

Holiness Pt 1 God is glorious in holiness

This is our first teaching on the topic holiness. In this study we will cover three points: (i) God is glorious in holiness, (ii) Israel was holiness unto the LORD, and the firstfruits of His increase, and (iii) That which Israel used in, and resulted from their sacrifices, was made most holy. The teaching was compiled from a search of the words holiness (48 occurrences), sanctification (5 occurrences), godliness (15 occurrences) and holy (546 occurrences).

According to the *Strong's Complete Dictionary of Bible Words*- holiness means:

Sacred place or thing, state of purity, state of holiness, quality of holiness, piety, religious and reverent.

The Greek words for holiness are also translated:

Sanctification, godliness, and there is a link to the words saint, hallow and sanctify.

Hebrew words for holiness are also translated:

Hallowed, sanctified, to consecrate, to prepare, to proclaim, dedicated, saint and sanctify.

The Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. God is glorious in holiness

“Who is like unto thee, O Lord, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?” (Ex 15:11)

His name is holy

“Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord” (1Chr 16:10)

See also 1Chr 16:35

The temple of the LORD is Holy

“But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: [and] in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple. (Ps.5: 7) See also Ps.11: 4 & 15: 1

There is NONE holy as the LORD -

“There is none holy as the Lord: for there is none beside thee: neither [is there] any rock like our God” (1 Sam 2:2)

The commandments of God are holy

“For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known [it], to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them” (2Pet 2:21). See also Rom 7:12

David reminded Israel that God sits upon the throne of His holiness

“God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness” (Ps.47:8).

David reminded Israel that God speaks in His holiness

“God hath spoken in his holiness; I will rejoice, I will divide Shechem, and mete out the valley of Succoth” (Ps.60:6). See also Ps108:7

2. Israel was holiness unto the LORD, and the firstfruits of His increase

“Israel was holiness unto the Lord, [and] the firstfruits of his increase: all that devour him shall offend; evil shall come upon them, saith the Lord” (Jer 2:3)

Israel's first fruits were holy unto the LORD- Eze 48:14- “And they shall not sell of it, neither exchange, nor alienate the firstfruits of the land: for [it is] holy unto the Lord”.

The LORD hallowed Israel- Lev 22:32- “Neither shall ye profane my holy name; but I will be hallowed among the children of Israel: I [am] the Lord which hallow you”.

Israel were to worship the LORD in the beauty of His holiness

“Give unto the Lord the glory [due] unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness” (1Chr 16:29). See also Ps. 29:2. Ps.96: 9.

3. That which Israel used in and resulted from their sacrifices was made most holy

“Or suffer them to bear the iniquity of trespass, when they eat their holy things: for I the Lord do sanctify them” (Lev 22:16)- CF Exodus 29:37- “Seven days thou shalt make an atonement for the altar, and sanctify it; and it shall be an altar most holy: whatsoever toucheth the altar shall be holy”.

An illustration to help apply the teaching to our life today.

Taking the name of God and using it as a swear word is a sin. His name is holy, and when the heathen use His name as a swear word they profane His name which is holy. For many who get saved, they are either unable to blaspheme His name, or if and when they do they will be convicted by the Holy Spirit that dwells in them. The only time His name should leave our lips should be in praise and worship, for His name is Holy. I suggest to you that if a person who claims to be saved feels no conviction when they use the LORD's name in vain, they would be advised to examine themselves before Him.

When we blaspheme, we do so even against the Holy One of Israel - 2Kgs 19:22- “Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed? and against whom hast thou exalted [thy] voice, and lifted up thine eyes on high? even against the Holy [One] of Israel”.

Questions to think about.

i) Why were Israel to be holy? ii) what was Israel's sin and what were the consequences of not being holy iii) what happens when Israel were holy?

Our answers from the scriptures.

i) Israel were to sanctify themselves and be holy: because the LORD their God is holy, neither were they to defile themselves

[44] For I am the Lord your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

I am the LORD your God: ye shall be holy for I am holy

[45] For I am the Lord that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy. (Lev 11:44, 45). See also Lev 19:2, 20: 7 & 26

ii) Judah had profaned the holiness of the LORD which He loved and had married the daughter of a strange god

“Judah hath dealt treacherously, and an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah hath profaned the holiness of the Lord which he loved, and hath married the daughter of a strange god” (Mal 2:11)

Consequences of sin: God's holiness meant He would not forgive if Israel served strange gods- but turned to do them hurt

[19] And Joshua said unto the people, Ye cannot serve the LORD: for he is an holy God; he is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins.

[20] If ye forsake the LORD, and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good. (Josh.24:19, 20).

iii) when Israel were holy they sanctified the LORD in their righteousness

“But the Lord of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and God that is holy shall be sanctified in righteousness” (Is.5: 16).

The LORD sanctified Israel when they were holy

“For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth”

(Lev.11:44)- CF: Leviticus 22:15-16

[15] And they shall not profane the holy things of the children of Israel, which they offer unto the LORD;

[16] Or suffer them to bear the iniquity of trespass, when they eat their holy things: for I the LORD do sanctify them.

For us today Israel are our example of the need to be holy before a God who is Holy. Let us never profane the Holiness of the LORD, because we are in the age of grace, God is no respecter of persons. Especially to those whom He has set in the body of Christ with a task.

Let us remember: Rom 1:4- “And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead”. That is right: Jesus, our Saviour was declared to be the Son of God according to the spirit of HOLINESS, BY his resurrection! Christ Jesus is our example, and we will cover His Holiness next week.