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Jesus Defends Us

Key References: Daniel 7:9, 10; Matthew 22:1-14; Hebrews 4:14-16; 7:23-26; 8:1, 2; 9:22-28; Revelation 5:9; 12:10; 21:27; *The Great Controversy*, chaps. 23; 24, pp. 409-432; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 157-160, 180-182; Our Beliefs, nos. 24, 10, 8.















power**text**

"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. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world" (1 John 2:1, 2).

power**point**

By His grace Jesus defends us in the heavenly sanctuary.

Imagine that you are in a courtroom and you are on trial. The judge and the jury have to weigh the evidence and decide whether or not you are guilty. How would you feel if you were convicted of a violation of the law? How would you respond if your lawyer paid a very high cost for the fine (which you could have never paid) so that you could be free?

The Bible describes a court scene that is taking place in heaven. The prophet Daniel saw that court scene in vision in which the Ancient of Days, God the Father, was seated to judge the human race based on the records contained in the books. As "the court was seated, and the books were opened" Daniel saw "One like the Son of Man," who was "coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him" (Daniel 7:9, 10, 13, 14). The parallel passage in Daniel 8:14 describes this as the sanctuary being "cleansed."

Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 74.



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Sunday

READ Read Matthew 22:1-9 and this week's story, "Jesus Defends Us."

LEARN Begin to learn the power text, 1 John 2:1, 2.

SHARE Tell someone the good news that our names are written in the book of life.

PRAY Thank God that your name is in the book of life.

Monday

READ Read Matthew 22:10-14.

THINK What do the wedding clothes in this story represent? How do you respond when Jesus invites you to His feast? Have you accepted His robe of righteousness?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank Jesus for covering you with the robe of His righteousness.

Tuesday

READ Read Hebrews 4:14-16.

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write about a time when someone accused you but a friend stood up for you and defended you. Now write about how you feel knowing that Jesus is your friend who defends you.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank Jesus that He understands and defends us.

Let's take a closer look at what this means. We can learn about the heavenly sanctuary by examining the earthly sanctuary. Moses made an earthly tabernacle after the pattern of the heavenly sanctuary (see Exodus 25:9, 40). When someone had sinned, that person came to the sanctuary and brought a pure, spotless animal, symbolizing Jesus, the pure, spotless Lamb of God (see Revelation 13:8). The person would lay the hands on the head of the lamb, confessing his or her sin, thus transferring it



lamb. That lamb would then be sacrificed in place of the sinner, pointing to Jesus' sacrifice that cleanses from sin (see Leviticus 1).

Once a year on the Day of Atonement the congregation of the children of Israel assembled at the sanctuary after they had confessed and repented of their sins. It was on the Day of Atonement that the sanctuary was "cleansed" from the people's sins. On that day two goats were brought to the tabernacle, and lots were cast to determine which goat was for the Lord and which was the scapegoat. The first goat, over which no sins were confessed, was sacrificed. Its blood was brought into the sanctuary to cleanse it from the blood of the animal sacrifices for sins made through the year.



This goat was symbolic of Jesus' sinless sacrifice for us. At the cross Jesus took our place and paid the penalty for our sins and set us free from the condemnation of sin.

After the cleansing blood of this goat was applied to the sanctuary, the sins of the people were confessed on the head the scapegoat, which represented Satan, the author of sin. It was then banished to the wilderness to die, symbolizing Satan's final punishment for the world's sin (see Leviticus 16).

Significantly, the Day of Atonement in the earthly sanctuary was the only service in which all Israelites were required to participate (see Leviticus 23:29, 30). Also it was the only day of the year when the high priest could enter the Most Holy Place. He did this to do a special work of atonement for the people. The priestly ministry throughout the year pointed forward to Christ's ministry as our high priest. But the Day of Atonement pointed forward to Jesus' entry into the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary at the end of the 2300 prophetic days in 1844 (see Daniel 8:14). That is when Jesus began His work of investigative judgment as our great high

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Wednesday

READ Read Psalm 35:22–24.

REVIEW Review the power text.

THINK What are some Bible prophecies that came true?

PRAY Thank Jesus for keeping all His promises and for the Bible prophecies that came true.

Thursday

READ Read 1 John 4:16–18.

LEARN About what person in the Bible would you like to learn more? Read that person's story and write down three interesting facts about that person.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask Jesus to help you better to please Him.

Friday

READ Read 1 John 2:1, 2 again then say it by memory.

RECITE Act out the parable of the wedding garment.

LEARN Ask each person what expectations they would have if they invited people to a banquet.

PRAY Thank God that you are invited to His feast.

priest in the heavenly sanctuary, which includes a special work of cleansing for His people (see Leviticus 16:30).

At some point the name of every person who has ever lived will come before God in judgment. Although "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23), we can receive the undeserved gift of salvation by confessing our sins, accepting Jesus' sacrifice, and living a life of obedience. The good news is that in the judgment Jesus will be the advocate of all who accept Him as their personal Redeemer and keep all of His commandments, including the Sabbath (see Revelation 14:12). John wrote about this, saying: "If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1). Our penalty has already been paid with the precious blood of Jesus. Thanks to Christ, we can be free! We need only to accept His atoning sacrifice.

Now that the books of record are



opened in the heavenly judgment, everyone's thoughts, words, and actions, including their sins, stand revealed. The names of those who by faith were obedient to God's law "are written in the Lamb's Book of Life" (Revelation 21:27) and will not be blotted out (Revelation 3:5). The cases of those whose names are not recorded in the book of life or whose names were blotted out during this judgment will pass in review for judgment at a later time, during the millennium.

How important it is then to "fear God, and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14).

Our names may come up anytime in the judgment. How should we spend our time and utilize our resources? How should we use the gifts and talents God has given us? How can we open our hearts to Jesus and allow Him to change our lives? If we accept Jesus as our personal Savior, He will cover us with His robe of righteousness. To all who believe in Him Jesus promises "everlasting life" (see John 3:16).



PUZZLE
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A LIFE OF WORSHIP

Instructions: Take two letters that are next to each other from each word on a line, reading left to right, to form a new six-letter word in the circles. We have given you the first one to get you started. The letters in the shaded circles form the answer to this puzzle.

All of the answers can be found in Galatians 1 and 2.

1. Declare, display, show (Gal. 1:16)
2. Female parent (Gal. 1:15)
3. Truth, the story of Jesus' death (Gal. 1:11)
4. Not anymore, no __ __ __ __ __ __ (Gal. 2:20)
5. For or direction of (Gal. 2:8)
6. Talk about God, sermon (Gal. 1:16)
7. God's house, place of worship (Gal. 1:13)
8. Objects, items (Gal. 1:20)

Puzzle Clue: Jesus, our Savior, will live in your heart, by grace, and e __ __ __ __ __ __ __ you to live like He did.

