

ST. MATTHEW AME CHURCH, ORANGE, NJ

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BIBLE STUDY MARCH 19, 2019

According to Wikipedia, The **Holiness Code** is a term used in [biblical criticism](#) to refer to [Leviticus](#) chapters 17–26, and is so called due to its highly repeated use of the word *Holy*.^[1] Critical biblical scholars have regarded it as a distinct unit and have noted that the style is noticeably different from the main body of Leviticus.^[2] Unlike the remainder of Leviticus, the many laws of the Holiness Code are expressed very closely packed together, and very briefly.

According to most versions of the [documentary hypothesis](#), the Holiness Code represents an earlier text that was edited and incorporated into the [Priestly source](#) and the Torah as a whole, although some scholars, such as [Israel Knohl](#), believe the Holiness Code to be a later addition to the Priestly source. This source is often abbreviated as "H".^[3] A generally accepted date is sometime in the seventh century BC, when it presumably originated among the priests in the Temple in Jerusalem.^[3]

The Holiness Code also uses a noticeably different choice of vocabulary, repeating phrases such as *I, The LORD, am holy, I am the LORD, and I the LORD, which sanctify...*, an unusually large number of times. Additionally, Leviticus 17 begins with *This is the thing which the LORD hath commanded, saying...*, and Leviticus 26 strongly resembles the conclusion of a law code, despite the presence of further laws afterward, such as at Leviticus 27, giving the Holiness Code the appearance of a single distinct unit.

holy = special connection with God

- who's special in history, the nation, in your life?
- describe how you treat VIPs
- tell how you felt when once treated like a VIP

We are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9)

We are the Elect of God therefore must be kind, patient, loving, compassionate to others (Col 3:12)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE SET APART BUT NOT SEPARATED FROM OTHERS?

Kadosh - hebrew

the realm of the holy is entirely set apart from the common, the habitual or the profane

- in the world but not of the world
- utterly distinct, separated, sacred as the ONLY one of its kind
- called sanctified, holy, already designated as special (1 Cor 1:12)
- anointed, appointed for such a time as this

According to the Promise of God, the Word details how we are to be holy unto God in

Leviticus 20 New International Version (NIV) and The Message

Punishments for Sin. Penalties for Disobedience as violations of holiness

20 The LORD said to Moses, ² "Say to the Israelites: 'Any Israelite or any foreigner residing in Israel who sacrifices any of his children to Molek is to be put to death. The members of the community are to stone him. ³ I myself will set my face against him and will cut him off from his people; for by sacrificing his

children to Molek, he has defiled my sanctuary and profaned my holy name. ⁴ If the members of the community close their eyes when that man sacrifices one of his children to Molek and if they fail to put him to death, ⁵ I myself will set my face against him and his family and will cut them off from their people together with all who follow him in prostituting themselves to Molek.

LOGOS vs. ...OLOGY

⁶ *"I will set my face against anyone who turns to mediums and spiritists to prostitute themselves by following them, and I will cut them off from their people.*

⁷ *"Consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am the LORD your God. ⁸ Keep my decrees and follow them. I am the LORD, who makes you holy.*

Logos - the Word of God, or principle of divine reason and creative order, identified in the Gospel of John with the second person of the Trinity incarnate in Jesus Christ. Focus on the logos more than astrology, scientology, and yoga. Holy alternatives: meditate on psalms and scripture to embody GOD's word - Praise Moves, Susan Pope, St. James AMEC

HONOR THY MOTHER AND FATHER

⁹ *"Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death because they have cursed their father or mother, their blood will be on their own head.*

How do we curse our parents?

- Ham and Noah
- Absalom and David

Honor our parents in spite of their "interesting decisions"

- Ruth and Naomi
- Jacob and Rebekah
- Jephthah and his daughter

EMBODY HOLINESS: "Father I repent for how I feel, speak and think about my parents"

- Sexual abuse during adolescence
- Exposure to misbehavior and habits
- Caregiving of elderly parents

SEXUAL MORALITY

¹⁰ *"If a man commits adultery with another man's wife—with the wife of his neighbor—both the adulterer and the adulteress are to be put to death.*

¹¹ *"If a man has sexual relations with his father's wife, he has dishonored his father. Both the man and the woman are to be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.*

¹² *"If a man has sexual relations with his daughter-in-law, both of them are to be put to death. What they have done is a perversion; their blood will be on their own heads.*

¹³ *"If a man has sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They are to be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.*

¹⁴ *"If a man marries both a woman and her mother, it is wicked. Both he and they must be burned in the fire, so that no wickedness will be among you.*

¹⁵ *"If a man has sexual relations with an animal, he is to be put to death, and you must kill the animal.*

¹⁶ *"If a woman approaches an animal to have sexual relations with it, kill both the woman and the animal. They are to be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.*

¹⁷ *“If a man marries his sister, the daughter of either his father or his mother, and they have sexual relations, it is a disgrace. They are to be publicly removed from their people. He has dishonored his sister and will be held responsible.*

¹⁸ *“If a man has sexual relations with a woman during her monthly period, he has exposed the source of her flow, and she has also uncovered it. Both of them are to be cut off from their people.*

⁵¹⁹ *“Do not have sexual relations with the sister of either your mother or your father, for that would dishonor a close relative; both of you would be held responsible.*

²⁰ *“If a man has sexual relations with his aunt, he has dishonored his uncle. They will be held responsible; they will die childless.*

²¹ *“If a man marries his brother’s wife, it is an act of impurity; he has dishonored his brother. They will be childless.*

CLEARLY this was and is an issue in society.

- R.Kelly, Bill Cosby, Donald Trump just to name a few
- Bishop Eddie Long and many more within the church
- Catholic church report of sexual immorality

Issues at hand: fornication, adultery, incest vs. celibacy, abstinence, virginity

Declare healing from:

- physical, emotional, sexual abuse
- family secrets, hidden hurts,
- family brokenness vs breaking the silence and healing hearts and home

EMBODY HOLINESS: Close your eyes, raise hand if anyone in your family has been impacted by such sexual behavior, ask God to open your heart to forgive and your psyche to cast into the sea of forgetfulness, the deep memory, as HE has cast your sins into the sea of forgetfulness.

²² *“Keep all my decrees and laws and follow them, so that the land where I am bringing you to live may not vomit you out. ²³ You must not live according to the customs of the nations I am going to drive out before you. Because they did all these things, I abhorred them. ²⁴ But I said to you, “You will possess their land; I will give it to you as an inheritance, a land flowing with milk and honey.” I am the LORD your God, who has set you apart from the nations.*

²⁵ *“You must therefore make a distinction between clean and unclean animals and between unclean and clean birds. Do not defile yourselves by any animal or bird or anything that moves along the ground— those that I have set apart as unclean for you. ²⁶ You are to be holy to me because I, the LORD, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own.*

²⁷ *“A man or woman who is a medium or spiritist among you must be put to death. You are to stone them; their blood will be on their own heads.”*

THE VALUE OF HOLINESS

What do you value?

What does God value?

HOLY NOUNS

HOLY days... Sabbath is a requirement not a request
When is your sabbath?
what do you do/not do on your holy day?

HOLY people... not just clergy
WHO does this include? those specially liked by God
HOLY meals... communion
HOLY words... can't say ALL of what you want
speaking in tongues
HOLY temple... self care - physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual
HOLY hands... ascend in prayer with clean hands and a pure heart Psalm 24

HOLY places... care of the House of the Lord.
care of your house the Lord provided - Jehovah Jireh
WE ARE STANDING ON HOLY GROUND

HOLY things... Ur and David with Ark of Covenant
can't handle holy things any type of way

IF THE ARK can be holy, if the ground can be holy, if elements are consecrated and made holy, surely we are the greatest of ALL OF GOD'S creation. "Be holy, as I am holy."
YOU ARE A HOLY VESSEL, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION
to have a special grace and relationship with THE ONE TRUE and LIVING GOD
come as you are, imperfect to a perfect God, Drawer near to ABBA
and let HIM make you clean inside!

PRAYER:

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary pure and holy, tried and true. And with thanksgiving, I'll be a living, breathing, serving sanctuary just for you. Lift and shift my countenance and give me peace. Fill me with your holy blessings. Give me revelation on how to live holy. I am the seed of Abraham and I receive the blessings of Abraham. In blessing your special children, bless me, and in multiplying, multiply me. Let your showers of blessings be upon my life. Turn every curse that come my way into blessings. Let all nations and generations call me blessed.

My sins are forgiven and I am blessed. You daily load me with benefits and blessings
Let me inherit the land. I am apart of the a holy nation and I am blessed. Bless my latter end (of my life) more than my beginning. I drink the cup of blessings. Your way will be known upon the earth as I endeavor to live holy. In Jesus' name. Amen

MUSIC SELECTIONS

Create in me a clean heart, Donnie McClurkin
Purify My Soul, GAC Worship, Michael Pugh

- Wash hands
- Wash mouth
- Wash heart
- Wash feet

Kadosh, Paul Wilbur
Get Your Inheritance, Donald Lawrence