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6 Holy Living for a Holy People



Search the Scriptures

Read Leviticus 26:3-13.

KJV Vocabulary

Use the definitions to enhance your understanding of the passage as you read.

vintage (v. 5): grape harvest

respect (v. 9): special favor

lie down (v. 6): sleep

old store (v. 10): last year's food stores

the sword (v. 6): war

Complete the exercises.

1. Under what condition would God bless His people with productive land, safety from war and wild animals, and plenty to eat?

2. God promised such plenty in return for their holiness that the people would still be _____ grain when it was time to pick _____, and they would still be picking grapes when it was time to _____ the next season's crops.

3. Judges 7:12, 19-21 and 8:28 is one remarkable illustration of how God kept the promise of miraculous victory over enemies. Briefly tell what God did for Gideon in Judges 7. _____

Read Leviticus 26:14-24.

KJV Vocabulary

Use the definitions to enhance your understanding of the passage as you read.

appoint over you (v. 16): bring upon you

earth as brass (v. 19): earth as hard and dry as brass, signifying drought and famine

consumption (v. 16): wasting diseases

plagues (v. 21): afflictions

burning ague (v. 16): fevers

desolate (v. 22): deserted

consume the eyes (v. 16): make you blind

reformed (v. 23): corrected


heaven as iron (v. 19): sky like iron; that is, empty of rain

Complete the exercises.

4. Under what condition would God turn against His own people?

Lesson 6

5. If Israel refused to obey God and follow His standard of holiness, how would each of the following be affected?
- a. their physical health _____
 - b. their relationship with their enemies _____
 - c. their land and crops _____
 - d. their safety from wild animals _____

-  6. Read Judges 2:11-15. Briefly tell why God turned against His own people.
- _____

“Be Ye Holy”

Having made a way for dealing with unintentional sin, God required intentional holiness from His people. It was not enough to simply deal with unholy after it happened. God wanted a people whose lives would manifest His holiness.

God’s own holiness formed the basis for the requirement that man be holy: “Ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy” (Leviticus 11:45). God’s rules are

absolute, never rendered obsolete by public opinion or some other man-focused process. God did not intend that the nation of Israel be governed like a democracy, swayed by the power of the majority. Instead, He was their supreme Leader and King. As long as they followed Him, they had His protection and blessing. When they strayed from Him, they took themselves out of the safety and plenty He so amply provided.

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

7. *Think!* What was God’s way of dealing with the Israelites’ unintentional sins?
- a. providing for the shedding of blood in the animal sacrifices
 - b. overlooking their sin until He was ready to send Jesus
 - c. burdening them with more rules and rituals
 - d. giving them rules to follow so they could atone for their own sins
8. What did God require from His people?
- a. blind obedience
 - b. intentional holiness
 - c. superhuman effort
 - d. perfect fulfillment of the Ten Commandments
9. On what basis could God require His people to be holy?
- a. on the basis that He was the LORD and had power over them
 - b. on the basis that the sacrifices wholly cleansed their sin
 - c. on the basis of His own holiness
 - d. on the basis that if they tried hard enough, they could do it
10. Which kind of government most accurately describes the government Israel had in the wilderness?
- a. democracy—rule by the majority of the people
 - b. theocracy—rule by God, the supreme Leader and King
 - c. monarchy—rule by one person
 - d. anarchy—each person rules himself

11. When is the holiness of God's people seen?
- by how carefully they follow the Ten Commandments
 - by how much they witness for Christ
 - by how their obedience manifests the holiness of God
 - by how well they understand God's Word

Holy Living

Read Leviticus 20:7, 8.

On the basis of "I am the LORD your God," God commanded Israel to sanctify themselves. This was something they had to *do*, separating themselves from unholiness. But who can do that on his own?

Nobody, of course. Only the holy can sanctify the unholy. So the holy One of Israel took on that responsibility and gave Israel this reassuring promise: "I am the LORD which sanctify you." This foreshadowed Jesus' work in purifying the heart and conscience of those who come to Him in faith. Only the clean can clean the unclean. Only the Lamb of God can make people holy by taking away sin and living in the hearts of His people.

"You . . . hath he reconciled . . . to
present you holy and unblameable
and unproveable in his sight."

Colossians 1:21, 22

When God saw the blood of the sacrifices, which provided forgiveness and cleansing, He saw the Israelites as holy. But they needed to make sacrifices over and over again, because they could not perfectly keep

God's law. For the Israelites, holiness was not merely a state of being, but an act of doing. They could not *become* holy without offering sacrifice and could not *remain* holy without obedience.

Leviticus 19 records some practical aspects of holy living that God spelled out for His people Israel.

- Honor your mother and father (v. 3).
- Leave some of your grapes for those who don't have any to pick (v. 10).
- Don't steal, trick, or lie (v. 11).
- Don't make life difficult for the deaf and the blind (v. 14).
- Don't be unjust, not against the poor nor in favor of the great (v. 15).
- Don't be a gossip (v. 16).
- Instead of seeking vengeance or holding grudges, love your neighbor as yourself (v. 18).
- Honor the elderly, showing yourself courteous and respectful (v. 32).
- Be honest and just in all your dealings (v. 35).
- Be consistent and fair (v. 36).

Circle the letter of the best answer.

12. What made the Israelites holy before God?
- the majority of them made good decisions
 - their hearts were naturally clean
 - their acts of obedience
 - the perfect keeping of God's Law
13. Human beings with their sinful natures cannot sanctify themselves; therefore ____.
- they can relax, knowing God will overlook their sins
 - they must do their best to make up for their sins by doing good
 - they must have faith that at the moment of death, God will accept them
 - they must allow God to purify them through Jesus' blood

New Testament Understandings

① When we turn to the New Testament, we find it also has practical applications for holy living today.

Complete the exercise.

- 📖 14. In each of the categories below, write in your own words the command for holy living for New Testament people of God.
- a. thoughts (2 Corinthians 10:5) _____
 - b. values (Colossians 3:2) _____
 - c. attitudes (Ephesians 4:32) _____
 - d. speech (Ephesians 4:29) _____
 - e. deeds (1 Corinthians 10:31) _____
 - f. evil (Ephesians 5:11) _____

Application for Today

Complete the exercise.

- △ 15. The Mosaic Law gives detailed commands about ways to please a holy God. Choose one of the commands from Leviticus 19 as listed in the lesson commentary. Write several sentences telling in your own words how we could obey this command.

Memory Work Focus

Write the memory selection for this section, including the reference.

16. _____

Review

Complete the sentences.

17. The meat offering was an offering of grain or _____.
18. Oil, salt, and _____ accompanied the meat offering.
19. A _____ portion of the meat offering was burned, and the rest was to be eaten by the _____.
20. The meat offering was a way of saying, “_____ I _____ is for God.”
21. The peace offering may have represented the _____ Christians have with God and each other.
22. _____ is our peace offering, who reconciled us to God.
23. The meat and peace offerings expressed Israel’s _____ to God and _____ their relationship with Him.

Circle *T* if the statement is true and *F* if it is false. If the statement is false, correct the italicized part.

24. **T** **F** Before we can offer our deeds to God, we must first *offer ourselves*.
25. **T** **F** An Israelite might bring a *peace offering* to the altar if he were making a vow or giving thanks for answered prayer.
26. **T** **F** After two days, the meat left over from a peace offering was *given to the priests*.
27. **T** **F** *The whole burnt sacrifice* symbolizes a Christian giving himself as a living sacrifice to God.
28. **T** **F** *An oblation* is the first harvest of the year.
29. **T** **F** *The firstfruits* are gifts offered to God in worship.