

**COME
TO THE
MARRIAGE**

The final atonement is the same as the marriage. The fact that this final intercessory work comes after the judgment for the individual teaches man the message of justification by faith. Since a work of intercession was still needed after the judgment we can know that man still needed intercession during the judgment. Christ character still needs to stand in place of man's character as his substitute at the judgment.

Chapter 9

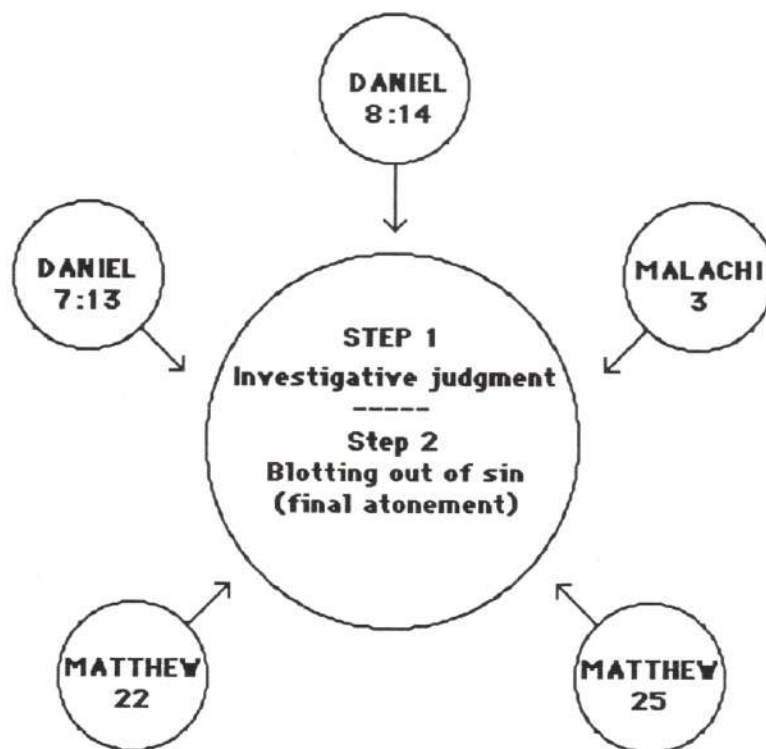
THE BLOTTING OUT OF SIN

As Presented by MATTHEW

"The coming of Christ as our high priest to the most holy place, for the cleansing of the sanctuary, brought to view in Daniel 8:14; the coming of the Son of man to the Ancient of Days, as presented in Daniel 7:13; and the coming of the Lord to His temple, foretold by Malachi, are descriptions of the same event; and this is also represented by the coming of the bridegroom to the marriage, described by Christ in the parable of the ten virgins, of Matthew 25." GC 426

"In the parable of Matthew 22 the same figure of the marriage is introduced. . ." GC 428

The above statement gives several texts that are all descriptions of the same event. This is a very helpful quotation because a person can recheck his conclusions from several sources.



DESCRIPTIONS OF THE SAME EVENT

It was concluded from Daniel 8:14 that there are two steps involved in the cleansing of the sanctuary for the individual. (See GC 421,422)

Step 1 Investigative judgment

Step 2 Blotting out of sin (final atonement)

It was also concluded that the blotting out of sin affected the character. It removed the inherited tendencies to sin from the character. This work was started at conversion and is finished at the final atonement. The parable of Matthew 22 is a descriptions of the same event as is described in Daniel 8:14. Therefore a study on the marriage should give the same conclusions.

"In the parable of Matthew 22 the same figure of the marriage is introduced, and the investigative judgment is clearly represented as taking place before the marriage. Previous to the wedding the king comes in to see the guests, to see if all are attired in the wedding garment, the spotless robe of character washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb. . . This work of examination of character, of determining who are prepared for the kingdom of God, is that of the investigative judgment, the closing work in the sanctuary above." GC 428

The above statement makes it very clear that the investigative judgment takes place before the marriage. The two steps listed above are:

- Step 1 Investigative Judgment
- Step 2 The Marriage

This parable is a description of the cleansing of the sanctuary, as listed in Daniel 8:14. Now it is clear that step one is the same step in both passages. That event is the investigative judgment. If these two passages describe the same event then step two should also be the same. The blotting out of sin or the final atonement is step two in Daniel 8:14. The marriage is step two of Matthew 22. Therefore the marriage and the final atonement should be the same event. The word atonement means at-one-ment. (see 6 BC 1077) Paul tells us that a marriage is an at-one-ment.

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife: and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church." Ephesians 5: 31, 32.

In a marriage a man becomes one flesh with his wife. Paul is applying this concept to Christ and His people. Christ wants to unite with His church. That is a union of humanity with divinity.

"By the marriage is represented the union of humanity with divinity. . ." COL 307

Therefore the marriage is an atonement. Step two is the same in Matthew 22 and Daniel 8:14. Remember that both of these events, the final atonement and the marriage, take place after the case for an individual is investigated. That tells that a union of humanity with divinity takes place after the name comes up in judgment. The term final atonement

suggests a final, finished, or completed work That would be perfection. It was concluded from Daniel 8:14 that the blotting out of sin (step two) was a blotting out of sin from the character. In other words the blotting out of sin affected the character. Matthew 22 is a description of the same event. Step two is the marriage, and it represents a union of humanity with divinity. That means the marriage affected the character. Just as the final atonement or blotting out of sin completes or finishes the work of grace for man, so the marriage completes or finishes the work of grace for man.

"While Jesus had been ministering in the sanctuary, the judgment had been going on for the righteous dead, and then for the righteous living. Christ had received His kingdom, having made the atonement for His people and blotted out their sins. The subjects of the kingdom were made up. The marriage of the Lamb was consummated. EW 280.

Consummated means to complete or finish. Therefore the marriage or final atonement is the finishing of the union of humanity with divinity. That work is not completed until after the investigative judgment for the individual. The final atonement was the blotting out of the record of sin. Since the marriage is the same event, the marriage would happen when the record of sin is blotted out. That would be the work that needs to be done to perfect man or completely unite humanity to divinity.

The blots of sin were selfish thought habit patterns. These habit patterns give us the tendencies to sin. When sins are blotted out, it will finish the work of removing the tendencies to sin. If the marriage is the same event as the blotting out of sin and the final atonement, then the marriage should accomplish this same work. The marriage is a union of humanity with divinity. Notice that a union of humanity with divinity removes the inherited tendencies to sin.

"We must realize that through belief in Him it is our privilege to be partakers of the divine nature, and so escape the corruption that is in the world through lust. Then we are cleansed from all sin, all defects of character. We need not retain one sinful propensity. . .

"As we partake of the divine nature, hereditary and cultivated tendencies to wrong are cut away from the character. . ." 7BC 943

In the above it states that as we (humanity) partake of the divine nature, hereditary and cultivated tendencies are cut away from the character. The marriage is a union of humanity with divinity. Therefore we could say that the marriage cuts away hereditary and cultivated tendencies to sin. We need not retain one sinful propensity. This work was started at conversion (see 6BC 1101) but is not finished until the final atonement.

	<i>Step 1</i>	<i>Step 2</i>	<i>Result</i>
Daniel 8:14	Investigative judgment for individual	Blotting out of sin (Final Atonement)	Inherited tendencies blotted out
Matthew 22	Investigative judgment for individual	Marriage (Consumated)	Inherited tendencies cut away

All of these passages are a description of the same event.