

## Perfecting Holiness in the Fear of God for the Priesthood and Preparation for the Lord's Return

*"Because it is written: 'Be holy, for I am holy.'"*

(1 Pet. 1:16)

### I. Introduction

- A. The Lord is coming back soon — God needs a royal priesthood and a holy nation (1 Pet. 2:9; 2 Pet. 3:11-14; 1 Thess. 3:13; 5:23; Ps. 110:3)
- B. The meaning of holiness
  - 1. Being separated unto the Lord (2 Cor. 6:17; Ezek. 42:20)
  - 2. God's nature (1 Pet. 1:15-16; Heb. 7:26; 12:10; 2 Pet. 1:4)
- C. Perfecting holiness in the fear of God (2 Cor. 7:1; Heb. 12:28; Isa. 11:2-3; 35:8-10; Rev. 22:11)
- D. Sanctifying the heart - making room for the Lord and His word (1 Pet. 3:15a; 2 Tim. 1:14; Phil. 3:8)

### II. God is Holy (Exod. 15:11; Lev. 10:3; 11:44; 19:2; 20:7, 26; Ps. 99:3, 5, 9; Isa. 6:1-3; Rev. 4:2-3,8; Isa. 57:15)

- A. The need to know God as the HOLY ONE of Israel (Ezek. 39:7; Isa. 47:4; 43:3, 15; 40:25; 12:6; Prov. 9:10)
- B. Holiness is God's divine nature (Ps. 99:9; Isa. 6:1-3; 1 Pet. 1:15-16)
  - 1. Holiness – the beauty of the Lord (2 Chron. 20:21)
  - 2. His dwelling place is holy (Ps. 93:5; 46:4; 48:1; Jer. 31:23b)
  - 3. He speaks in His holiness (Ps. 60:6; 108:7; 105:42 <holy word>)
  - 4. He swears by His holiness (Ps. 89:35; Amos 4:2)
  - 5. He sits and reigns on the throne of His holiness (Ps. 47:8)
  - 6. His unique way – the highway of holiness (Isa. 35:8)

- C. The Father is righteous and holy (1 Pet. 1:15-17; John 17:11, 25; Rev. 15:4; Matt 6:9)
  - D. The Son is called “the Holy One” (Luke 1:35; Mark 1:24) and the “Most Holy” (Dan. 9:24b; Rev. 3:7; 6:10)
  - E. The Holy Spirit (Acts 1:2, 5, 8; 2:4, 33, 38; 4:8, 31)
    - 1. The Spirit of Holiness (Rom. 1:4)
    - 2. The Holy Anointing (1 John 2:20; Exod. 30:22-33; Ps. 133; Heb. 1:9)
    - 3. The seven Spirits (Rev. 1:4b)
- III. The Dwelling of God is Holy** (Ps. 5:7; Exod. 15:13; Ps. 68:5; Jer. 25:30; Zech. 2:13; Eph. 2:21-22; 5:25-27; 1 Cor. 3:17; 2 Cor. 6:16; Heb. 3:6-8)
- A. The tabernacle and all the furnishings <utensils> are holy (Exod. 30:26-29; 40:9)
    - 1. The court (Exod. 27:9-18)
    - 2. The holy place <the sanctuary> (Exod. 26:15-29)
    - 3. The most holy place <the holy of holies> (Exod. 26:15-29, 33-37)
  - B. The holy temple built by Solomon (2 Chron. 7:1-9; Hab. 2:20; Ps. 138:2; 5:7; Heb. 10:19-23; 9:1-5)
  - C. The holy temple in the book of Ezekiel
    - 1. The delimitation of living quarters (Ezek. 45:1-4)
    - 2. The wall separating the holy areas from the common (Ezek. 40:5; 42:20; 44:23; Lev. 10:9-10; 19:2; Ps. 93:5)
    - 3. The various areas of the temple (Ezek. 40:6-49; 41:1-11)
  - D. Zion – the city of the great King (Ps. 48:1-2; Isa. 4:3)
    - 1. The holy mountain (Ps. 2:6; 3:4; 24:3-4; 87:1-3; 99:9; Ezek. 43:12; Ob. 1:17; Zech. 8:3; 14:20-21; Heb. 11:10; 12:22-29)
    - 2. Jerusalem – the holy city (Ps. 46:4; Rev. 21:2, 10; Isa. 35:7; Ps. 122:3-9)
  - E. The kingdom of God (Exod. 19:5-6; Deut. 7:6; 14:2; 28:9; 1 Pet. 2:9; Titus 2:14)

1. A holy nation with a holy people
  2. A holy and royal priesthood – a kingdom of priests
  3. God’s special possession <treasure>
- F. A glorious church
1. The body of Christ – the fullness of Christ  
(Eph. 1:22-23; 3:8, 16-19)
  2. The bride of Christ – holy and without blemish  
(Eph. 5:25-27)
    - a. By the washing of the water in the word
    - b. Nourished and cherished by Christ
    - c. Fully submissive and corresponding to Christ
  3. The holy army – arrayed in the beauty of holiness  
(Eph. 6:10-20; Rev. 19:11-16; Ps. 110:1-3)
  4. Holiness to the Lord (Jer. 2:3)

#### **IV. The Believers are Called Saints** (1 Cor. 1:2; Rom. 1:7)

- A. Called and sanctified in Christ Jesus (1 Cor. 1:30)
- B. Being called and sanctified by God the Father  
(Eph. 1:4; 2. Tim. 1:9; Jude 1:1)
  1. A holy calling (1 Pet. 1:15; 2 Tim. 1:9;  
2 Thess. 1:11-12; 2:13-14; 1 Thess. 4:7, 3-4)
  2. That we should be holy and without blemish before  
Him and in His kingdom (1 Thess. 3:13; Dan. 7:18, 22,  
27; Ps. 149:5-9)
  3. God who called us is faithful to do it (1 Thess. 5:23-24)
  4. Treasuring the brothers and sisters (Ps. 16:3; Eph. 1:15-  
18; Col. 1:26-27)
- C. Through the (once for all) offering of the body of Jesus  
Christ (Heb. 10:10, 14; 13:12)
  1. Redeemed by the precious blood of the Lamb  
(1 Pet. 1:18-20)
  2. Cleansed (washed), purified and sanctified by the  
blood of the covenant (Rev. 1:5; Heb. 9:22; 10:22, 29)
  3. The Day of Atonement - the entrance into the holy  
place (Lev 16; Ps. 27:4; Isa. 57:15; Heb. 10:19-22; 11:6)

- D. Through sanctification of the Holy Spirit and faith in the truth (Rom. 15:16; 2 Thess. 2:13-14; 1 Pet. 1:2; John 17:17)
  - 1. Being born again of the Holy Spirit in our spirit (John 3:6; Titus 3:5)
  - 2. Becoming a partaker of the divine nature (2 Pet. 1:4)
  - 3. By the leading, teaching and transforming work of the indwelling Holy Spirit (John 14:14-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7-14; 1 John 2:27; 2 Cor. 3:18; Heb. 5:12-14 <a warning>)
- E. By the washing of the water in the word (Eph. 5:26; John 6:63; 15:3; 17:17)
- F. Sanctification of the remnant at the end
  - 1. Among the Israelites (Isa. 4:2-4; Zech. 13:8-9; 14:20-21)
  - 2. The firstfruits (Rev. 14:4-5)

**V. The Cooperation of the Saints with God – to be Sanctified Completely (1 Thess. 5:23-24)**

- A. The triune God together with us (Lev. 20:7-8; 1 Cor. 15:10)
  - 1. HE sanctifies us through and through (1 Thess. 5:23-24)
  - 2. WE pursue holiness (Heb. 12:14), work out our own salvation (Phil. 2:12-13), and continue to sanctify ourselves until we are perfected (Rev. 22:11; 2 Cor 7:1)
- B. By faithfully keeping all the feasts (Lev. 23)
  - 1. Sabbath - abiding in the Lord's rest (Matt. 11:28-30; John 15:4-5; Heb. 4:11; Isa. 56:2-7; 58:13-14)
  - 2. Passover (Exod. 12:1-14)
    - a. Bought for God to present our bodies (1 Cor. 6:19-20; Rom. 12:1-2; 6:12-13, 19, 22)
    - b. Separated from everything unclean (2 Cor. 6:14-18; Mal. 3:18; Isa. 35:8; 52:11; 2 Tim. 2:20-22)
  - 3. Feast of the Unleavened Bread (Exod. 12:15)
    - a. Daily allowing the Lord to examine our heart (Jer. 17:9-10; Ps. 139:23-24; Prov. 20:27; Matt. 5:8) and purging out all leaven in us (1 Cor. 5:7-8)

- b. Letting the word of Christ dwell in us richly (Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:26-27; John 17:17; 1 Pet. 2:1-2; Ps. 12:6; 19:7-14)
4. Feast of the Firstfruits – putting off the old man and putting on the new man (Eph. 4:22-24; Rom. 1:4)
5. Feast of the Pentecost – filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8; 2:1-4, 33; 4:31; 5:32; 6:5; 7:55; 9:31; 10:38)
6. Feast of Trumpets (Num. 10:1-10)
  - a. Testifying to the unbelievers (Acts 4:20)
  - b. Prophesying to the believers (1 Cor. 14:3-4, 22)
  - c. Worshipping in the beauty of holiness (Ps. 96:9)
  - d. Lifting up holy hands in prayer (1 Tim. 2:8)
7. Day of Atonement – becoming partakers of His holiness through the Father’s chastening (Heb. 12:5-11)
8. Feast of the Tabernacles – free from the love of the world and living for God’s kingdom (1 Cor. 6:12; 7:29-31; Heb. 11:9-10, 13-16; 13:14; Matt. 6:33)

## **VI. The Holy Priesthood**

- A. Chosen and appointed by God (Heb. 5:4-5; Exod. 28:1; Num. 3:3; 16:5, 7)
  1. A privilege and an honorable service
  2. A gift from God (Num. 18:7)
  3. The requirement of being holy and faithful (1. Cor. 4:2; 1 Tim. 1:12; Heb. 3:5-6; Matt. 24:45-46; Ezek. 44:15-16)
- B. The holy garments of the High Priest – Christ, our perfect, eternal High Priest, purifies, sanctifies and perfects the church (Exod. 28:4-28; John 17:22; Heb. 3:1; 4:14-15; 8:1; Eph. 5:25-27; 1 Cor. 1:30)
  1. The ephod and the memorial stones on the shoulder
  2. The breastplate
  3. The robe made all of blue (Isa. 61:10; John 6:38, 50; 8:23)

4. The turban of fine linen and the plate of pure gold (“Holiness to the Lord”)
- C. The holy garments of the priests (Exod. 28:39-43)
  1. A skillfully woven tunic of fine linen thread
  2. Linen trousers
  3. Linen hat
- D. The consecration of Aaron and his sons (Exod. 29; Lev. 8)
  1. Washed with water (1 Cor. 6:9-11; Ezek. 36:25; Titus 3:5)
  2. Putting on the holy garments
  3. A young bull as a sin offering
    - a. Salvation from the dominion of sin (Rom. 6:12-22; 1 John 3:8-9)
    - b. The greatest (largest) offering at the time of consecration (Ps. 15; 24:3-4; Prov. 6:16-19)
    - c. A messenger of the Lord of hosts (Mal. 2:5-9; Exod. 32:35; Gal. 2:11-14; 2 Chron. 24:2, 17-18)
    - d. A ram as a burnt offering (Phil. 2:2; Ps. 69:10)
    - e. A ram of consecration - the blood of which is put on the tip of the right ear, the thumb of the right hand, and the big toe of the right foot (1 Cor. 6:19; Isa. 50:4-5) - with a basket of unleavened bread
    - f. For seven days (Lev. 8:33-9:1)
    - g. Entirely as the Lord commanded Moses (ten times in Lev. 8; Heb. 3:1-6)
- E. The duties of the holy priesthood (Ezek. 44:23; 22:26; Lev. 10:10; Mal. 2:1-9)
  1. To not drink wine or intoxicating drink (Lev. 10:9-11; Prov. 31:4-5; Isa. 28:7; Ezek. 44:21; Luke 1:15; 21:34; Eph. 5:18; 1 Thess. 5:8; Titus 2:2, 6; 1 Pet. 1:13-16; Prov. 23:29-35; Ps. 19:14)
    - a. The danger of the enjoyment of the world (Ps. 73; 1 John 2:15-17; 5:19)

- b. The danger of the leaven of religion (Matt 16:6, 12; Rev. 17:2)
  - c. Dealing with our love of the world by enjoying the love of the Father (1 John 2:15), the Feast of Tabernacles – Christ, our complete joy (Lev. 23:40; Neh. 8:10; 1. Pet 1:8; John 4:13-14) – and the Passover (“brought out of Egypt”, Exod. 20:2; Gal. 6:14)
  - d. The example of Abraham (“friend of God”, Gen. 18:18; Jam. 2:23) and Lot (Gen. 13:9-18; 1 John 2:15)
2. To teach God’s people (Ezek. 44:23; 22:26; Mal. 2:6-7)
    - a. Knowing the difference between holy and profane, clean and unclean, by not rejecting our conscience (1 Tim. 1:19; 4:2; Eph. 4:18-19), purifying our conscience through repentance and the blood (Heb. 9:14; 10:19; Jam. 4:7-10; 2 Cor. 7:1; Ps. 51), and keeping a good conscience (Acts 24:16)
    - b. Teaching the difference between holy and profane, clean and unclean (Lev. 11; Acts 20:31; Rom. 15:14)
    - c. To show the people God’s way and truth (Mal. 2:6-7; Eph. 4:25)
    - d. To prepare the way for the Lord’s return (Mal. 3:1)
  3. To serve and keep charge of everything to be done at the altar and within the veil (Num. 18:7; Mal. 3:18; Luke 1:74-75)
    - a. Not serving the idols of the nations (Ezek. 44:10-13; Judg. 10:10-16; Matt. 6:24; 1 Thess. 1:9; 1 Cor. 12:2; Col. 3:5; 1 Tim. 6:10)
    - b. To keep the fire of the altar burning continually (Lev. 6:2, 5-6; 9:24; Neh. 13:30-31; Rom. 12:1, 11; Rev. 3:15-16; 2 Tim. 1:6-7) and not permitting spiritual death (Lev. 21:1; Rev. 3:1-3), by exercising our faith on the basis of the word (Jer. 23:29; Phil.

4:13) and not letting ourselves be ruled by our emotion (“in the night without ceasing”, Ps. 77; Heb. 10:35-39)

- c. To offer the daily burnt offering continually (Exod. 29:38-46; Num. 28:3-8)
  - d. To prepare the showbread (Exod. 25:30), to keep the lampstand burning (Exod. 27:20-21), and to burn incense at the golden incense altar (Exod. 30:7-9; Ps. 141:2; Luke 1:5-9; Rev. 5:8; 8:3-4; Acts 12:5; Eph. 6:18; Rom. 1:9; 2 Tim. 1:3; 1 Thess. 5:17) - prayer with authority (Matt 28:18-20; Ps. 110:3), ministry of the gospel (2 Tim. 4:2; Rom. 15:16; Ps. 126), praising and thanking in the meeting (2 Chron. 8:14; 31:2; Neh. 12:24)
4. Sundry laws that the priests should pay attention to (Ezek. 44:15-31)
- F. A serious warning to the priesthood with regard to their service to God
- 1. Nadab and Abihu (Lev. 10:1-11)
  - 2. Korah’s company (Num. 16:3-11, 30; 17:2-5)
  - 3. The sons of Eli (1 Sam. 2:12-36)
  - 4. Uzzah (2 Sam. 6:3-9; 1 Chron. 15:1-14)
  - 5. King Uzziah (2 Chron. 26:16-21)

**VII. The Holy City – the Heavenly Jerusalem – the Consummation of the whole Bible (Rev. 21)**

**VIII. The Last Warning in the Bible (Rev. 22:11)**