

Holy Ground (Exodus 3:1 – 4:17)

And the angel of the Lord appeared to [Moses] in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush, and he looked, and behold the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed. . . . When the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush, and said, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then He said, “Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” . . .

Holy Ground

- What is “holy” ground?
- What does it mean to be holy?
- Why was Moses told to take off his sandals?
- What else has been called holy?
- How have people reacted to being in the presence of God?
- Are we ever on “holy ground”?
- Are we ever in the presence of God?

What is “holy”?

Things called holy:

- Holy ground (Exodus 3:5 Joshua 5:15)
- Holy habitation (Exodus 15:13)
- Holy Place (Exodus 26:33 *et al*)
- Holy garments (Exodus 28:2 *et al*)
- Holy gifts (Exodus 28:38 *et al*)
- Holy furniture (Exodus 29:34 *et al*)
- Holy oil (Exodus 30:10 *et al*)
- Holy incense (Exodus 30:35 *et al*)
- Holy water (Numbers 5:17)
- Jerusalem (Nehemiah 11:1 *et al*)

What is “holy”?

People called holy:

- Israel (Exodus 19:6 *et al*)
- Believers (Exodus 22:31 *et al*)
- Priests (Leviticus 21:6 *et al*)
- King (2 Kings 19:22)
- Messiah (Psalm 16:10)
- God (Leviticus 11:44 *et al*)
- Holy Spirit (Psalm 51:11 *et al*)
- Angels (Matthew 25:31 *et al*)
- Prophets (Luke 1:70 *et al*)

What is “holy”?

Times called holy:

- Holy convocation (Exodus 12:16 *et al*)
- Holy Sabbath (Exodus 35:2 *et al*)

Other holy nouns:

- The name of God (Leviticus 20:3 *et al*)
- Heaven (Deuteronomy 26:15 *et al*)
- Law of Moses (Romans 7:12 *et al*)
- Holy kiss (2 Corinthians 13:12 *et al*)
- Holy hands (1 Timothy 2:8)
- Holy calling (2 Timothy 1:9)

Holy vs. not holy

- Distinguish between the holy and unholy (Leviticus 10:10, Ezekiel 22:26)
- Holy things not to be used or touched for other reasons (Exodus 30:32, 37; Numbers 4:15; Matthew 7:6)
- Korah: “All Israel is holy.” (Numbers 16)

Summary of “holy”

- Holy describes more than being clean or pure.
- Things, places, people, or events which have been declared holy have a special purpose.
- Holy purposes must not be mingled with even good things not deemed holy.
- Fix our hope completely on grace (1 Peter 1:13 – 21) because only God is truly holy (Revelation 15:4).

How is the uniqueness that is described by the term “holy” maintained?

- As a holy nation?
 - Offer spiritual sacrifices (1 Peter 2:5)
 - Proclaim God’s excellence (1 Peter 2:9)
 - Forgiving one another (Colossians 3:12)
 - Dwelling of God (Ephesians 2:21)
 - Holy olive tree (Romans 11:16)
- As holy individuals?
 - Reconciled (Colossians 1:22)
 - Temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:17)
 - Holy sacrifice (Romans 12:1)

How is the uniqueness that is described by the term “holy” maintained?

- Using holy things, actions, or times?
 - Holy commandment (2 Peter 2:21)
 - Holy kiss (Romans 16:16, 1 Corinthians 16:20, 2 Corinthians 13:12, 1 Thessalonians 5:26, 1 Peter 5:14)
- As saints?
 - Prayers (Revelation 5:8, Ephesians 5:8)
 - Work of service (Ephesians 4:12)

What is our reaction to being holy or being in the presence of holiness?

- Opinion: Division occurs through the codification of holiness. Instead, we should focus on grace.
- Liberty: 1 Corinthians 6:12, 10:23; Colossians 2:18, 2:23; 1 Timothy 1:9
- Law: Romans 8:2, 8:7; 1 Corinthians 9:21; Galatians 6:2; James 1:25, 2:12, 4:11
- Controversy: 1 Timothy 1:4, 6:4; 2 Timothy 2:16, 23, 4:4; Titus 3:9

What do the illustrations of holiness in the Law teach us about maintaining holiness?

- The temple: our bodies
- The furnishings: reserved for godly service
- The incense: our prayers
- Holy habitation: this earth
- Israel: the church
- Convocation: assembly
- Holy ground: holiness requires action

Points to Ponder

- Do we think of God in terms of what He can do for us, or our responsibility to Him?
- If we are in the presence of God (Ephesians 2:6), what should our reaction be?