

3ABN SABBATH SCHOOL PANEL
008 - WEDNESDAY – MAY 22, 2024

THE GOOD NEWS OF THE MOST HOLY PLACE

Although the Protestant Reformers believed in the literal, visible, audible, and glorious return of Christ, gradually the understanding of this biblical truth changed. Popular 19th-century preachers taught that Christ would come to establish His kingdom on earth and usher in 1,000 years of peace. This led to spiritual lethargy and an apathetic commitment to spiritual values.

Similarly, Christ's disciples misunderstood the nature of the Messiah's coming. They thought that He would come as a conquering general who would break the yoke of Roman bondage, not One who would deliver them from the condemnation and shackles of sin. Thus, they failed to understand the manner of His coming.

The visibility of Christ return: Hebrews 4:14–16 (NKJV) “(14) Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. (15) For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin. (16) Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

The prominence of Christ's return: Hebrews 10:19–22 (NKJV) “(19) Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, (20) by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, (21) and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, (22) let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”

Paul's point here in Hebrews is “hold fast,” “come boldly,” “never give up,” focus your faith on Jesus, our great High Priest. In Jesus, we have all we need. By faith we may enter the heavenly sanctuary through the “new and living way” that Jesus has opened for us.

The symbolism, represented by the writer of Hebrews shows that we cannot come to God, except through Jesus Christ.

Jesus is our **High Priest:** Hebrews 6:19–20 (NKJV) “(19) This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, (20) where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”

Through the blood of Jesus, we enter the holiest of holies: Hebrews 9:12 (NKJV) “Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.”

Through the blood of Jesus, our sins have been reversed “in remission.”

Matthew 26:28 (NKJV) “For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”

The plan to save us was established from the very beginning:

1 Peter 1:18–20 (NKJV) “(18) knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, (19) but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. (20) He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you”

Revelation 11:19 (NKJV) “Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.”

In the context of the great controversy, why is this vision significant? How does it show the inseparable link between the law and the gospel?

Psalms 77:13 (NKJV) “ Your way, O God, is in the sanctuary; Who is so great a God as our God?”

John 14:6 (NKJV) “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

Without Jesus, there would be no way for us to enter the presence of God. So the covenant that is revealed under the seventh trumpet shows that the everlasting covenant is still in force. As a result, through Jesus, we can stand boldly before the throne of grace.

The law of God is no longer written on stone, but written on the hearts of his children:

Hebrews 10:16 (NKJV) “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them.”

Why is Jesus’ intercession such incredibly good news? As we stand before the law as the standard of righteousness, what hope would we have without the gospel?

JESUS IS OUR MEDIATOR: 1 Timothy 2:5 (NKJV) “For *there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.*”

JESUS IS OUR ADVOCATE: 1 John 2:1 (NKJV) “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.”

JESUS IS OUR PROPITIATION: 1 John 2:2 (NKJV) “And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”

