

4. God's Sanctuary



Read

• Daniel 8:9, 10 and Hebrews 8:1-5



Comment

The vision in Daniel 8 takes us far longer in time and far wider in scope than just the earthly Jewish sanctuary in Jerusalem. The attack by the little horn is directed against heaven (verse 10).

Reflect

Reflect

The sanctuary of God means the “abode of God.” Where does God live? God asked the people of Israel to build Him a sanctuary, and the tabernacle and the temple service in the Old Testament provided a highly symbolic illustration of God’s plan of salvation. What is the relation between these sanctuaries on earth and His heavenly sanctuary?

5. The Daily Service



Read

• Hebrews 7:25 and 1 John 1:7

Background

The service in the sanctuary in heaven is based on the sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary. It is divided into two parts. The main focus of the first part, the daily service, is the intercession of Jesus as He applies His blood, listens to our prayers and sends us His Holy Spirit. This has been the ministry of Jesus since He went to heaven. It is still ongoing.

Reflect

Reflect

How has the enemy, the little horn, throughout history attempted to attack this daily service? In what ways is it possible on earth to hinder the direct access of the believers through prayer to Jesus in the heavenly sanctuary?

6. Judgment Is Up: The Day of Atonement



Read

• Daniel 8:13, 14

Background

The second part of the sanctuary service is called the Day of Atonement. It is the day of judgment. At this religious feast, God vindicates His dealings with the people and cleanses the sanctuary from sin that would otherwise permanently separate the people from Him. The heavenly counterpart of that festival began at the end of the time period in Daniel 8:14.

Reflect

Reflect

In the vision in Daniel both the enemy, the little horn, and the sin of the people are in focus. How will God deal with these two factors in judgment? (Compare with Daniel 7.)

7. The Openness of God's Government



Read

• Isaiah 1:18 and Philippians 2:9-11

Reflect

Reflect

Does God Himself need time to figure it all out? What does it tell you about the nature of God that He has established a process whereby created beings are able to look into the reasons for His judgments?



Number 9. Judgment: The Good News!

ClearView

Bible study guide

The prophecy in Daniel 7 shows a heavenly judgment scene toward the end of time. It takes place before the coming of Jesus and the establishment of His kingdom. The verdict is passed in favour of the saints, and they are given the kingdom for eternity. In this study guide we will look closer at the individual aspect of judgment. How is it possible for you and me to be counted among the saints?

1. Judgment Is Future



Read

• Romans 2:4, 5 and 13-16

Reflect

Reflect

From the perspective of Paul, when does the judgment take place?



Comment

Paul's epistle to the Romans has played a major role in Christian thought because of his emphasis on justification. As a technical term, *justification* was the court verdict of acquittal. Paul introduces it in the context of the final judgment. Various translations render verses 13-16 slightly differently, but verses 14 and 15 form a parenthesis, and the last sentence in verse 13 continues in verse 16. Justification takes place in the future “on the day when God will judge the secrets” of people's hearts.

2. We Are All Guilty



Read

• Romans 3:19, 20

Background

The first chapters of Romans read like a catalogue of sin and human depravity. It's a gloomy picture, but there is a point: all humans, whether Jews growing up with the knowledge of Scripture (Romans 3:1-20) or Gentiles growing up without having a written revelation from God (1:17-2:29) have transgressed the moral codes of which they are aware.

Reflect

Reflect

What does a modern secular person know about God's moral commands? In what ways do we not live up to our own moral demands of others (cf Romans 2:1-3)?

3. Saved by Grace



Read

• Romans 3:21-24

Background

These verses are very condensed and contain a number of significant expressions.