

Holiness & Priests

Leviticus 21-22

INTRODUCTION

- THIS IS ABOUT **HOLINESS**... being set apart for God's purposes, distinct from the pagan world His people live in

Holiness of Priests (Chp.21)

A) Personal Purity of the Priests (vv.1-9)

- a. The key here is understanding what God reserves for Himself in worship without mixing anything from Pagan practices
- b. Dealing with the Dead (in handling and in mourning)
- c. Guarding the name of the Lord
- d. Marriage

B) Personal Purity of the High Priest (vv.10-15)

- a. Same and then some
- b. Stricter dealing with the dead
- c. Proximity to God's presence
- d. Marriage

C) Physical Purity (vv.16-24)

- a. Any priest with a physical defect was not to administer the offerings
- b. Not against those with defects, images the fallen world and the image that's guarded is that the perfect and best is what God demands -- **REMEMBER** the priest was God's representative and God is perfect in every way

Holiness of Priestly Work (Chp.22)

A) Keeping Holy what is Holy (vv.1-9)

- a. Not to use one thing set aside for a specific purpose for a different purpose
- b. God's name is preserved
- c. Relationship of the body and the duty
 - i. Purity throughout
 - ii. Cannot separate who we are from what we do

B) Keeping the relationship of Priest, People and God intact (vv.10-16)

- a. Teaching what the priests practice (holy things)
- b. God is at work in His people through the Priest that they would be a people of His dwelling
- c. These distinctions between the priests and people reminds us that all things find their purpose in God and He disposes of them as He wishes. Their task was to make a distinction between the clean and unclean, holy and profane

C) Keeping the offerings Acceptable (vv.17-33)

- a. As things develop, the basic requirements of purity in the offerings must be intact and not forgotten (vv.17-30)
- b. The essence of acceptability is obedience, not works, obedience (vv.31-33)

Priestly Fulfillment of Holiness in Life and Deed is in Jesus Christ

A) Jesus is God on Earth (Heb.1:1-4)

- a. Holy
- b. Glorious
- c. Revealing His name (in keeping with Lev.21-22)

B) Jesus Satisfies God's righteous requirements for His own in life (**Heb. 4:14-16**)

- a. Man is sinful and couldn't meet these Holy requirements
- b. Christ's life is essential for our salvation

C) Jesus Satisfies God's penalty for sin and man's forgiveness in His death (**Heb.7:26-28**)

- a. Shed blood as a lamb - the perfect sacrifice (**unblemished in every way**)
- b. Because He lives, his sacrifice is good forever for those who believe

D) Jesus Intercedes for His people as their Priest FOREVER (**Heb.7:23-25**)

- a. The perfect priest (**Morally and personally pure in every way**)
- b. Jesus is risen from the dead!
- c. Because He is alive His people will live for eternity
- d. Those who depend on their salvation due to something they did in the past trust in dead religion, and that's not enough
- e. Those who are truly saved trust in a Christ who is alive, and His life gradually, increasingly makes a difference in the way they live NOW.
- f. Basically, those who are His will live as if He is really alive.

- c. You are grace-enabled to give God your best and be holy as He is (heart, soul, mind strength // time, money, church, relationships)
- d. This would certainly include the ministers, pastors, elders, leaders in the church
- e. Christ has made us acceptable FOREVER because our sacrifice is living, our priest is living...all in Christ.

B) THOSE SEEKING HIM...

- a. Examine all that you've tried? Before a God who rightly makes these demands, because He is Holy, can you stand?
- b. Christ was the perfect God-man....IS the perfect God-man
- c. On His merit you CAN stand
- d. Will you allow the law to teach you just how stained you are and that you need Christ alone to atone for your sin, believing that Christ died on the cross for you, buried and was raised again, interceding as a Priest before God on behalf of His people?

APPLICATION

A) BELIEVER...

- a. Believer, if you are beaten down, depressed, perhaps scarred by the sin you've allowed in, here is your hope. The cross of Christ satisfied even the sin of running from Him for a season. The evil one accuses, but Christ declares that you are His...FOREVER
- b. Knowing that only Christ is your acceptability before God