

“Living Holy Lives for the Praise of His Glory”

Leviticus 19:1-18

Introduction

Many “fail to grasp his holiness. We have a notion of divine love devoid of divine sovereignty.” Peter Greig, ‘how to pray: a simple guide for normal people’, p.56

- **God is Holy, and His purpose for us is to be holy.**

“God cannot be fit into our plans, we must fit into his. ...”Holy” is the word that sets God apart and above our wish-fulfillment fantasies and utopian schemes for making our mark in the world. Holy means that God is alive on God’s terms, alive in a way that exceeds our experience and imagination.”

Eugene Peterson, Introduction to Leviticus, The Message//Remix 2.0, p. 175

vv.1-2 “The LORD said to Moses, ²“Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: ‘Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.’”

- Leviticus 11:44a,45 “I am the LORD your God; **consecrate yourselves** and be holy, because I am holy...I am the LORD, who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore be holy, because I am holy.”
- Leviticus 20:7-8 “ ‘Consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am the LORD your God. ⁸Keep my decrees and follow them. **I am the LORD, who makes you holy.**”

“Holy” is used 67 times in Leviticus, the most in any book of the Bible. The word may seem ominous, scary, or impossible, but in Leviticus we find:

1. God is **actually present with us**, and every detail of our lives is affected by His holy presence.
2. God **provides a way** to bring everything in and about us into His holy presence, and transformed by it.

“Why is this important?” Why is being holy so important?

- **His purpose for us living holy lives is for the praise of His glory.**

“Because I said so!” isn’t always so satisfying, though it still is the truth.

- Living holy lives brings peace, joy, contentment, fulfillment and assurance to our lives. Sin does damage to us and others.
- Sin stifles God’s work (good, blessings, fruit) in and through you.

- Sin destroys our witness, and causes harm to people’s perception of God Himself. We do damage to His glory.

While holiness is the theme of Leviticus, glory, and specifically the glory of God, was a key theme in Exodus, and yet they are inextricably linked.

In Exodus, God said over and over, “I will gain glory....”

Exodus 15:11 “Who among the gods

is like you, LORD?

Who is like you—
majestic in **holiness**,
awesome in **glory**,
working wonders?”

Moses asked God in Exodus 33, “Show me Your glory!”

Isaiah 43:20-21

Ezekiel 36:22-27

2 Corinthians 3:18 “And we all, who with unveiled faces reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

1 Peter 2:9 “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

John 17:22-26

Living for the praise of His glory (*meaning living holy lives*) is missional.

- **God’s holiness and glory are reflected in loving Him and others.**

Leviticus 19:3-18

Conclusion

Leviticus 20:26, Ephesians 1:11-14, 1 Peter 2:10

- Is your heart like Moses, asking God to teach you His ways, go with him, and to show you His glory? Do you recognize you need Him?
- Do you see God for who He really is: His holiness and glory?
- Knowing you can’t do it on your own, how will you respond to Him today?