

- (g) In order to ensure the blotting out of his sins, every Israelite was required to be present at the Day of Atonement service. If he voluntarily absented himself, or refused to participate, he was cut off from the congregation. The Day of Atonement was therefore viewed as a yearly Day of Judgment, and is still so regarded by the Jews.

4.—THE PRACTICAL VALUE OF THE EARTHLY SANCTUARY SERVICE

Some may ask: What did the Sanctuary Service accomplish? Did it actually teach the true way of salvation before the Cross? Did it lead men into saving fellowship with God?

Conclusive proof that the Sanctuary Service did teach the way of salvation is found in the rare quality of religious experience enjoyed by men like Abel, Enoch, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Samuel, Isaiah, Daniel and John the Baptist, all of whom lived and died before Calvary's Cross. The godly characters of these men can be accounted for only on the basis that God's "Kindergarten School" was an effective teacher of salvation by grace! II Tim. 3 : 15: The Old Testament Scriptures made men "wise unto salvation"

Ps. 51 : 1-13: Crushed by guilt and remorse, David found the way to peace with God through the Sanctuary revelation.

Ps. 77 : 13: He testified: "Thy way, O God, is in the Sanctuary".

Ps. 73 : 16, 17: He also glimpsed the final triumph of righteousness by going "into the Sanctuary of God".

John 8 : 46: Abraham "saw Christ's day, and was glad".

So, for Old Testament believers, the Sanctuary Service was a "Telescope of Faith" by which they could gaze across the gulf of ages to the First Advent and Calvary's Cross, and beyond that to the Second Advent and the Final Judgment!

Conclusion

Two questions remain before we conclude this lesson:

If we had been faced with God's problem in the centuries before the Cross, could we have devised a better method of teaching salvation than the Sanctuary service?

Of what practical value to us today is the study of this ancient ritual?

It has two great values for us. Firstly, it explains "How to come to Jesus" in terms so simple and elementary that a child can understand. To gain the assurance of sins forgiven, we must take the same steps as the ancient Hebrew sinner. We must confess our sins in Jesus' name. We must lay them upon Him as our innocent Sin-bearer and claim forgiveness through the merits of His death. Secondly, it illustrates God's great desire to make our hearts His temple, to dwell within us day by day and save us not only from the guilt, but from the power of sin. Again and again in the Bible this Divine indwelling is presented as God's dearest wish and our greatest need. "And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them" (Ex. 25 : 8). It was God's purpose that the earthly sanctuary should be an abiding illustration or model of what the lives of His true worshippers were to be. It was to be a symbol of the inner sanctuary of the soul.

II Cor. 6 : 16: "I will dwell in them and walk in them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

Let us invite Him to come and dwell within us today!