

Know the God of Scripture

Volume 1

Week 6: What is Holiness? - Answer Guide

Below is the answer guide for this week's lesson. By no means are the answers complete or the only possible responses to each question. They are a guide to fully understanding the intent of the questions posed.

1. Syncretism is:

- The combining of different religions so as to live and work in peace/the blending in of a variety of religions to establish a peaceful community.
- The co-existing of various religions by either adoption or acceptance of rituals and beliefs.
- When Christians become complacent and slowly allow other faiths to interject their beliefs into the church, thereby watering down the basic tenets and creating a false doctrine.

It continues all over the world threatening the true gospel of Jesus.

2. Before offering any sacrifice the person must be ritually clean, analogous to one examining himself before partaking of the Lord's Supper (1Corinthians 11:28).

Burnt & Grain Offerings: (Leviticus 1, 2) The purpose of the burnt offering is described in detail on the following website: <https://bible.org/seriespage/law-burnt-offerings-leviticus-1-1-17>

The purpose of the grain offering is explained in detail at the following website: <https://bible.org/seriespage/grain-offering-leviticus-21-16-614-18-79-10-1012-13>

Peace & Fellowship Offering: (Leviticus 3) The Hebrew word for peace offering is "shelem" which conveys a meaning of good health, wholeness and peace. The Peace offering was partly eaten by priests and the offeror's family. It was given out of a grateful and thankful heart because of the relationship established with the Lord. It was a freewill offering given to Yahweh as an expression of thankfulness. Further study of the peace and fellowship offering can be found at: <https://bible.org/seriespage/fellowship-offering-leviticus-31-17-711-34-195-8-2229-30>

Sin & Guilt Offering: (Leviticus 4) The priest would lay his hand on the animal, separate the fat and entrails which is burned on the alter, sprinkle the blood on the curtain and four corners of the alter, and burn the rest of the animal outside the camp. If the offeror offended someone, he was to offer 20% more in restitution. It served to restore a relationship (between God and/or a neighbor) that had become severed because of the offeror's disobedience. They were his recompense to an offended Lord. More information and details can be found at: <https://bible.org/seriespage/6-guilt-offering-leviticus-514-67-71-6>

Jesus was a guilt/sin offering for all who believe (Isaiah 53:10).

3. God gave specific instructions on what animals were clean and could be eaten and which ones were defiled in Leviticus 11. Clean animals had split hoofs and chewed cud, fin and scaled fish only, and certain birds and insects. Dietary restrictions were for the good of Israel. Medical science supports that many of the unclean animals carried diseases harmful to humans. Devout Jews in Israel and across the world still observe these dietary restrictions. If you happen to go to Israel do not be surprised if the hotel restaurants don't serve bacon for breakfast!

4. Self-purification, in the spiritual sense, is an oxymoron, for man cannot “purify” himself. Only the blood of Jesus can pay for our sins and make us clean.

In the Old Testament certain actions were commanded to symbolize purification. Circumcision was unique to Israel and proved that even children were sinful from birth (Psalm 58:3). Quarantines were established to prevent the spread of disease and speed the curing process. Sickness was a symbol of sin and part of God’s curse on Adam. Anointing oil symbolized the covering or blessing of God in the form of the Holy Spirit. The word “messiah” comes from the Hebrew word for anoint. Oil was used to burn lamps; once consumed it transformed into air (incense), Hebrew “ruah.” Lamps symbolized the presence of the Holy Spirit (Zechariah 4:2-6). Priests had to be ceremonially clean in order to be representatives of God.

5. The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) is not mentioned in Exodus (but alluded to in 30:9-10) and is not part of the pilgrimage festivals. On the day of atonement, the high priest would lay his hands on two lambs or goats, thereby transferring the sins of the people to them. One of the lambs/goats (later to be sacrificed) represented substitutionary atonement, the other represented the eternal removal of sin. The latter was called a scapegoat (“az” → goat; “azel” → removal (Psalm 103:12)). Blood was sprinkled on the curtain to the Holy of Holies and the altar on which the Ark was stationed. The Day of Atonement called for mourning, fasting and repentance nationwide.

The Day of Atonement today is not celebrated by Christians because the price for our sins has been paid by the blood of the ultimate lamb, that of Jesus Christ. On a daily basis Christians should be grateful and thankful for the sacrifice of Jesus for He paid the ultimate price to forgive us of our sins, past, present and future.

6. (Hebrews 8:1-2; 9) Jesus is the propitiation, the appeasing of God’s judgmental wrath, for our sins (1 John 4:10). Therefore, there is no need for His sacrifice to be repeated yearly. Jesus forgives and takes our sins away once and for all, continuously and forever.

As for the scapegoat who symbolically removed the sins of the people and brought them into the wilderness, Jesus not only forgives our sins, but removes them for eternity.

A good article on the Atonement and Scapegoat can be found at:

<https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/the-day-of-atonement/#flipbook/>

7. One of the most prevalent religious rituals observed by the Israelites was child sacrifices to the gods Molech and Chemosh. In addition, the worship of Baal often involved perverted sexual acts, extraordinary dietary consumptions and idol worship. These practices were strictly prohibited by God and His commandments to the Israelites.

8. In the spring, Passover, the feast of first fruits and Pentecost were to be observed. In the fall, on the 1st day of 7th month, the Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah) was to be observed. On the 10th day of the same month the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) was observed. Between the 15th – 21st the Feast of Booths (Sukkoth) was observed.

9. The Sabbath was the 7th day of the week (refer to Genesis 1). The Sabbath year was the 7th year. The Year of Jubilee was the 49th consecutive year. Observance of the Sabbath, Sabbath years and Jubilee began with the blowing of the ram’s horn. If each of these sabbaths was observed according to God’s commandments He would provide agricultural blessings, peace in midst of other nations, removal of wild animals, victory in war, and bless families with multiple offsprings. In essence, God would walk with them and be in their presence.

10. The Greek word for church is “ekklesia” and means “called out ones.” As Christians we are “called out” in the world of darkness to be a light beacon to the lost. We are to be separate, holy and illumined with the light of God. Our words and actions are to be a beacon of hope to the lost that they may see the life of Jesus in our character. Read 1 Peter 2:9 and look up what Old Testament verses he is alluding to.

Additional Questions:

1. The first step in being a “called out” one is to surrender your life to Jesus Christ and invite Him into your heart (Romans 10:9-10). The atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ applied to a person who has given their life to Him is the seal of being part of the church. When a person is saved, they are clothed in the robe of righteousness by Jesus (Luke 15:22; Revelation 6:11) and filled with the Holy Spirit that begins a transformation process called sanctification. It is only by the power of the Holy Spirit that Christians can be priests for God and “called out” of darkness.

2. Casuistic Laws are case laws with conditional statements married with meted consequences if one does not obey them. They usually have an “if” clause followed by conditions required to meet the “if” statement. They are usually applied to a specific people at a specific time in a specific culture.

Apodictic Laws are laws that are absolute and universal like the ten commandments. They are laws God established that apply to all people at all times in all cultures.

For further study go to: <https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/encyclopedia-of-the-bible/Book-Covenant>

