

God has a Name – Jehovah Makedesh

7/7/24

Leviticus 20:7- 8

Sunday AM

Thus far, we have learned about Elohim, the Creator, who is almighty over all the earth. We then learned that He is Adonai, the Lord and Master of all, and that we are to live in joyful submission to Him. In the name El Elyon, we discovered the wonderful truth that God, as the Possessor of heaven and earth, can meet our every need. We learned that, as El Shaddai, He is God Almighty to nourish, providing all of our needs. In the name Jehovah (Yahweh), we found that He is the absolutely self-existent One, who established a covenant with His people to allow them to know Him in personal relationship. In Jehovah Jireh we found our Provider, who desires to release His blessings in our life. As Israel journeyed through the wilderness, they discovered God to be Jehovah Rapha, the God who turns the bitter to sweet, providing healing for life. Jehovah Nissi is our Banner for victorious living.

At this point in the life of the nation, Israel is a redeemed people. They have been taken from Egyptian captivity and are being prepared to inhabit the Promised Land.

What was Israel to be like in their relationship to God? What are we supposed to be like in our relationship with God? How are they supposed to live? How are we supposed to live? How will they maintain their distinctive qualities as a people related to God when they settle in a land inhabited by pagan nations who do not know God?

This question is as relevant today as it was thousands of years ago.

In the book of Leviticus sometimes called The Book of Life which shows us the walk and worship of the redeemed people is where we first see the name Jehovah Mekadesh.

The name Jehovah Mekadesh which means "the God who Sanctifies," "who makes Holy," "who sets apart as Holy" is first found in Leviticus 20:8 it says...

Leviticus 20:7- 8 ...consecrate yourselves, therefore, and be holy, for I am the Lord your God. Keep my statutes, and do them, I am the Lord, who sanctifies you.

Jehovah Mekadesh is repeated six times in two chapters.

The term sanctify appears frequently in the Old Testament, occurring about seven hundred times in various forms. The word can also be translated as "to dedicate, "to consecrate," or "to hallow." In this text, we will notice that the command to consecrate ourselves is followed by the explanation that God is holy and the God who sanctifies.

"You shall consecrate yourselves therefore and be holy, for I am the Lord your God. And you shall keep My statutes and practice them; I am the LORD [Jehovah Mekadesh] who sanctifies you" (Lev. 20:7-8).

The name Jehovah Mekadesh is often overlooked because it is not translated in the English Bible in this recognizable form. Yet there is no other name for God that more adequately expresses His nature and the requirements He places on His people.

Leviticus 11:44 says ...for I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves, therefore, and be holy, for I am holy.

1 Peter 1:15-16 says ...but like the holy one who called you, be holy yourselves, also, in all your behavior; because it is written, "you shall be holy, for I am holy".

If you're taking notes, write this down... God's essential attribute IS holiness.

Scottish theologian, Nathan Stone, wrote this concerning holiness: "Holiness, It is the balance ... of all the attributes of Deity."

Stone further argues that "power without holiness would degenerate into cruelty. Omniscience without holiness would become craft. Justice without holiness would degenerate into revenge. Goodness without holiness would be passionate and intemperate fondness, doing mischief rather than accomplishing good. We could add that love without holiness would become little more than anemic sentimentality; and freedom without holiness, mere license. It is the holiness of God that constitutes the perfection of all His attributes".

Isaiah 6:3 says: ...Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, The whole earth is full of His Glory.

The seraphim's cry of, "Holy, Holy, Holy" emphasizes God's absolute holiness, His uniqueness and purity. God's holiness is central to His character. It signifies His moral perfection - separateness from sin - and divine transcendence. It's with good reason in Christian liturgy and hymns, the phrase "Holy, Holy, Holy" - is often used during worship services. It invites believers to join the heavenly chorus in acknowledging God's holiness.

When we say "Holy, Holy, Holy," we affirm God's uniqueness, purity, and majesty. It reminds us to approach Him with reverence and humility. This triadic declaration encapsulates the grandeur of God's holiness and invites us to worship Him with awe and wonder

Now, before we go any further and dive into what our response should be to God - to Jehovah Mekadesh it might be helpful to us to quickly talk about what Holiness is not. Why, because in an attempt to be "good Christians" we can in turn be trying to sanctify ourselves when God clearly tells us He's the one who does that in us.

Here are a few common misconceptions about holiness:

#### 1. Holiness Isn't About Outward Appearance:

- Misconception: Some believe holiness is solely about wearing specific clothes or avoiding certain foods, looking a certain way etc. Basically piety.
- Truth: Holiness is deeper—it's about consecrating ourselves to God and being set apart for His purposes. Which we'll get into here in a moment. It's not just external attire or dietary rules.

#### 2. Holiness Isn't Defined by Church Roles:

- Misconception: Assuming that pastors or leaders are holier than others.
- Truth: Holiness isn't tied to titles or positions. All believers are called to be holy, regardless of their roles in the church.

### 3. Holiness Isn't Invincibility to Temptation

- **Misconception:** Some think holiness means never being tempted to sin.
- **Truth:** Holiness involves resisting temptation, but it doesn't mean we're immune. Even Jesus was tempted (Matthew 4:1-11).

Remember, holiness is a lifelong journey—a pursuit of reflecting God's character in our lives

The Holiness of God Compels - requires - demands - our separation from sin. The fact that God is holy means that those who would relate to Him must be cleansed of their sin. Yet, because we have a sin nature, we know that we cannot of ourselves live a holy existence.

Sanctified holiness means that we must come to participate in the nature of God Himself.

In the first few verses of Leviticus 18, the Lord instructs Moses to tell His people: "I am the LORD your God. You shall not do what is done in the land of Egypt where you lived, nor are you to do what is done in the land of Canaan where I am bringing you; you shall not walk in their statutes. You are to perform My judgments and keep My statutes, to live in accord with them; I am the LORD your God" (Lev. 18:2-5).

In Egypt and Canaan, Israel had lived among people who did not live by God's standards or worship Him as God. Yet Israel was admonished not to copy the standards of the world, that they must be set apart (sanctified) to follow the standards that were given by God and which reflected His holy nature.

When God reveals that He is Jehovah Mekadesh, the God who sanctifies, He declares that the people He has redeemed will separate themselves from sin because they bear His nature. To live according to the standards of the world would profane His holy name. You may be asking how you can live a holy life that would honor His name.?! How can I participate in the nature of God Himself?

Participating in the divine nature involves aligning our lives with God's character and attributes. Here are some ways we can actively partake in His nature:

1. **Holiness:** Strive for moral purity and consecration. Set yourself apart for God's purposes, avoiding sin and embracing righteousness.
2. **Love and Mercy:** Cultivate a forgiving and merciful heart. Reflect God's love by showing kindness, compassion, and forgiveness to others.
3. **Self-Control:** Develop discipline and self-mastery. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts, words, and actions.
4. **Joy and Peace:** Seek inner joy and peace, even amidst life's challenges. Trust God's sovereignty and find contentment in Him.
5. **Faithfulness and Patience:** Remain steadfast in your faith, trusting God's promises. Patiently endure trials, knowing that God is faithful.
6. **Humility and Gentleness:** Follow Jesus' example of humility. Treat others with gentleness and humility, recognizing our dependence on God.

Take a quick note of the words I use here...

- Strive
- Cultivate
- Develop
- Seek

- Remain Steadfast
- Follow

This are actions words, they indicate our involvement as a part of the process of being sanctified by God. Remember, participating in the divine nature is a lifelong journey, empowered by the Holy Spirit within us.

Paul deals with that very issue in Romans 7:14-8:39. He first confesses his own struggle to obey God's perfect law when his flesh waged war against the desire of his heart. He cries out, "Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?" (Rom. 7:24).

Paul then answers his own cry with thanksgiving that the law of the Spirit of Christ had set him free from the law of sin and death. Those who belong to Jesus Christ have the Spirit of Christ indwelling them (8:9). "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you" (8:11).

Let's take a quick look at some other examples of this... This crying out from a place of recognition, not just recognizing that they need God's help out of a tough situation, but that they recognize that God is the one who sets them apart. These cries also encompass the other names of God we've been learning about in the series.

1. Moses and the Israelites: Reference: Exodus 2:23-3:22. As slaves in Egypt, the Israelites cried out to God for deliverance from their bondage. God heard their plea and led them through the Red Sea, demonstrating His faithfulness and power.
2. Job: Despite immense suffering, Job maintained his faith. He cried out to God, seeking relief and understanding. His story teaches perseverance and trust in God during trials.
3. David: Reference: 1 Samuel 17. Facing the giant Goliath, David cried out to God for strength and victory. His unwavering trust in God led to a miraculous triumph.
4. Esther: Esther risked her life to save her people. She fasted and prayed, seeking God's guidance before approaching the king. Her courage and reliance on God's plan are inspiring.
5. Hannah: - Reference: 1 Samuel 1:9-20. Barren and desperate for a child, Hannah cried out to God at the temple. Her heartfelt prayer led to the birth of Samuel, who became a great prophet.
6. Blind Bartimaeus: Reference: Mark 10:46-52. Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, cried out to Jesus for mercy and healing. His persistence paid off, and Jesus restored his sight.

These stories remind us that seeking God's help and trusting His plan can transform our lives according to His purpose.

NEXT.. Holiness means our separation for service. Our separation from sin is for the primary purpose of being a fitting vessel for God's service. Holiness means our separation from so that we can be separated to.

The sabbath was a day that was to be sanctified, or set apart for God. The tabernacle, the temple, and the vessels in that temple, were holy in that they were set apart for God's service. These vessels and implements of worship were not only kept pure; they were to be used only in the service of Holy God.

We are saved and cleansed from sin so that we can serve the living God. Nothing should excite us more than the privilege of being the pure instruments through which God accomplishes His work on earth.

When we understand this beautiful name, Jehovah Mekadesh, it should birth in us the passion to be set apart for service. We should be asking how we can use the members of our body as instruments of righteousness. Sanctification should impact our conversations, our business transactions, our relationships, our activities in the community and in our local church, and our study of God's Word.

What now?

First, If we truly grasp the nature of God's holiness, it will radically change our view of sin.

We lose our godly sorrow over sin, when we lose sight of the holy nature of God... all sin must be measured against the holiness of God. Our sin grieves God's spirit, because His spirit, who is in us, is Holy.

So, 'How do we grow in a Holy lifestyle'? Let me give you a few practical suggestions from 1 Peter. In chapter 1, Peter reviews the wonderful blessings that we have in Christ Jesus. Based on these wonderful blessings, Peter issues several imperatives:

- Gird your minds for action.
- Keep sober in spirit.
- Fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
- Do not be conformed to your former lusts.
- Be holy like the Holy One who called you.

Let's read it... In these imperatives and in the chapter that follows, Peter gives us several practical steps to holy living.

1. Prepare your mind for activity. We must come to realize that our mind ultimately controls our actions. If we allow impure thoughts to dominate our minds, they will ultimately lead us to impure actions. We must fill our minds and thoughts with God's Word.

Paul gives sound advice concerning our minds in Philippians 4:8: "Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things?"

2. Fix Your Hope on Christ's Coming: Keep your focus on the return of Jesus. Live with anticipation, knowing that His coming will transform everything (1 Peter 1:13)
3. Although very difficult, we need to obey God in All Areas of Life: Holiness isn't just for Sundays—it's a daily commitment. Obey God in your thoughts, words, and actions (1 Peter 1:14, 15b)
4. Put aside those things that quench your appetite for God's Word.

Here's the way Peter states it: "Therefore, putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.. long for the pure milk of the word" (1 Pet. 2:1-2). The image of putting off the old man

is a frequent one in the New Testament. We must intentionally choose not to sin. We must put aside these sinful attitudes and thoughts, for they war against our holiness.

We also need to Know and Love Scripture: Dive into God's Word. Let Scripture guide your life. Jesus prayed for our sanctification through truth (John 17:17)

5. We need to Develop an appetite for the Word of God.

"Long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation" (1 Pet. 2:2)

You cannot live holy and live apart from the Bible and its teachings.

The Christian needs both personal and corporate Bible study in order to provide a balanced diet. When personal Bible study is complemented by doctrinally sound teaching through the church, we have the checks and balances necessary to allow the Spirit to speak clearly.

In 1 Peter 1:22, Peter emphasizes the truth that we have purified our souls for the sincere love of the brethren. Holiness is both a personal and a corporate issue.

6. Avoid Sin Purposefully: Flee from sin. Abstain from immorality. God's will is your sanctification (1 Thessalonians 4:3a).
7. Live Obediently and Humbly: Surrender your will to God. Let the Holy Spirit lead you. Forgive others and serve with humility (1 Peter 1:15, 16).
8. Prayer and Intimacy: Cultivate a deep prayer life. Seek God's guidance, strength, and wisdom. Intimacy with Him fuels holiness. As a growing Christian, you will find that one of the most precious names you will call out in prayer is Jehovah Mekadesh.

Remember, holiness is a journey—a daily pursuit of reflecting God's character in all aspects of life.

Let's pray...

Lord, sanctify us. Keep us free from the sin that desires only to destroy us. Lord, set us apart for service to you. Use us today, Lord. Thank you that you allow us to be vessels through whom you work.

Amen.