

BE HOLY... GOD'S PLAN FOR HUMANITY

[LEVITICUS 11:44](#), NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

“I am the Lord your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy. Do not make yourselves unclean by any creature that moves along the ground.”

NOTE: This “be holy” is perhaps a reminder to not simply “eat whatever a person could catch,” but to trust in HIM to provide what would more than sustain HIS people.

[LEVITICUS 11:45](#), NIV

“I am the Lord, who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore be holy, because I am holy.”

NOTE: This “be holy” is a reminder of God’s rescuing the Israelites from 400 years of being enslaved to the ways of life of another nation; a nation of people who worshipped any other god BUT Yahweh.

[LEVITICUS 19:2](#), NIV

“Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: ‘Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.’”

NOTE: This “be holy” is the intro of a reminder of [God’s Commandments](#) first given in [Exodus 20](#). In [Leviticus 18:1-5](#), God tells Moses to remind HIS people that they are not to live like the people of Egypt, who He delivered them from, NOR like the people of Canaan, the land where He would take HIS people into; but instead, to live a people who are “set apart” for Him.

[LEVITICUS 20:7-8](#), NIV

“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.”

NOTE: This “be holy” comes at the end of God’s instructing the people on how He feels about bowing before another god (Molek or Molech, the god of the Canaanites, whose worship mandated people to sacrifice babies... boil children alive in the bowels of a large bronze statue with the body of a man and head of a bull—[Leviticus 20:1-5](#)), how He feels about consulting anyone other than Him for things of the “spirit realm” ([Leviticus 20:6, 27](#)), how He feels about “speaking curses” (not blessings) over father or mother ([Leviticus 20:9](#)), how He feels about His people not living in the “sexual realm” of the rest of the world ([Leviticus 20:10-24](#)), and even how He feels about the things His people were to eat... things HE set apart as clean or unclean ([Leviticus 20:25-26](#)).

[LEVITICUS 20:26](#), NIV

“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.”

NOTE: God is the ONE who makes anyone holy ([Leviticus 20:7](#)). And when a person is made holy by THE ONE, TRUE CREATOR-GOD, it needs to be clear to everyone else around that this person has been “set apart” by GOD and for GOD.

[1 PETER 1:15-16](#), NIV

¹⁵“But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;¹⁶ for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

NOTE: This call to “be holy” comes in the first chapter of Peter’s first letter to all of God’s people who had been scattered across the land as those who had been “set apart” by Him, through the sanctifying work of His “Holy Spirit,” that they might be obedient to Jesus Christ and “sprinkled with His blood” ([1](#)

[Peter 1:1-2](#)). This is an encouraging reminder live as those who are “holy”... who have been “set apart” ([1 Peter 1:13-25](#)).

2 TIMOTHY 1:9-10, NIV

“He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”

NOTE: This reminder of being saved and called to “a holy life” comes on the heels of a couple of reminders: 1) to “fan into flame” the grace-gift of God’s Spirit that was given to us; and 2) GOD’S HOLY SPIRIT within us “does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.” God’s grace-gift of salvation—with a call to a holy life—was given before time began, revealing that we human beings don’t manufacture things like power, love and self-discipline... we can only fan their pre-existing sparks into a flame.

HEBREWS 12:14, NIV

“Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.”

NOTE: This call to “be holy” follows the challenging invitation to not “make light of the Lord’s discipline,” and to “not lose heart when He rebukes us,” because God only “disciplines the one He loves” ([Hebrews 12:5-6](#)). God’s discipline is singular; His discipline is for our good; He disciplines us so that “we may share in His holiness” ([Hebrews 12:10](#)). Though it is God alone who actually makes us holy ([Leviticus 20:8](#)), He still expects that we make every effort to be holy; a mark of true holiness being that there is a sincere willingness to make every effort to live at peace with “everyone.” If GOD’s holiness is not revealed in and through our lives, those around us will not be able to see God ([Hebrews 12:14](#)). The writer then describes what it looks like to “make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy”: 1) see to it that no one falls short of God’s grace, thus keeping “bitter roots” from growing up and causing trouble by corrupting human hearts and lives; and 2) see to it that no one is sexually immoral.

2 CORINTHIANS 7:1, English Standard Version

“Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.”

NOTE: *Firstly*, this call to “bring holiness to completion” is described as cleansing and purifying ourselves from everything that corrupts both body and spirit; and we make this effort only out of our love and reverence for, and fear of God. We are ONLY able to do any of this because of the confidence we have in God’s promises to us: 1) that He will live with us and walk among us, that He will be our God and we will be His people ([2 Corinthians 6:16](#)); 2) that He receives us when we step away from the things that aren’t God’s desire for us, drawing deeply into Him ([2 Corinthians 6:17](#), [James 4:8](#)); 3) That He will be a Father to us, and we will be His daughters and sons ([2 Corinthians 6:18](#)).

Secondly, this call to “perfecting holiness” is the lead-off to a deeper understanding that “perfecting holiness” is about having an appropriate “godly sorrow” for our sin that leads us to repentance. “Godly sorrow” is distinguished from “worldly sorrow.” “Worldly sorrow” is when we’re sorry only because we’re suffering for the consequences for our bad choices; that if we hadn’t “gotten caught,” we might not actually be sorry. There’s no true sorrow when we reject God and go our own way. But, “godly sorrow” is when we’re sorry that we’ve sinned, because we know that we’ve rejected God and gone against His good heart for us; and, this “godly sorrow” leads us into repentance as we willfully turn away from the things that are not of God, turning toward Him so that we are standing in the light of His transforming glory and goodness. (See [2 Corinthians 7:8-11](#).)