All Things New: Hope Starts Here

DAY 7— THE LONGEST TIME PROPHECY

"And he said to me, 'For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed'" (Dan. 8:14).

The 2,300 Days and 1844

As we saw earlier, the time prophecies of Daniel 8 and 9 are closely connected and begin at the same time. Like the seventy-week prophecy, the prophecy of 2,300 days in Daniel 8:14 begins in 457 BC. Counting 2,300 years from this date ("a day for each year," Ezek. 4:6) and remembering that there is no year "0" brings us to AD 1844. "Then the sanctuary shall be cleansed" (Dan. 8:14). But what is this sanctuary and why would it need cleansing?

As we mentioned earlier, the earthly temple or sanctuary was destroyed twice: the first temple was destroyed by Babylon, and the second temple by Rome. Since then, it has never been rebuilt, though some people dream of building a third temple. So, what sanctuary is being referred to? As Paul in the book of Hebrews indicates, there is another sanctuary, not on earth but in heaven, "the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man" (Heb. 8:2). But how could anything in heaven ever need cleansing? Well, Paul answers that too: "Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens [the earthly sanctuary] should be purified with these [animal sacrifices], but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us" (Heb. 9:23, 24).

Our High Priest and the Judgment

The apostle John describes what Jesus is doing in the heavenly sanctuary: "My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 2:1; 1:9). Our sins need to be cleansed by the blood of Jesus. This is the process described as the "cleansing" of the heavenly sanctuary. Notice how Daniel describes it: "I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated. . . . A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened" (Dan. 7:9, 10).

Speaking of this end-time judgment, the angel of Revelation 14:7 warns, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come." Soon this judgment that began in 1844 will be finished and Jesus will come. Enter this sanctuary by faith, praying to Jesus, our heavenly High Priest, that everyone will hear this heavenly warning and ready themselves for His return. Let's pray together.

Prayer Time (30–45 Minutes)

Every prayer group has its own way of praying together. We invite you to spend the next 30–45 minutes in united prayer, following the leading of the Holy Spirit. We encourage short conversational prayers (1–3 sentences), allowing more people to participate and pray multiple times. Below are a few examples of praying through Scripture based on today's theme. You may also pray through other Bible passages and include additional prayer topics during your time together. For more prayer ideas, please refer to the Leader's Guide and the World Church Prayer Requests.

Praying God's Word — Revelation 14:7

"Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."

"Fear God and give glory to Him"

Lord, teach us to fear You with reverent love and to give You all the glory. May our worship, our words, and our choices honor Your name above everything else. Let all we are and all we do bring glory to You alone.

"For the hour of His judgment has come"

Father, we live in the hour of Your judgment, when Jesus our High Priest ministers for us in the heavenly sanctuary. Cleanse us by Your blood. We believe Your promise that if we confess our sins, You are faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Search our hearts and make us ready to stand before You.

"Worship Him who made heaven and earth"

Creator God, You alone are worthy of worship. Through OneVoice27 this year, send us out with one voice to call the world back to You—the Maker of heaven and earth—that many may worship You and be ready before Jesus comes.

More Prayer Suggestions

Thanks and Praise: Give thanks for specific blessings and praise God for His goodness.
Confession: Take a few minutes for private confession and thank God for His forgiveness.
Guidance: Ask God to grant wisdom for current challenges and decisions.
Our Church: Pray for regional and world church needs (see separate sheet with requests).
OneVoice27: Pray for the OneVoice27 evangelistic emphasis culminating this September—that today's prayers become bold proclamation and that many will hear of Jesus before He comes.
Local Requests: Pray for current needs of church members, family, and neighbors.
Listen and Respond: Take time to listen for God's voice and respond in praise or song.

Song Suggestions

SDA Hymnal: Lo! He Comes (#211); When He Cometh (#218); We Know Not the Hour (#604)
Other Songs: Soon and Very Soon; Days of Elijah; Is He Worthy?; Living Hope