

James Rafferty Q2 L8 2025 Lesson 8 *May 17 18* In the Psalms  
Part 1

Allusions, images, symbols. How to study Bible prophecy  
**Sabbath Afternoon**

**Read for This Week's Study:** *Heb. 9:11–15, Psalm 122, Psalm 15, Psalm 24, Exod. 33:18–23, Psalm 5, Ps. 51:7–15.*

**Memory Text:** “Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father’s name written on their foreheads” (*Revelation 14:1, NKJV*).

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s Seventh-day Adventists, we are used to searching for the symbols of Revelation in the stories of the Old Testament in order to help us understand those symbols. These narratives, though, are far from the only good source, but are found all through the Old Testament.

One particularly rich source of information is the book of Psalms, a collection of sacred poetry that explores many human experiences and possible interactions with God—ranging from despondency over sin and suffering to unbridled joy in His presence and His repeated promises for forgiveness and salvation.

A careful reading of the Psalms yields details that make the book of Revelation come alive, especially Revelation 14, which describes the final work of God's remnant church on earth. God's last-day people have been given the same assignment as Israel of old: we are to be a light to the nations, a final merciful call to all people to worship and obey their Maker. Some details provided in God's songbook can give us new ways to understand and appreciate our role in the final moments of earth's history.

*\*Study this week's lesson to prepare for Sabbath, May 24.*

**Sunday**      *May 18*

## **Our High Priest**

When Moses oversaw the construction of the tabernacle, he was not permitted to use just any design he wished. God gave him a blueprint to follow. “ ‘See to it that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain’ ” (*Exod. 25:40, NKJV*). We discover in the book of Hebrews that the pattern used was that of a higher reality, the heavenly sanctuary.

**Read Hebrews 9:11–15, about Christ as our High Priest in heaven's sanctuary. What does this teach about what He is doing for us?**

The earthly sanctuary foreshadowed Jesus in astonishing detail, from the priest and the offerings, to the furniture and other design details. *All* of it speaks of Jesus.

The book of Revelation, of course, is very rich in sanctuary imagery. We find the sanctuary candlestick in the opening verses, the ark of the covenant explicitly mentioned in chapter four, as well as numerous other allusions to the temple. Without an understanding of the Old Testament sanctuary, it becomes impossible to grasp what John is driving at in his descriptions of his visions. The experiences of Israel, Paul writes, “happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come” (*1 Cor. 10:11, NKJV*).

OUTLINE OF SANCTUARY IN REVELATION DEPICTING THE HOLY PLACE AND THEN MOST HOLY PLACE MINISTRY OF CHRIST IN HEAVEN. EACH TIME THE SANCTUARY SYMBOLISM IS DESCRIBED IN REVELATION, IT POINTS OUT WHERE WE ARE IN PROPHETIC HISTORY. IF THE SANCTUARY FURNITURE MENTIONED IS IN THE HOLY PLACE OR FIRST APARTMENT THEN WE ARE LOOKING AT PROPHETIC HISTORY IN THAT PART OF REVELATION THAT IS PRE 1844. LIKEWISE IF THE SANCTUARY FURNITURE MENTIONED IS IN THE MOST HOLY PLACE THEN WE ARE LOOKING AT PROPHETIC HISTORY THAT IS POST 1844. LET’S LOOK AT A FEW EXAMPLES.

REVELATION 1 - CANDLE STICKS - PRE 1844

REVELATION 4 -

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REVELATION 8- GOLDEN ALTAR - PRE 1844

REVELATION 9 - 4 HORNS OF ALTAR - PRE 1844

REVELATION 11:19 - ARK OF THE TESTAMENT - POST  
1844

REVELATION 12:17 - COMMANDMENTS OF GOD - POST  
1844

REVELATION 14:12 - COMMANDMENTS OF GOD -POST  
1844

IN THIS WAY WE UNDERSTAND FROM SANCTUARY  
IMAGERY IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION THAT THE  
FIRST FOUR PROPHETIC CYCLES, THE SEVEN  
CHURCHES THE SEVEN SEALS AND THE SEVEN  
TRUMPETS ARE PRIMARILY PROPHETIC HISTORY THAT  
WAS FULFILLED PRE-1844. AND THE LAST PROPHETIC  
CYCLE, WHICH COULD BE SUMMARIZED IN THE  
SEVEN LAST PLAGUES IS PROPHETIC HISTORY THAT IS  
TO BE FULFILLED PRIMARILY AFTER 1844. THERE ARE  
SOME ASPECTS OF THE FIRST THREE CYCLES THAT  
POINT TO THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST AND THE  
NEW EARTH. WE SEE THAT IN THE SIXTH AND  
SEVENTH CHURCHES THE SIXTH AND SEVENTH SEAL  
AND THE SEVENTH TRUMPET. HOWEVER, MOST OF  
THOSE CYCLES ARE HISTORIC PRE-1844 IN THEIR  
PROPHETIC APPLICATION. REVELATION ALSO  
SUMMARIZES PAST HISTORY 1844 IN REVELATION, 12  
AND 13. HOWEVER, MOST OF REVELATION 12  
THROUGH 21 IS POST 1844. AND ALL OF THIS IS  
CONFIRMED BY THE IMAGERY USED FROM THE

SANCTUARY. THE SANCTUARY IS A POWERFUL KEY TO HELP US NAVIGATE PROPHETIC HISTORY.

PSALM 73:17 REV 15:5, 8

Until I went into the sanctuary of God; *then* understood I their end.

There is much we can learn from studying the details of the temple. In the book of Psalms, we find an important component for understanding some of these details: how God's people personally related to the temple. We catch glimpses of how David related to the sanctuary and its services, and we see the heart response of God's people to what Messiah would do for them. It is not just the patterns that help us see Jesus; we can also mine the personal experiences of those who understood what God was teaching us through the sanctuary and draw lessons for ourselves and for our own experiences with God.

**Read Psalm 122. Though we cannot go literally to the earthly "house of the Lord" (it's not there, and even if one were built in the same place, it would be meaningless), what elements are found in this Psalm that can encourage us about what Christ has done for us? Notice the themes of peace, security, praise, and judgment.**