

December 17th 2023
Be Holy for I am Holy Leviticus Closure

Leviticus 11:44-45

44 For I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. You shall not defile yourselves with any swarming thing that crawls on the ground. **45** For I am the Lord who brought you up out of the land of Egypt to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.”

Leviticus 20:26

You shall be holy to me, for I the Lord am holy and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be mine.

The primary purpose of a believers prayer is to **give God the glory**. Well how do you do that? How do you give God the glory?

Well one of the ways you can give God the glory is by **reading scripture**. So one of the keywords that I repeat quite often is Revelations 4:8. I just repeat the second portion for prayer.

Revelation 4:8

And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, “**Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!**”

- “**who was**” : that is the past
- “**who is**”: that is the present
- “**who is to come**”: that is the future.

This is a great news that the almighty God is the same God of the past, the present and the future.

And what is interesting is why does it say “**Holy**” three times. Why not just one time of saying “Holy is the Lord God Almighty.” Well it mentions the word “Holy” three times because it represents that the **Father is a Holy God, Jesus the son is a Holy God, and the Spirit of the Lord is a Holy God.** That is how you get the name Holy Spirit.

There is a great emphasis on God as a Holy God. In fact when Jesus was teaching his disciples how to pray, he said this:

Matthew 6:9-13 King James Version

9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, **Hallowed** be thy name. **10** Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. **11** Give us this day our daily bread. **12** And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. **13** And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

The word “**Hallowed**” means “**Holy**.” Jesus was teaching his disciples to call the Father in a “**Holy**” name.

So we know for certain that the book of Leviticus and all the way to the book of the Revelations, the meaning of Holiness is strongly emphasized.

So what I would like to do today as we close the book of Leviticus, we are going to walk like the Jews when they came out of Egypt. Now we know that the Israelites have been slaves in Egypt for more than 400 years, so there is a **lot of “Egypt” in the way they think, the way they behave, and the way they worship.**

And that is why God made it clear for them to be not do like the Egyptians from **which they came out of and do not be like the Canaanites to which country you will be going into.**

You have the first five books:

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy (The first five books are the Torah and or it's called the Pentateuch in Greek).

In Exodus, you have people leaving out of Egypt:

Exodus

God's Approach to Man

Deliverance to Man

God's Grace (Freedom)

Leviticus

Man's Approach to God

Man dedicated to God: Levites/Priest

Man's Gratitude to God (Offerings)

God's Approach to Man (God tells Moses to set His people free)

Man's Approach to God (How can I get into the presence of God)

Then in Exodus, ***God delivers His people free***, then in ***Leviticus as free men God ordains priests to be mediators between God and men***. In Exodus, it was purely ***by God's grace to save*** the Israelites, so then in ***Leviticus it is by Man's thankful heart to offer sacrifices*** to God.

- **Exodus** is about how God saved His people
- **Leviticus** is how people are to serve God. Purpose for redemption.

[Put on the Prayer Shawl]

Prayer Shawl, also called a ***tallit***, is a special garment worn by Jewish men. The garment signifies the nobility that comes from being God's chosen people. The tallit is a sign of obedience to God's law.

Tassels: God commanded Israel to wear tassels (**Deut. 22:12**) and that they include a blue cord as part of the garment (**Num. 15:37-41**). The "Tassels" was to remind the Israelites of who they were and of the commandments that they were to obey, and it became a point of Jewish identity.

The First Prayer after putting on the “Prayer Shawl” Now there are **three prayers each day**, but we’ll just repeat half of one for today.

The ***Shema Israel Prayer***

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

4 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Now keep in mind that in Exodus, you have the people build the tabernacle, a large tent in which God dwells. God is saying through the tabernacle that

- He will be the ***government***
- He will be the ***minister of defense***
- He will be the ***finance director***
- He will be the ***health minister***
- God is to be the ***King***

In other words, **God expects the people that He saved to be like Him** and not like the country in which they came out of and not like the country in which they will go into. That’s why He says, “***Be Holy as I am Holy.***”

Did you know that **90% of Leviticus** is directly from the Lord to His people. In the beginning of each chapter it says, “**The Lord spoke to**

Moses.” God is speaking directly to His people. So when God is speaking to us, it is a very serious matter.

When obeying God’s words there will bring blessings but disobedience can kick you out of **your home, family**, and even **death**. So following Leviticus was a very serious matter.

So let’s summarize the entire chapter of Leviticus

[Look up on the board: Please have the matching colors]

The Hamburger “Leviticus”

1 - 7	Regulations and Laws (Offering & Sacrifices)
8 - 10	Priesthood (Ordination into the ministry)
11 - 15	“Ritual” Purity (Unclean - Clean)
16	Yom Kippur (A Day of Atonement)
17 - 22	“Moral” Purity (Common - Holy)
23 - 25	Priesthood (Worship / 7 Annual Feasts)
26 - 27	Regulations and Laws (Sections and Vows)

When you look at this, I would like for you to think of a hamburger. On the outside, you have the buns.

- **Brown color** (Leviticus 1-7, and 26-27) represent similar functions.
- **Blue** represents the duties and responsibilities of the priests. Remember the priests are representatives of man to God. They bring the confessions and offerings of the people to God.
- **Green** represents God’s commands as to what is clean and unclean and what is Common and Holy.
- **Red** is the meat of the hamburger. Everything builds up to this point. **Yom kippur which is once a year**, the High priest would take two goats. One for the sin offerings of the people. The second innocent goat is when the High Priest would take all the sins of the

people and place it upon the goat and set it outside the camp, hoping that it will never return. That's why the goat is called the "**scapegoat**" and take the blame into an innocent goat. And, you do this once a year.

The world thinks of only two categories: **Good vs Evil**

But here in Leviticus and in the Bible, there are three categories.

- **Holy (Sacred, Godly)**
- **Common (Secular, Good) Clean**
- **Unclean (Sinful, Bad)**

So there are two things going on in here:

- One is when we make what is Sacred and Godly things and we **profane** it (treating something sacred and abusing it or we misuse it, impure or defile it). When we "profane" the things of God to be common, then it is no longer becomes Holy.
- Like for example with "Marriage." Based upon God's Original Design (G.O.D.) a marriage between one man and one woman is sacred to God. But then we profane it by committing adultery, or any sexual relations outside of marriage. Or even to redefining G.O.D of marriage, then we profane it. Eventually it will be common, secular and people will consider it good and clean (as long as you just love one person).

Once you redefine marriage and make it common, and then it becomes good to the world, but it doesn't make it "Holy." It is common but not Holy.

Question: **If you mix what is clean with something that is unclean, does it make it clean? NO!**

Anytime you mix something in with clean and unclean, it is still unclean. Same goes with mixing in what is **Holy and the common clean**.

When you mix in with Holy and common, it doesn't make it Holy. God is wanting something that is sacred and **Holy which is to be set apart**. So the longer you continue in sin, it becomes "unclean" and you will eventually die (**Romans 6:23 for the wages of sin leads to death**).

This is why Holiness and SIN never mix together. God is Holy, so he cannot be near sin. Jesus comes in the form of flesh as a common man. He was a carpenter (middle class: trade). **He was a man who lived a common life until He was called into ministry**. He is good and without any sin. In fact, did you know that the name of Jesus is actually a common name back in the first century.

- This is what I love about the book of Leviticus: Let's say, at some point in your life, you were here (unclean). God gives you the scapegoat at the Day of Atonement. God's mercy comes in because of your confession.
- The Lord starts to "cleanse" you, because you made a sacrifice unto the Lord. **How do yo go from common to Holy?** So when God says, be Holy as I am Holy, He is asking you to consecrate yourself and make your heart, mind, soul, and body. **Love God**.

Romans 12:1-2

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, **holy** and **acceptable** to God, which is your **spiritual worship**. **2** Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

John Newton: His mother died of tuberculosis when Newton was almost **7 years old**, and by age **11** he was accompanying his father on sea voyages. He grew up as an angry man. Every other word in his mouth was a cuss word. Every darkness you could think of he was there. John Newton was a very unclean man.

Have you ever looked at a person and wonder if that man can ever change. Or, there is no hope for that person. John Newton was that man. Only a Holy God, can cleanse this man's heart. One day in a major storm, where he thought his life would end, **John Newton asked God for help**. He awoke to find the ship caught in a severe storm and the ship was about to sink. In response, Newton began **praying for God's mercy**, after which the storm began to die down. After four weeks at sea, the *Greyhound* made it to port in Lough Swilly (Ireland). This experience marked the beginning of his conversion to Christianity.

Amazing grace, How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come,
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home.

Because God is Holy and only a Holy God can make us clean.

