moment that the Supreme Court of the Universe is about to convene. The Judge is seated. The books are opened. Every case is about to be reviewed.

This is not a human trial where mistakes can be made, or evidence is lost. This is the final review of history before the eternal verdict is pronounced.

But here’s the question: When did this court session begin? And how can we know? God did not leave us guessing.

PART 2- THE TIMING OF THE CLEANSING OF THE SANCTUARY

Daniel 8:14 is the story of the Final Phase of the Atonement work of Jesus.

1. The Prophecy Is Explicitly Stated in Scripture:

Daniel 8:14 (NKJV) “And he said to me, “For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.”

The **2300-day prophecy** is a direct statement from God’s Word.

Daniel 8:14 speaks of **2300 evening-mornings (days/years)**.

2. Prophetic Time Follows the Day-for-a-Year Principle

Numbers 14:34 – “Each day for a year.”

Ezekiel 4:6 – “I have appointed thee each day for a year.”

The day/year principle is **consistently applied to long prophetic periods in apocalyptic prophecy**. Daniel 8:17 confirms that Daniel 8:14 not referring to literal days.

3. The context places the 2300 days at the “Time of the End.”

Daniel 8:17 (NKJV) “So he came near where I stood, and when he came I was afraid and fell on my face; but he said to me, “Understand, son of man, that the vision refers to the time of the end.”

A. If the 2300 days were literal days (just over 6 years), the prophecy would have been fulfilled long before the “time of the end”

The **timing and context** of the vision was established in **Daniel 8:1**:

Daniel 8:1 (NKJV) “In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar a vision appeared to me—to me, Daniel—after the one that appeared to me the first time.”

The third year of Belshazzar’s reign as co-regent with his father Nabonidus, chronologically places the prophecy around **553–539 BC. Belshazzar’s third year is about 551 BC.** – with the starting point of 551 BC, 6 years, 4 months we would arrive at **545 BC.**

B. There is no recorded event in biblical or secular history that points to anything resembling the cleansing of the Sanctuary in 6.4 literal years that can fulfill Daniel 8:14.

- **In 545 BC Daniel was still in Babylon.**
- **Medo-Persia did not conquer Babylon until 539 BC.**
- **The rise of the Grecian Empire was centuries away.**
- **Daniel 8:14 clearly points to events far beyond this short span.**

Some suggest that Antiochus Euphrosyne IV fulfills the 2300 day prophecy. He could not fulfill the Cleansing of the Sanctuary / 2300 Days prophecy for the following reasons.

- Antiochus’ desecration of the Jewish temple lasted only about 3 years (167–164 B.C.)—roughly 1,095 days, nowhere near 2300 days.
- **Antiochus Euphrosyne IV reigned only 11 years (175–164 BC).**

Antiochus did not match the scope of the prophecy:

Historically **Antiochus** was not “**exceedingly great**”, **Rome** was.

- **Daniel 8:9–11** describes the “**little horn**” as: Growing “**exceedingly great**” toward the **south, east, and the glorious land. Casting down** some of the **stars of heaven.** **The little horn exalting itself** to the **Prince of the host.**

4. The 2300 days covers multiple empires. Daniel 8:20-25.

According to prophecy and history, at the time of the vision, the ram (Medo-Persia), goat (Greece), and little horn (Rome), **were kingdoms yet to come.**

5. The 2300 days prophecy contains another prophecy:

Daniel 9:24 (NKJV) “Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.”

In **Daniel 9:24**, the word translated “**determined**” comes from the Hebrew word (*chathak*), which literally means: “to cut off,” “to divide,” or “to set apart.” **70 weeks (490 years) cut off from a larger time prophecy.**

This means both 70 Weeks & 2300 Days have the same starting point.

6. The Starting Point of the 2300 days is Given in Daniel 9:25. “From the going forth of the command to restore and to build Jerusalem...” **The 2300 days begin with the same starting point as the 70 weeks—457 BC (Ezra 7).**

The **Cleansing of the Sanctuary** is a work performed by Jesus our High Priest which **could not occur until Jesus ascended into the role of High Priest.**

• **Jesus’ public ministry began in the 15th year of Tiberius (Luke 3:1), which aligns with AD 27 in the Biblical chronology.**

Many **claim Hebrews 9 disproves the 2300-day prophecy of Daniel 8:14.** But when **studied carefully**, we see they **work together to reveal—**

Christ’s complete plan of salvation.

Hebrews 9:11-12 (KJV) “But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; (12) 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 explains Christ’s sacrifice and priesthood,

The Focus of Hebrews 9 – The Theology of the Sanctuary relating to the Cross

Hebrews 9 is not a prophecy—it is revealing the purpose of Christ’s sacrifice:

Hebrews 9 emphasizes the once-for-all sacrifice of Christ (Heb. 9:12, 26).

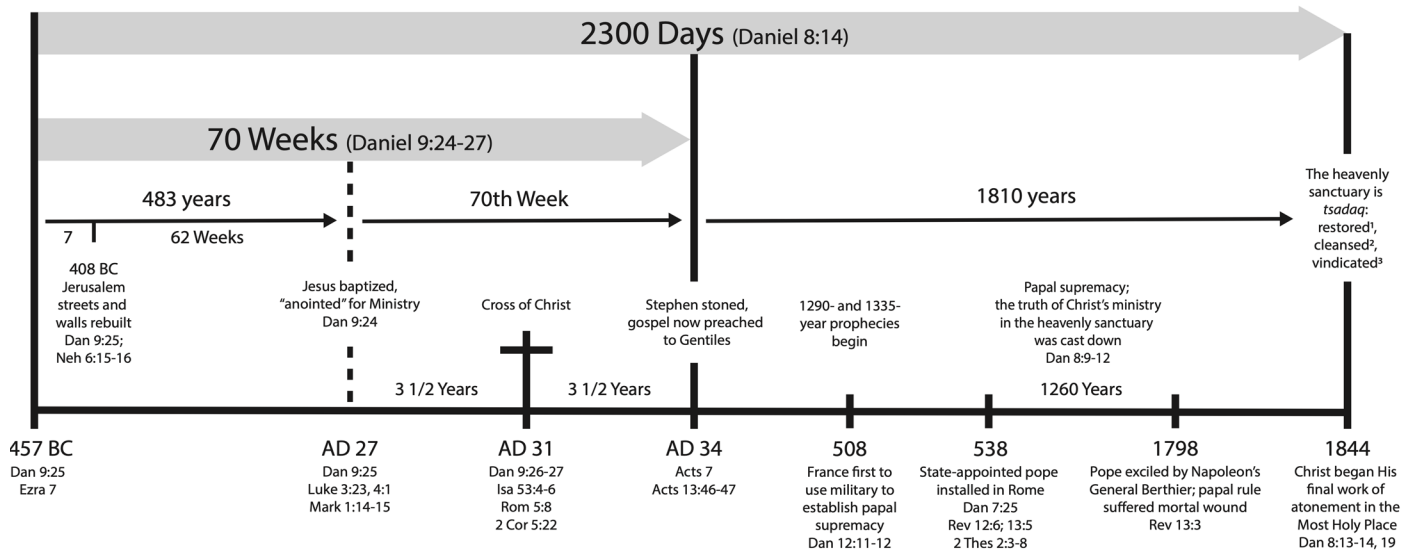
Hebrews 9 = Since His ascension Jesus is the Way we have direct access to God.

Daniel 8:14 = Timing of Christ’s Mediatorial and End Times special work.

The Focus of Daniel 8:14 reveals the timing of His final phase of Christ's ministry.

Next Lesson we will examine what that final phase is and how Jesus, our High Priest in the Heavenly Sanctuary is our Advocate. The Sanctuary message is good news for the saint. 1844 is significant, the next lesson will examine its significance in the "Pre-Advent Investigative Judgment."

Daniel's Time-Prophecy Chart



The days and weeks are prophetic: 2300 days = 2300 years; 70 Weeks = 490 years (determine the number of days before you convert to years). The first prophetic time period is *chathak*, meaning "designated" or "marked out," by the angel Gabriel in chapter nine for the purpose of understanding the lengthier time-prophecy in chapter eight. There are three decrees recorded in Ezra. The first decree was by Cyrus II in 539 BC giving permission to rebuild the temple. While not fully completed due to the lack of resources and various conflicts, it was finally dedicated after the second decree by Darius I in 519 BC (Ezra 6:15-16). The third and most consequential decree was by Artaxerxes I in 457 BC, recorded in Ezra 7:11-24. It allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem to restore its system of government including its "magistrates and judges" (Ezra 7:25), fulfilling the Isaiah's prophecy (Isa 1:26) for Judah's return. They also were given resources to "beautify" the temple (Ezra 7:27) and rebuild the city walls (Neh 1-7) so they could reestablish their system of worship. This is also the only decree that fits the appointed time of the Messiah's arrival. Luke 4 tells us that Jesus' baptism was in AD 27, the 15th year of Tiberias Cesar (he began to reign as co-regent with his grandfather in AD 12, then on his own in AD 14).

The 1260-year prophecy exposes the little horn symbolized in Daniel 8 as fighting against the "Prince of the host" and "His sanctuary" (Dan 8:9-12; Rev 13:5-6) with pompous words. Protestant Reformers identified the little horn as the seat of the Pope and the papacy that governed the Roman Catholic Church. This religious system obscured the ministry of Christ in His sanctuary in heaven (Heb 8:1-2) by establishing its own priesthood system as a counterfeit of the biblical "priesthood of all believers" (1 Pet 2:9) with Christ as its Head. The period lasting 1260 years is noted as "a time and times and half a time" (time = year; 360 days) and "forty-two months," denoting to the unrivaled spiritual dominance of the papacy during the Middle Ages. It began when Romanism first gained the upper hand against the Arian Ostrogoths in 538 when Roman general Belisarius pushed them out of Rome. "Vigilius, a pliant creature of Theodora [wife of Justinian], ascended the papal chair under the military protection of Belisarius" (*History of the Christian Church*, vol. III, p. 327). Thirty years earlier, French king Clovis I drove the Arian Visigoths out of Gaul (France) in late 507, then marched to Tours in 508 where he was named an honorary Roman consul. Referred to as the "New Constantine," Clovis assumed the role of defender of the Catholic faith. He was essentially the first king of post-Roman Western Europe to lend his military power to the papacy. This set a precedent for future European nations to assist the papacy militarily and ensure that Roman Catholicism would remain the dominant church in Western Europe for more than a millennia.

What happened in 1844? Daniel 8 tells us Christ's ministry as High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary (aka tabernacle, temple) will be *tsadaq*, meaning: 1) the *tamid* (daily) and its truth would be "restored" (Isa 46:13), 2) it would be "cleansed" from all transgressions (Ps 51:7-10), and 3) both it and its people would be "vindicated" and no longer trampled underfoot (Isa 50:8-9). *Tsadaq* has a dynamic meaning that answers all three questions asked in the previous verse (8:13). After His resurrection and ascension to heaven, the sanctuary was consecrated and Christ was inaugurated as High Priest, as typified in the OT ceremonial services (Ex 40; Lev 8:10-12; Num 7; Rev 5). Since then, His ministry for us has been constant, interceding by His own blood to sanctify and purify His people (Heb 9:12-14; 13:12, Ps 51:1-2, Tit 2:14), and will soon complete His work of judgment in favor of the saints (Dan 7:9-10; Rev 14:7; 1 Peter 4:17; Ps 26:1-3; 139:23-24) before He returns to earth with His eternal reward (Isa 40:10; 62:11; Rev 22:12).

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