

**COME
TO THE
MARRIAGE**

*The preparation for the judgment is to
overcome every sin. When a person
neglects this preparation, he cannot
receive the latter rain. But notice that the
latter rain fits man to live without a
substitute.*

Chapter 10

THE BLOTTING OUT OF SIN

As Presented by PETER

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;" Acts 3:19

"The work of the investigative judgment and the blotting out of sins is to be accomplished before the second advent of the Lord. Since the dead are to be judged out of the things written in the books, it is impossible that the sins of men should be blotted out until after the judgment at which their cases are to be investigated. But the apostle Peter distinctly states that the sins of believers will be blotted out "when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and He shall send Jesus Christ." Acts 3:19, 20. When the investigative judgment closes, Christ will come, and His reward will be with Him to give to every man as his work shall be." GC 485

Notice in the above that the apostle Peter distinctly states that "the sins of believers will be blotted out when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." The times of refreshing are the latter rain. (See GC 611, 612)

The Great Controversy pages 421, 422 stated that the cleansing of the sanctuary consisted of two parts in this order.

- 1 Investigative judgment
- 2 Blotting out of sin - when the latter rain comes. (Acts 3:19)

Acts 3:19 states that man's sins are blotted out, when the latter rain falls. This would mean that the individual's name has come up in judgment, before the latter rain falls, because the blotting out of sin is step two in the cleansing of the sanctuary.

The sins are blotted out in the final atonement.

"As in the final atonement the sins of the truly penitent are to be blotted from the records of heaven, no more to be remembered or come into mind. . ." PP 358

Let us diagram the above:

	<i>Step 1</i>	<i>Step 2</i>	<i>Step 3</i>
	DAILY	YEARLY Cleansing of the Sanctuary	
GC 422		Investigative judgment	Blotting out of sin
PP 357,358			Final atonement
			↓ When
Acts 3:19 GC 485			↓ Latter rain

The term 'atonement' is defined by E. G. White in the following quotation. Notice it is hyphenated by her.

". . . Jesus Christ, who is our atonement - at-one-ment with God." 6BC 1077

Sin is what separates man from God, so a final atonement would be a final separation of sin. The study on the cleansing of the sanctuary demonstrates that it was the record of sin that was blotted out in the record books of heaven. It was concluded that, when the sins are blotted from the records of heaven, they are also blotted from our character. The term 'final at-one-ment' suggests a final or completed work. That would suggest perfection. If the final atonement perfects man's character when the record is blotted out, then the latter rain should perfect man's character. This would be true because the blotting out of sin (final atonement) happens when the latter rain comes.

The following quotation gives a definition of the term 'grace'. This is needed to better understand the quotation on the latter rain.

"To learn of Christ means to receive His grace, which is His character." COL 271

Christ's character can be interchanged with the word grace.

The following makes it clear that character is perfected by the latter rain.

"The latter rain, falling near the close of the season, ripens the grain and prepares it for the sickle. . . The ripening of the grain represents the completion of the work of God's grace in the soul. By the power of the Holy Spirit the moral image of God is to be perfected in the character. We are to be wholly transformed into the likeness of Christ. . . Unless the early showers have done their work, the latter rain can bring no seed to perfection." TM 506

The above statement says that the latter rain finishes the work of God's grace (character) in the soul. That is the same idea as a final at-one-ment. In Testimonies to Ministers page 509 it is called "the perfecting latter rain."

The final atonement or final intercession is called the blotting out of sins. The final intercession or atonement prepares us to live without a mediator. The term 'final' shows that it is the last work of intercession and that intercession will be finished. Since the latter rain comes when sins are blotted out, then the latter rain would prepare us to live without a mediator. Notice carefully how this is described in the following quotation.

"I also saw that many do not realize what they must be in order to live in the sight of the Lord without a high priest in the sanctuary through the time of trouble. .

"I saw that many were neglecting the preparation so needful and were looking to the time of "refreshing" and the "latter rain" to fit them to stand in the day of the Lord and to live in His sight. Oh, how many I saw in the time of trouble without a shelter! They had neglected the needful preparation; therefore they could not receive the refreshing that all must have to fit them to live in the sight of a holy God." EW 71

In the above statement there is a preparation needed to stand in the day of the Lord. The day of the Lord is the judgment. The preparation needed for the day of judgment will not be supplied by the latter rain. The preparation for the judgment is to overcome every wrong word and action. When a person neglects this preparation, he cannot receive the latter rain. But notice that the latter rain fits man to live without a mediator.

The final atonement was the last work of atonement that is needed to fit the individual to live without an intercessor. That happens when his sins are blotted out, when the latter rain falls.

The daily service gave the Christian victory over sin, but he still needed an intercessor. Christ's character had to stand in man's place as a substitute. The intercessory work of Christ must end, and man must live without an intercessor. The record of sin in man must be blotted out in order to live without an intercessor. The record of sin caused defects in Christ's righteousness working through the individual. When the record is removed, Christ working through man will no longer be corrupted, and his offering of righteousness will be accepted without an intercessor.

Let us analyze the latter rain and how it relates to the blotting out of sin and the marriage.

	<i>Step 1</i>	<i>Step 2</i>	<i>Step 3</i>
	DAILY	YEARLY Cleansing of the Sanctuary	
Daniel 8:14 GC 422 PP 355,356 4T 367 PP 357,358	Daily growth did not attain to perfection	Investigative judgment	Blotting out of sin Final atonement (no more to be remembered - knowledge of evil removed)
Matt. 22,25 COL 307		Investigative judgment	Marriage (consummated) Union of humanity with divinity
Acts 3:19 GC 485 TM 506 EW 71	Early rain: preparation by overcoming	Investigative judgment	Latter rain Finishes the work of God's grace (character) in the soul Fits to live without an intercessor.

Notice in the above that the final atonement, the marriage, and the latter rain all do something for the character. Also remember that they all come after your individual name comes up in judgment. This is before the general close of probation.

"Every impure thought defiles the soul, impairs the moral sense, and tends to obliterate the impressions of the Holy Spirit. It dims the spiritual vision, so that men cannot behold God. The Lord may and does forgive the repenting sinner; but though forgiven, the soul is marred." DA 302

When the blotting out of the record of sin takes place, there will be no more record that "tends to obliterate the impressions of the Holy Spirit."

Only the knowledge of good will be in one's character. God's people will be sinless. Christ has received His kingdom. His thought patterns of character alone dwell there. No knowledge of evil impairs the moral sense and obliterates the impressions of the Holy Spirit.

“The impartation of the Spirit is the impartation of the life of Christ.” DA 805

“Let the skies pour down righteousness.” Isaiah 45:8.

The Holy Spirit gives righteousness. It gives the life of Christ. The latter rain is the final outpouring of God's Spirit, the final outpouring of righteousness. When Christ comes into the life completely, He has received His kingdom.

“They were clothed with an armour from their head to their feet.... Evil angels...could have no power over them.... I asked what had made this great change. An angel answered, “It is the latter rain, the refreshing from the presence of the Lord, the loud cry of the third angel.” EW 271

The third angel was pointing to the most holy place where Jesus was making his final intercession. That final atonement gave the latter rain.

God judges his people to see if they are prepared to receive the latter rain. Then the loud cry can be given by a people who truly represent Him in character. Judgment begins at the house of God. Think of the judgment, the blotting out of sin and the latter rain as it pertains to individuals, then we can see that man can be judged and his sins blotted out before the general close of probation. One can be sealed and give the loud cry before Christ leaves the most holy place.