

Ritual Purity & Holiness

**One Story that
Leads to Jesus**



Holiness

■ Meaning in the OT

- Hebrew word for holiness is "kadosh" (קָדוֹשׁ) and it conveys the idea of being set apart or consecrated for a special purpose
- Holiness is closely associated with the character and nature of God, who is often described as "the Holy One of Israel" or "the Holy One."

■ Key aspects of holiness

- Set apart
- Moral Purity
- Separation from Sin
- Worship and Reverence
- Consecration
- Sacrifice and Atonement
- Call to holiness: The Israelites were called to be a holy nation (Exodus 19:6)

Some key points

- **Presence of God**
 - God wants to be close but we draw back
 - Eden and the expulsion because of sin
 - Burning bush but impure – Moses only comes so close
 - Mt Sinai – have the people come up – “Nope, Moses why don’t you just go...”
 - Tent of Meeting – “Nope, we’re good, you go ahead”
 - Isaiah and Ezekiel’s vision
- **The idea of Temple – the place where we meet God**
 - Eden
 - Tent of Meeting/Tabernacle
 - Temples in Jerusalem
 - New Testament ideas
 - Temple build with living stones
 - Body as a temple for the presence of God
 - Book of Revelation, the heavenly Temple cometh – the world restored as Temple

Profane – Outside the Temple

Holiness and Purity

■ Death

- God is Life
- Death defiles God's creation
- Sin and death are seen together (Genesis 2-3 and Romans 5-8)
- Life associated with God and His blessings
- Death symbolizing separation from God.
- The Israelites were reminded of their commitment to the God of life.

■ Reproductive Fluids

- Such fluids are associated with life
- And so prohibition of contact is counter intuitive to modern view. These are laws of ancient cultures.
- Same fluids associated with sexual integrity, sexual conduct and family life.
- Unique and separate from cultural practices of their neighbors
- **Entering the presence of God in the "temple"**

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