

Understanding the Real Meaning of The Word Holy

WHY AREN'T MORE OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD MANIFESTING THE BLESSINGS WE HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED IN CHRIST?

- A. It is due to our ignorance of his word! My people are destroyed for their lack of knowledge.
- B. We are told to study show ourselves approved.
- C. We err by disrespecting the things God tells us to respect
 - 1. his word - some ignore the study of it
 - 2. his holy spirit - many grief him
 - 3. his church - too many disrespect it
 - 4. his prophets/ teachers - many believe they know better and debate what God told the prophet

(NKJV) 2 Ch 20:20 So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper."

II. What does God say?

(NKJV) 1 Pe 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

- A. Lifetime familiarity with the word causes us to think we know what it actually means. So much to the point we fail to understand its true original significance.
 - 1. God said this. What does he mean, we are a holy nation?
 - 2. What makes something holy?
 - 3. How did **WE**, of all things, become holy?
 - 4. How does something become holy?
- B. (Ask the congregation look up the word holy.)
 - 1. What are some of the meanings?
 - 2. Key words - set apart for the service of God. Sanctified; dedicated, devoted or consecrated to God or a religious purpose; sacred
 - 3. Dedicated for a special use for God
 - 4. Something that fulfills a purpose of God.
 - a. I want to reveal a little more to you. I showed you this on Wednesday. The purpose of God are to be a blessing for us. Jer 29:11
- C. He said:

(NKJV) 1 Pe 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

1. A chosen generation
 2. a royal priesthood
 3. a holy nation – A set apart nation
 - a. use the other words for holy
 4. a special people – set apart as his people
 5. a special purpose – Set apart with a special purpose
 - a. to proclaim praises
- D. First use of the word holy
(NKJV) Ge 2:3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

(NIV84) Ge 2:3 And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

1. Why was it holy? Because...
 - a. he blessed it
 - b. he set it apart
 - c. That made it different from every other day
 - (1) it was set apart. Every other day he worked but on this day he rested.
 2. What was the purpose of the Sabbath
(NKJV) Mk 2:27 And He said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.
 - a. The Sabbath, a blessed day, was set apart for a blessing for man.
 - b. It was for a day of rest for man
- E. Now, remember, in the garden, God set apart one tree.
(NKJV) Ge 2:9 And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

(NKJV) Ge 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

1. God set apart one tree. In other words, he sanctified it. Though not defined as holy, by his words he made it holy. It was set apart for purposes that God had in mind.
 - a. Think: How was it set apart?
 - (1) It was put in the middle of the Garden

- (2) we were told not to eat of it.
 - (3) It was different than every other tree
 - (4) This tree was not for life. This tree was for death.
 - (5) It was set apart.
- b. We may never know why God put it there in the first place, but one thing is for sure, it was not for our use.
- (1) It served the purposes of God.
 - (2) If man had dealt right about the tree, the tree could have been a blessing to him.
 - (3) If he had obeyed God in regards to that tree, Adam possibly would still be alive today
2. However, Eve used her reasoning rather than trusting what God said.
- a. She took what was set apart for God's purpose and used it for her purposes.
 - b. She thought that it would benefit her and thought God was depriving her of something by not letting her eat of it.
 - c. She reasoned she would be better off if she ate it and so would her husband be.
- (NKJV) Ge 3:6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.**
- d. It is our thinking about things that God says are holy that causes us to mess up.
 - (1) If God says a thing is holy we need to treat it in a manner that is respectful of God.
 - (2) We must honor him in regard to it.
 - (3) We need to reverence those things as being set apart for God's use and not ours.
3. What was the result of misusing the thing God set apart?
- (NKJV) Ge 3:7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.**
- a. Their eyes were opened to see things that God never intended for them to see.
 - b. Now, they noticed their inadequacies.
 - c. They tried to solve their own problems and were still inadequate in doing so.
 - d. These problems came simply because they refuse to honor the word of God. They did not obey what God said.
 - (1) The way of all transgressors is hard.
 - (a) People who go against the teachings of the word of God

(b) Do not confuse teachings with the word laws!

(c) This has been a problem for many Christians. Because of Christ, the Levitical laws no longer apply but the teachings and wisdom of God are still true.

(d) That is why we study the whole Bible and don't discard any of it!

(2) They did what they thought was best.

(3) So often, in our ignorance, we dishonor God and do what we think is best.

(a) That is why he sent the apostles, the prophets the evangelist and pastor teachers to lead us to the truth.

(b) Unfortunately, too often we do as Eve and think without regards to the truth when God says to do one thing and we do opposite, trouble then comes in our life.

4. What was God's response to their disobedience?

(NKJV) Ge 3:11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" 12 Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." 13 And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

14 So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. 15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

16 To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."

17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."

- a. If they had obeyed God they would have been blessed but because they disobeyed, a curse was brought on the land.
 - (1) Obedience always means blessings
 - (a) obedience means life and brings life
 - (2) disobedience always means problems/cursus
 - (a) disobedience means death been makes death certain
- b. Notice that God cursed the serpent (v14) and God cursed the ground(v17).
 - (1) Notice: He did not curse the man! Why did he not curse the man or the woman? Weren't they the ones responsible for the mess?
 - (2) Why not? Because previously he had blessed the man and the woman!
 - (3) What God has blessed can never be cursed!
(NKJV) Ge 1:28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
 - (a) Again, what God has blessed can never be cursed but that which has been cursed, can, by God, have the curse reversed.

**WHAT GOD HAS BLESSED CAN NEVER BE CURSED
 BUT THAT WHICH HAS BEEN CURSED, CAN, BY GOD, HAVE THE CURSE REVERSED**

F. With aggressive intensity consider what I'm about to say.

- 1. The ground was cursed as a result of the sin of Adam and Eve. Therefore, everything on the ground, everything coming from the ground would have a curse of some sort attached to it.
 - a. If we have a connection with something from the ground, we have an accursed thing with us.
 - b. In fact, everything we have comes from the land and therefore has a curse placed on it by God.
 - c. Remember what God said: **Gen 3 17 ..."Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.**
 - (1) This would mean that everything that came from the ground would give us trouble.
 - (2) It has a curse attached to it.
- 2. Now, consider carefully the following Scripture:
(NKJV) Ro 11:16 For if the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the branches.

(NIV84) Ro 11:16 If the part of the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches.

a. If something has been cursed but the first part is set apart for God.... The remaining part has the curse removed and is now blessed!

(1) In other words, of all the things we receive, nothing can truly be called a blessing unless the curse is removed by the blessing of the Lord.

b. Everything remains in its cursed and unblessed state until God blesses it.

(1) Until then, all it can do in the final analysis is to be toward your toil struggle and suffering all the days of our life.

c. We must remember all of the land and everything from it was cursed in the beginning.

Gen 3 17“Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.

3. Because man caused the ground to be cursed by God, only God can remove what he has curse.

G. Watch now and see that even though the man should have been cursed for his sin, he was not. Instead we read this:

(NKJV) Ga 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law (which revealed sin), having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”), 14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

1. Christ received the curse instead of us. He received the curse so that the blessings promise to Abraham, after his tithe, would also apply to us!

2. Remember from last week?

3. **(NKJV) Ge 15:1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield,(Protection) your exceedingly great reward.(Blessing)”**

a. After his tithe.

(NKJV) Ge 14:18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. 19 And he blessed him and said: “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; 20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.” And he gave him a tithe of all.

H. Now, Christ did not remain cursed because God received him as the first fruit in order to redeem the remaining part – which was us!

(NKJV) 1 Co 15:20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

As proven here:

(NKJV) Ro 11:16 For if the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the branches.

1. So now, Christ became that which was cursed and then received back up to God so that we, the remaining part of mankind, could become holy.
 - a. We are now the righteousness of God because Christ became cursed for us.
2. Not because of our goodness, nor our ability to follow the law – his teachings – but because of God’s grace.
3. Now recognize, we have to accept Christ before we are declared holy.
4. We have to accept what was holy that became a curse and was offered up to him again and then we are made holy.

WE HAVE TO ACCEPT WHAT WAS HOLY THAT BECAME A CURSE AND WAS OFFERED UP TO HIM AGAIN AS FIRSTFRUIT AND THEN WE ARE MADE HOLY.

5. Think of this now.
 - a. Jesus was holy yet
 - b. he became cursed then
 - c. he was offered up to the Lord as a result
 - d. the remaining part of us that accepted him then were declared as holy nation.
- I. Therefore, now, the Scripture can clearly say....

(NKJV) 1 Pe 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy (set apart for God, sanctified) nation, His own special people(Unique and must behave as such), that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

 1. We are the light of the world. If the world is dark, it is because we have not let our light shine!
- J. Now watch this, " **Gen 3 17“Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.”**
 1. The ground was cursed but God had a plan and said for our sakes.

(NKJV) Le 27:30 And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD’s. It is holy to the LORD.

THE TITHE IS SET APART FOR THE LORD’S USE.

WHAT IS THAT USE?

(NKJV) Ex 23:19 The first of the firstfruits of your land you shall bring into the house of the LORD your God. ...

- a. It is to be set apart for the Lord’s use. What is the Lord’s use for the tithe?
2. Just like he received Jesus as that which has been cursed and made him a blessing for us, God takes that, which was cursed, as a first-fruit to be

set apart for his use, so that he can redeem the rest and it can become holy for our benefit.

3. It is set apart, made holy as a purpose of God so that with it we can now be blessed
 - a. Jesus was holy yet
 - b. he became cursed then
 - c. he was offered up to the Lord and as a result
 - d. the remaining part of us that accepted him, then were declared as holy nation
 - e. the ground was originally holy
 - f. it became cursed
 - g. yet when we offered it back up to the Lord as a tithe
 - h. it is made holy by him and
 - i. the remaining part can now be blessed

(NKJV) Ro 11:16 For if the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the branches.

K. God uses tithe to remove the curse from the ground so that the remaining part that comes from the land can now be blessed and available for our use.

L. We must set apart the tithe unto the Lord so that the remaining 90% can be blessed.

1. You cannot afford the penalty of failing to tithe. Why? What you have is cursed from the beginning.

The curse must be removed and you cannot do it! Only God can!

(NKJV) Le 27:30 And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD's. It is holy to the LORD.

2. Why is the tithe holy to God? He has a purpose for it.

3. God loves us and did not want a curse to remain on the land!

GOD DID NOT WANT TO PUT A CURSE ON THE LAND IN THE BEGINNING!!

4. So, He takes 1/10 of that which was cursed so that a blessing can remain on the remaining 90%.

5. When we give back to God a 10th of the first-fruits of anything from the land, which he says is holy to him (set apart to bless us), he blesses the part we keep and it is no longer cursed!

WHEN WE GIVE BACK TO GOD A 10TH OF THE FIRST-FRUITS, HE BLESSES THE 90% WE KEEP. IT IS NO LONGER CURSED! IT IS BLESSED BY GOD

(NKJV) Mal 3:10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the

windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.

(NKJV) Pr 3:9 Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; 10 So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.

M. Just as Jesus was offered up as a curse for us and we are blessed as a result of his offering, we offer 1/10 of that which was under a curse as a result of the sin of Adam and God blessing us as a result of that tithe that redeems the rest from the curse.

1. The curse no longer remains!

N. One more final thing

(NKJV) Le 27:30 And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD's. It is holy to the LORD.

1. If it is holy to the Lord, it must be set apart for his use.

2. When we set a thing apart for his use, it is no longer available for our use.

a. That is why originally, it was offered up by fire.

b. It was removed from the use of the one offering it and intended for the use of God.

(1) Today the church is the vehicle that is set apart for God's use. It is supposed to be holy!

O. When we set the tithe apart for his use, we honor God. Then God can honor us.

WHAT WE SOW IN HONOR TO GOD, WE WILL REAP FROM GOD IN HONOR TO US.

(NKJV) 1 Sa 2:30 Therefore the LORD God of Israel says: 'I said indeed that your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.' But now the LORD says: 'Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed.

1. God honors us by blessing the remaining part.

(NKJV) Mal 3:9 You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation. 10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it. 11 "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," Says the LORD of hosts;

2. God removes the curse on the ground with our tithe!