

# Sermon Outlines

## The Holiness Of God - Part 1

### Readings

Leviticus 20:7

### Introduction

The book of Leviticus stresses a major characteristic of God, His holiness where it is mentioned and its truth taught more than any other Biblical book.

- a) It is mentioned:
  - i) 53 times in Exodus (52 times after Ch. 12, that is, after they were redeemed)
  - ii) 49 times in Ezekiel
  - iii) 54 times in Isaiah
  - iv) 52 times in Acts
  - v) 77 times in Leviticus
- b) Furthermore, the holiness of God is emphasized more than any other perfection throughout the scriptures where He is spoken of as the:
  - i) Gracious God on one occasion
  - ii) Almighty God on three occasions
  - iii) Faithful God on one occasion
  - iv) Jealous God on six occasions
  - v) Merciful God on two occasions
  - vi) Living God on thirty occasions
  - vii) Holy One \ Holy God on fifty-two occasions (52 times)
- c) It's truth is taught in Leviticus, the repetition of the words:
  - i) "sanctify" and "sanctified" occurs twenty-two times
  - ii) "clean" occurs thirty-nine times
  - iii) "unclean" occurs eighty-two times
- d) The reason this is stressed only after redemption in Exodus and throughout Leviticus is because:
  - i) Only redeemed people can be holy (1 Pet. 1:16). Note that it does not say, "Be ye holy as I am holy" that is an impossibility" but "be ye holy for" I am holy)
  - ii) In Leviticus man is brought face to face with God
    1. The title "LORD", "Jehovah" is mentioned 282 times
    2. The title "GOD" is mentioned 48 times

### God Is Holy

The distinction in the scriptures between humanity being holy and God being holy.

- a) Israel was called a holy people (Deut. 7:6; 14:2), yet they were idolators (Ezek. 20:7, 16, 24, 28, 39). How is this possible? The declaration of their holiness was how God saw them as a redeemed people, whereas in Ezekiel God is showing them for what they were naturally.
- b) A person can have:
  - i) Knowledge but not be holy, as were Paul (Eph. 3:3) and Balaam (Num. 22:12, 20).
  - ii) Superlative wisdom and not be holy, as was Solomon (1 Kgs. 4:29)
  - iii) Great position, as was Judas (Mk. 14:10)
  - iv) Great zeal in religious matters and not be holy, as Jehu (2 Kgs. 10:16) and Peter (Mk. 14:31) were.
  - v) Mortality and respectability and not be holy, as was the young ruler (Lk. 18:21).

Since God is holy, it is more than a characteristic, it is a definition of His essential being. Hannah in her declaration of praise ascribed holiness to God saying, "There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside

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thee: neither is there any rock like our God” (1 Sam. 2:2). In this statement she indicates the exclusiveness of God’s holiness. Samuel emphasizes the incomparableness of God’s holiness for the question is asked, “Who is able to stand before this Holy Lord God?” (1 Sam. 6:20). His holiness is absolute and without compromise (Josh. 24:19). God is the only one who is twice described as “holy” (Isa. 6:3; Rev. 4:8). When our Lord was here He referred to God as “Holy Father” (Jn. 17:11). Putting these together God is:

- a) Independently Holy
- b) Finitely Holy
- c) Immutably Holy
- d) Exclusively holy
- e) Thrice holy

#### What Is Holiness?

- 1) Holiness is the attribute\characteristic of absolute perfection in ones self and all that is said and done by the individual, being perfect in motive and purpose. It is described as “Light”. “God is Light, and in Him is no darkness at all” (1 Jn. 1:5).
- 2) It is a characteristic which cannot contaminate or be contaminated. Just as the light of the sun shines in the dirtiest places yet it is not defiled, likewise the holiness of God shines on the basest of men and their doings, but is not defiled. It finds no pleasure or interest in the misuse of time, apatheticness, non- productiveness, etc. It does not know restraint in declarations of wrong or any deviation of perfection. It is not politically correct and cares nothing for the acceptable norms of the day. It is unchanging for being perfect, any change would spell imperfection.

#### Because God Is Holy:

- 1) The Sphere of His Presence is Holy: “Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground” (Ex. 3:5).
- 2) His Character is Holy: “Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me” (Jn. 17:11); “In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphim’s . . . and one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory” (Isa. 6:1, 3).
- 3) His Power is Holy: “O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvelous things: his right hand, and His holy arm, hath gotten him the victory” (Psa. 98:1)
- 4) His Name is Holy: “Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name” (Psa. 103:1)
- 5) His Promise is Holy: “For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham his servant” (Psa. 105:42)
- 6) His works are Holy: “The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works” (Psa. 145:17).

Therefore, we Christians have an obligation to REFLECT the Holiness of God just as the moon reflects the light of the sun.

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**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.  
John 16:13**

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