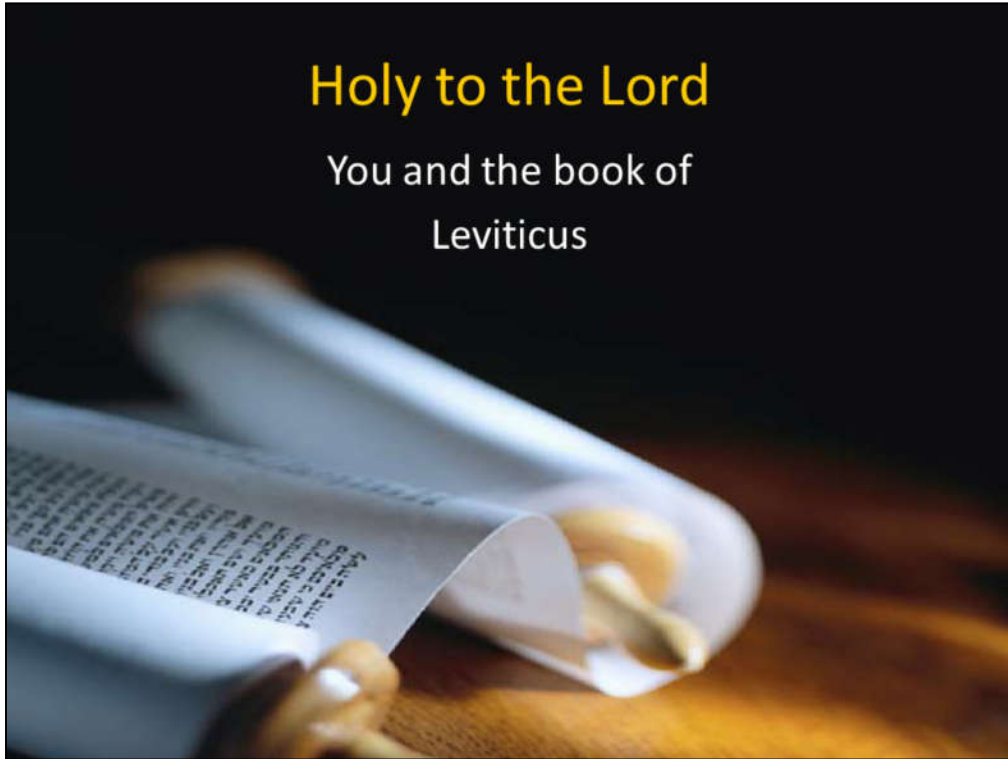


Holy to the Lord

You and the book of
Leviticus



Foundation



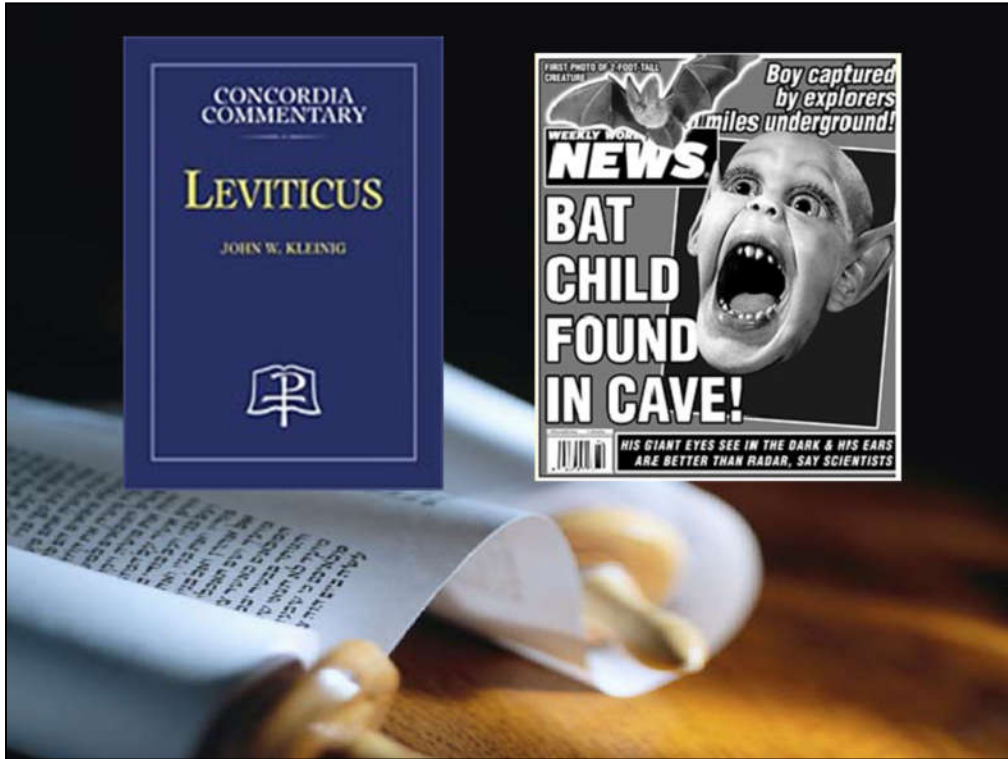
As we do with every Bible Study, the first day we will just lay a foundation for the course. Why do we do that?

Isn't it interesting that in some ancient sites the buildings are long gone, but the foundations are still there.

Today we will do what we can to build a strong foundation for this Bible Study.

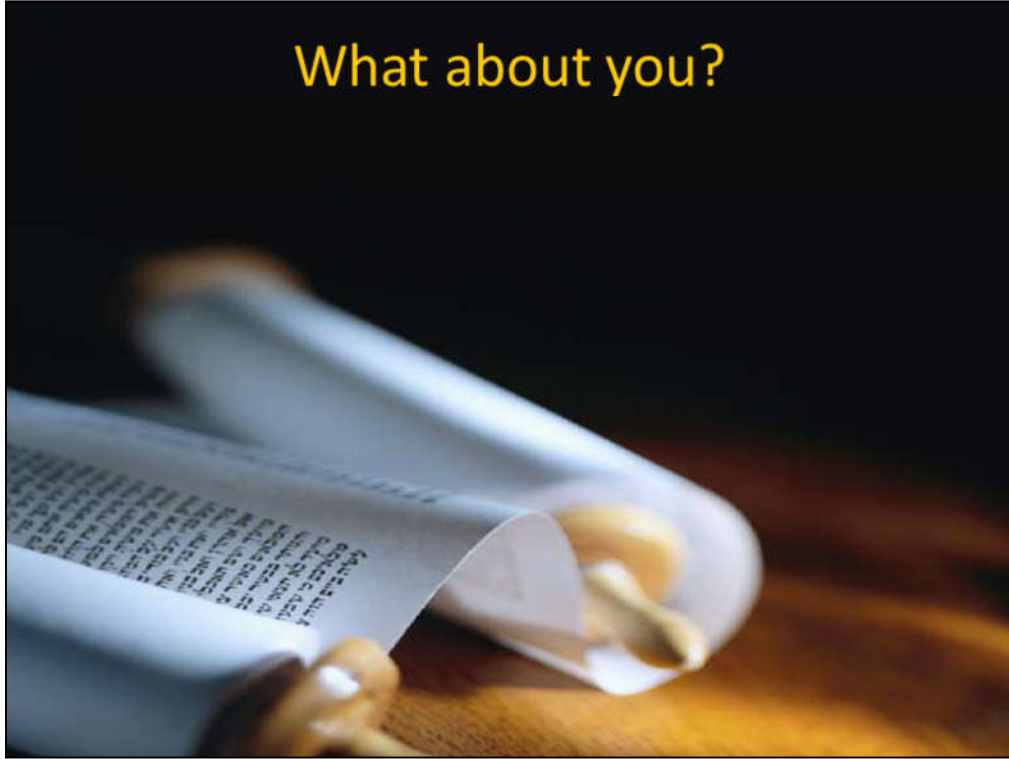


About a year ago, I was flying back from a convention in Winnipeg, and at the convention I had picked up the latest Concordia commentary for the book of Leviticus. This will be one of the main resources used to put together this study. So I'm looking at this commentary, and halfway through the flight the lady in the seat next to me throws a newspaper in my lap and says, "I'm done with this, you may as well read it." And I look, and sitting on top of my commentary is a copy of Weekly World News. (Explain how WWN is a spoof of tabloids). And I thought, isn't this an interesting contrast, these two publications. One is deeply grounded in God's eternal Word, and the other is unabashedly full of false stories.



Which one of these, the book of Leviticus or WWN, which one is more widely read? Why?

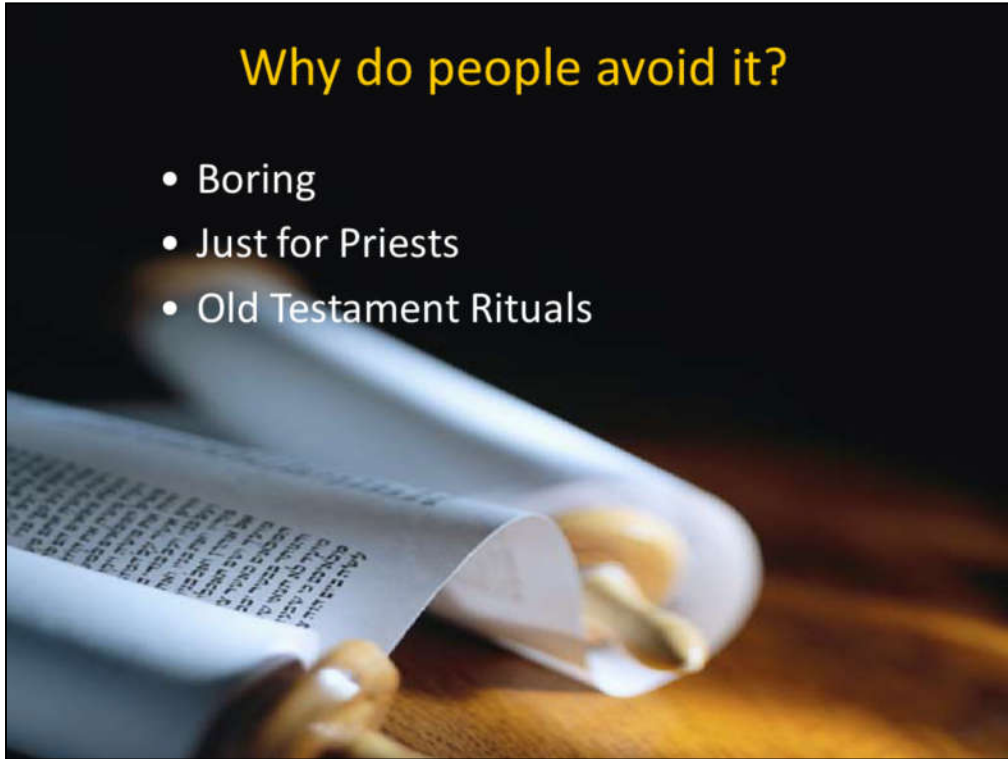
What about you?



When was the last time you looked as the book of Leviticus?

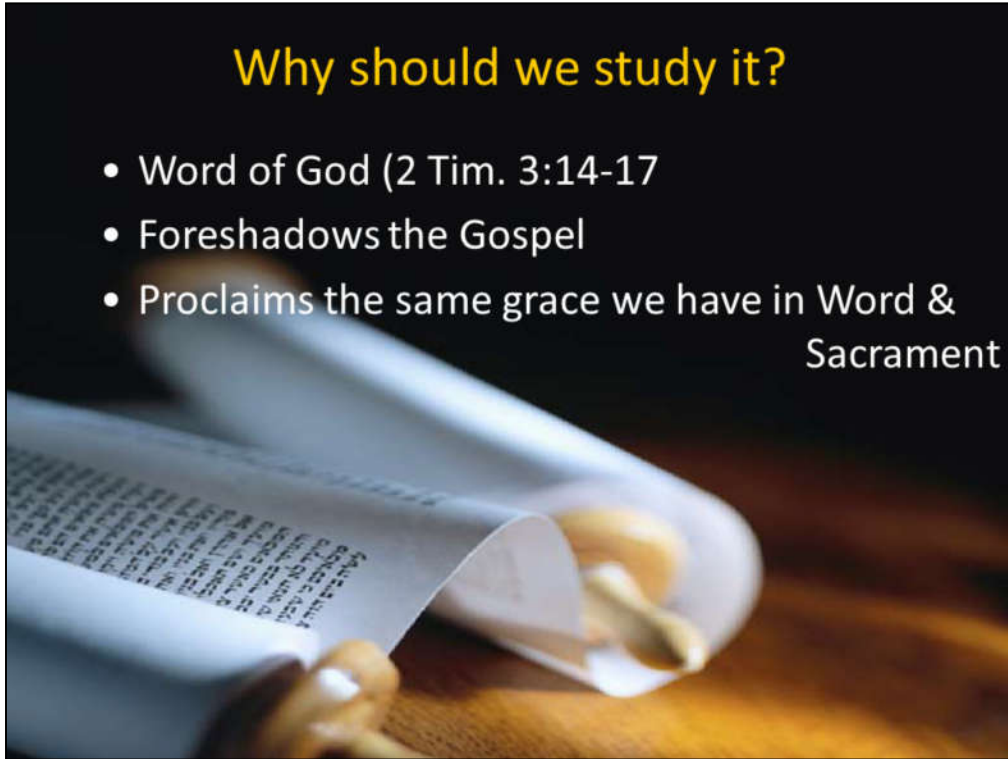
Why do people avoid it?

- Boring
- Just for Priests
- Old Testament Rituals



Why should we study it?

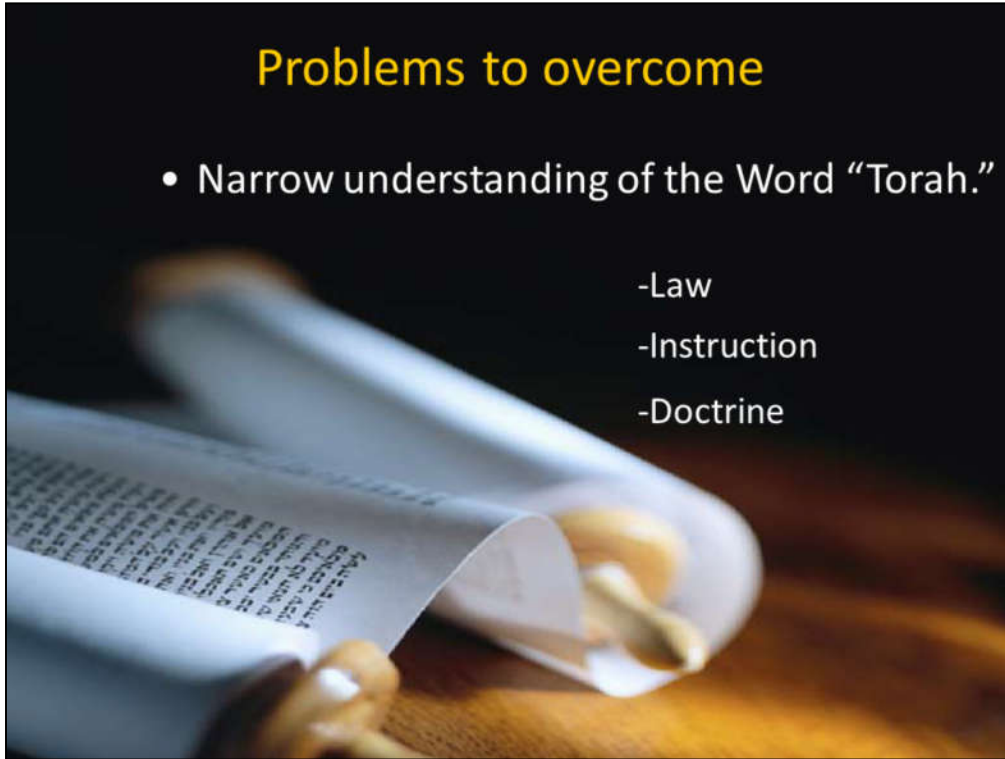
- Word of God (2 Tim. 3:14-17)
- Foreshadows the Gospel
- Proclaims the same grace we have in Word & Sacrament



Problems to overcome

- Narrow understanding of the Word “Torah.”

- Law
- Instruction
- Doctrine



Torah can mean, Law, Instructions, or Doctrine. Do these words have the same connotation?

“Holy to the Lord”

Exodus 28:36-38



This phrase is repeated five times in the book of Leviticus. Clearly this is an important theme in the book.

It can be found 25 times in the Old Testament and once in the Gospel of Luke.

Holy to the Lord

What does this convey to
the people?

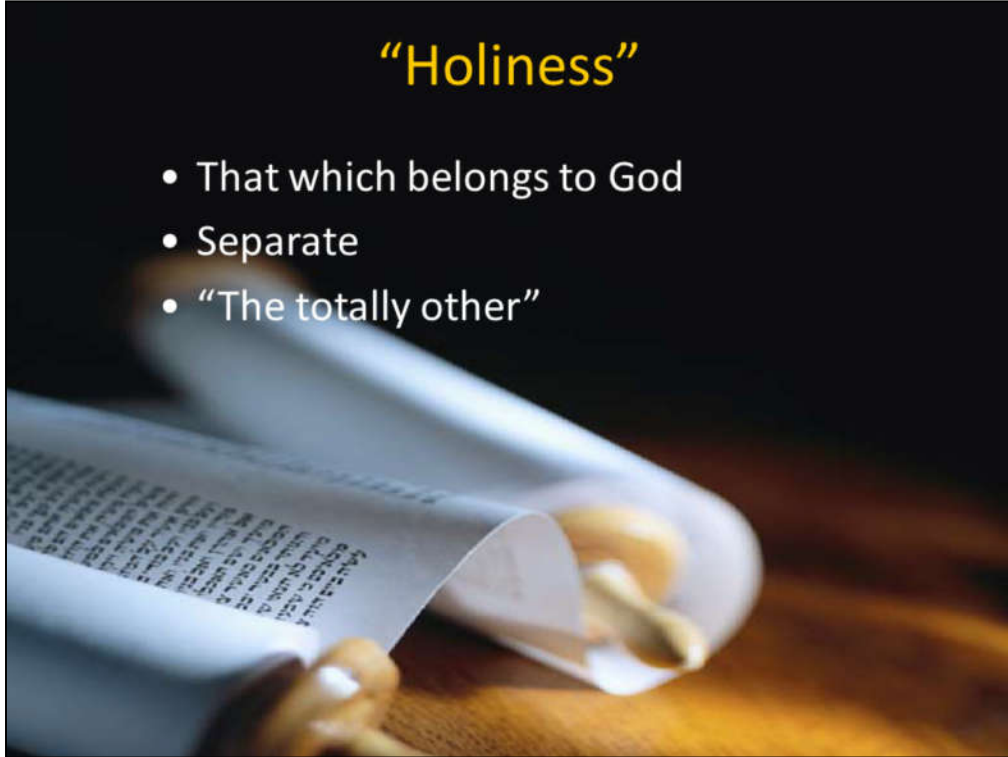


What is interesting about the last sentence in verse 38? “It shall regularly be on *his* forehead, that *they* may be accepted before the Lord.” (Note the connection between the priest attire and holiness, and the people’s acceptance before God.)

What is the equivalent in our church?

“Holiness”

- That which belongs to God
- Separate
- “The totally other”



The concept of “holiness” is a tough one to explain. It’s a word we seem to know, but find it hard to describe. How would you define it?

Here are some other ways to define it:

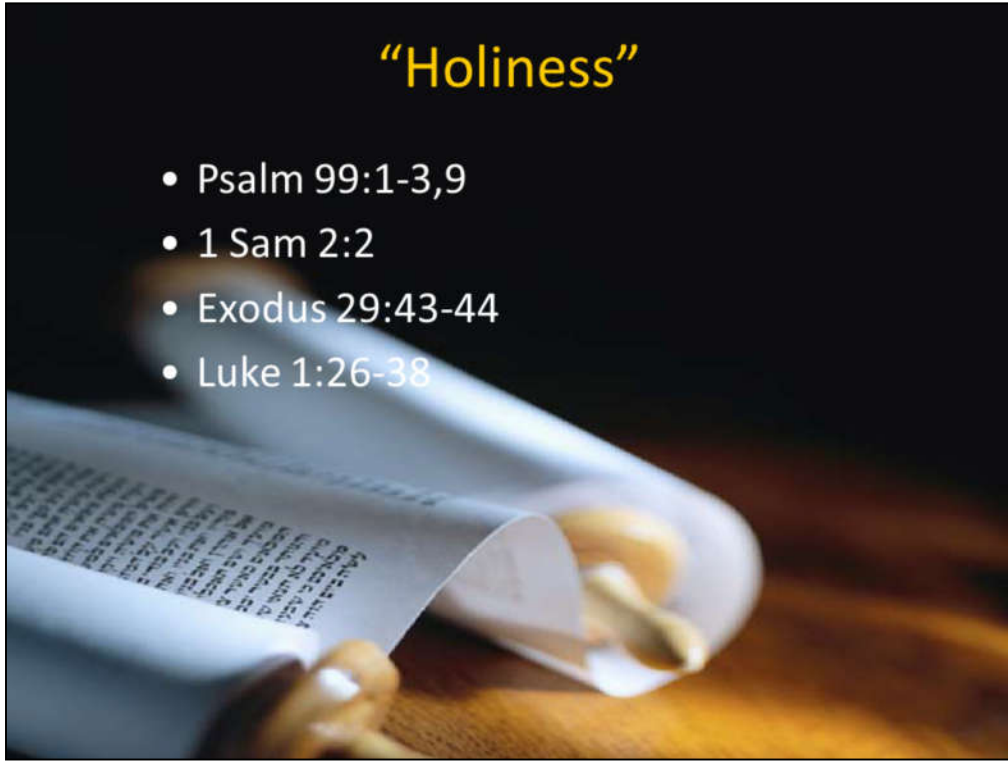
That which belongs to God

Separate

“The totally other”

“Holiness”

- Psalm 99:1-3,9
- 1 Sam 2:2
- Exodus 29:43-44
- Luke 1:26-38



Let's see how the Bible uses the word holy. What does each verse tell us?

Frequently used terms

- Holy
- Clean/Unclean
- Common



We will be using three terms quite regularly: Holy, clean, and common. What do you think the difference is between these words?

The state of holiness is an environment created by God. Why does it not naturally occur?

The common domain is a buffer zone between holiness and impurity. Anything that is common could be either clean or unclean.

What may be considered Holy? Clean? Common? Unclean?

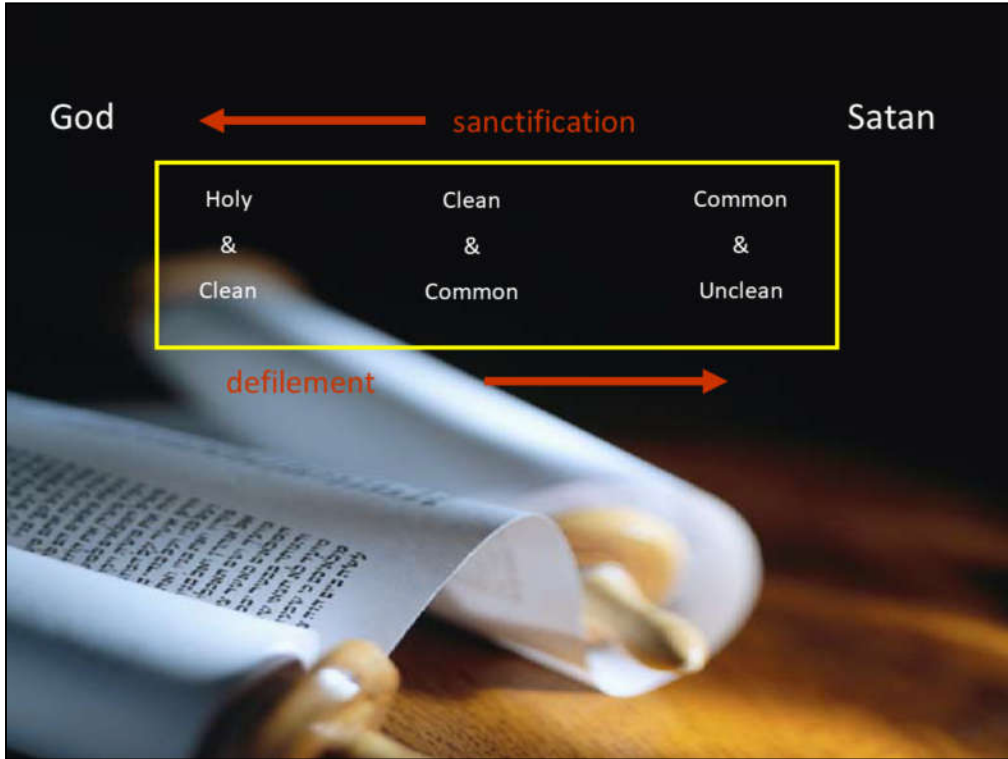
Can an object move from one category to another?

Frequently used terms



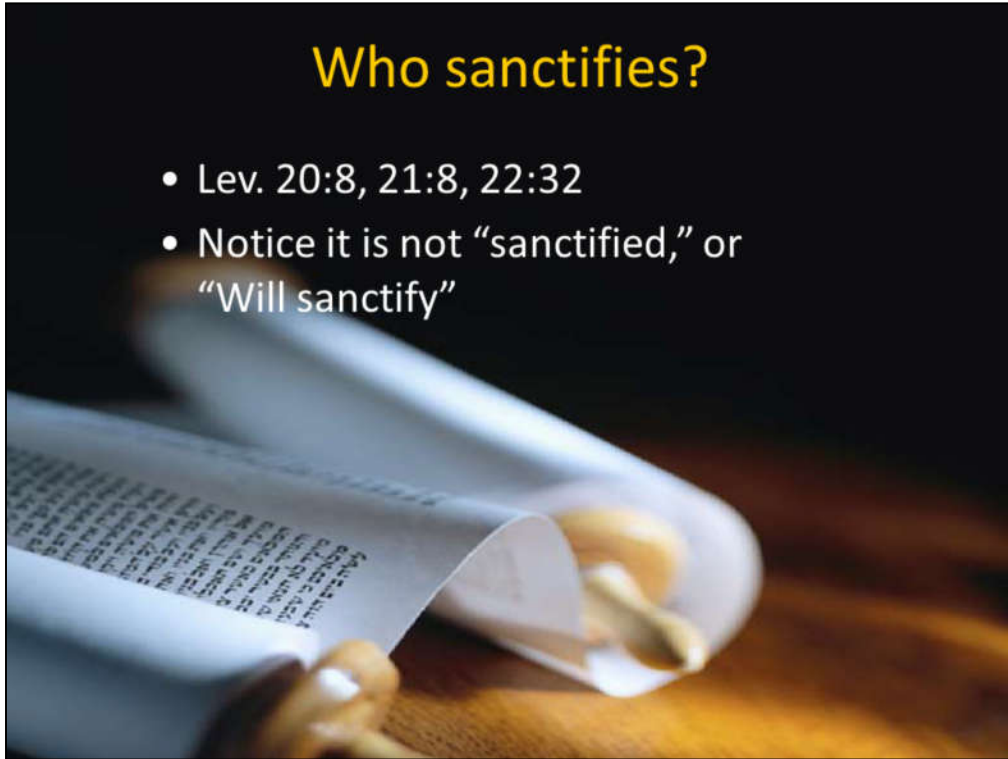
Using food as an example, what may be considered Holy? Clean? Common? Unclean?

Can an object move from one category to another?



Who sanctifies?

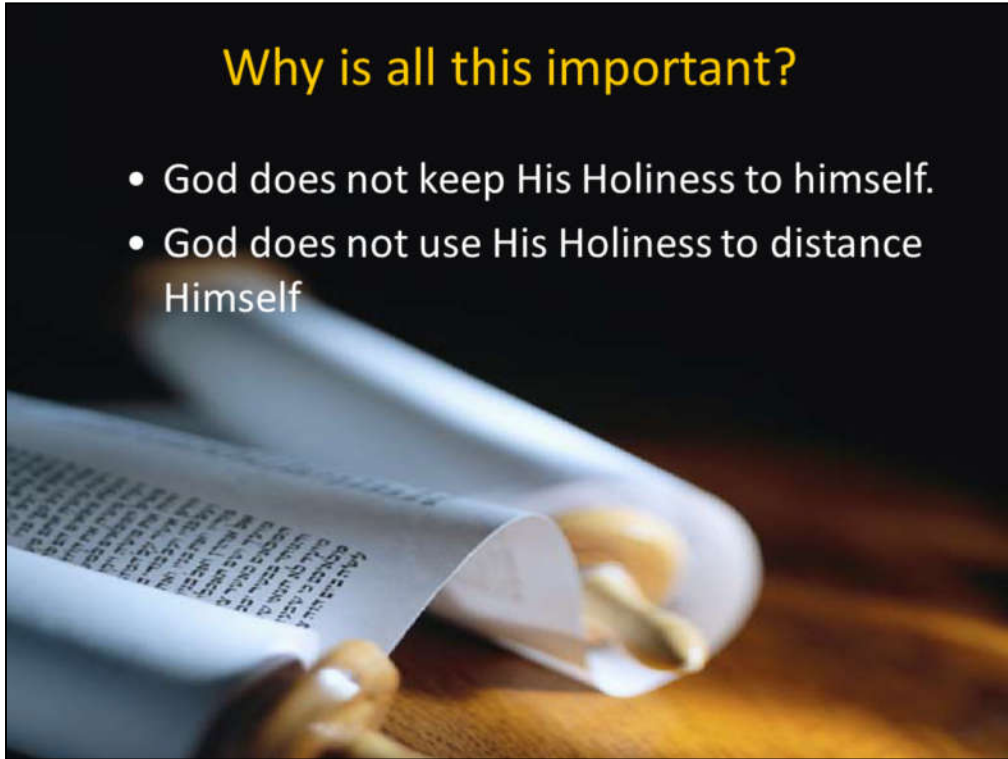
- Lev. 20:8, 21:8, 22:32
- Notice it is not “sanctified,” or “Will sanctify”



It is not “sanctified” or “will sanctify” because it is an ongoing action. It happens repeatedly and continually.

Why is all this important?

- God does not keep His Holiness to himself.
- God does not use His Holiness to distance Himself



Could God use His holiness as a barrier? See Isaiah 6:1-6

Why is all this important?

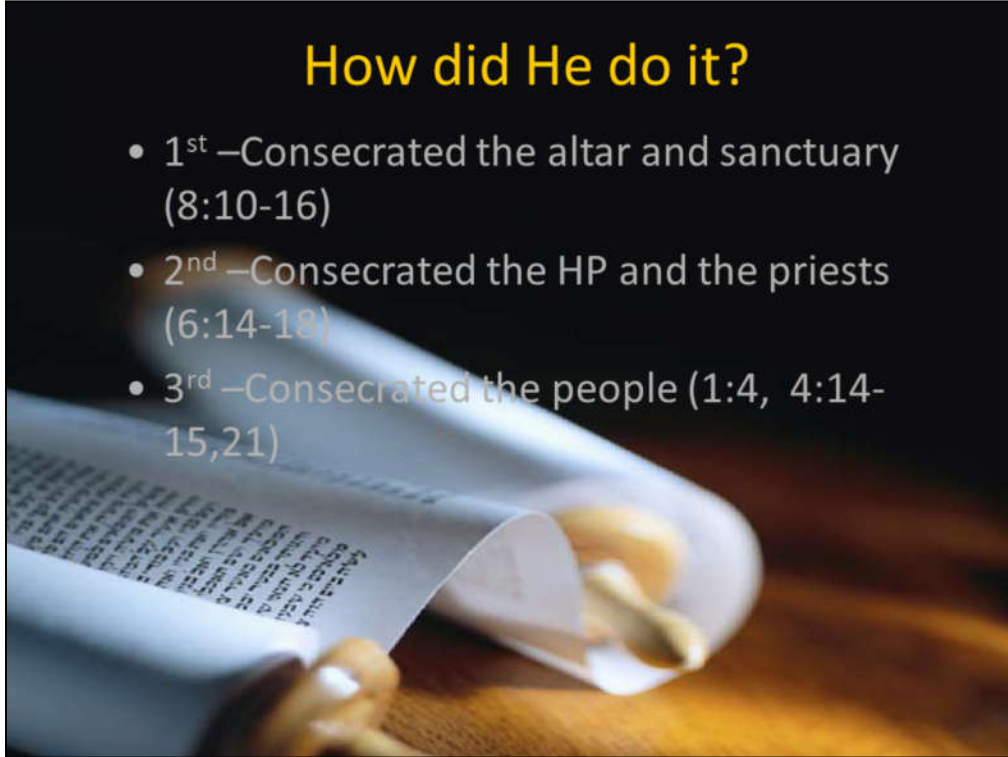
- God joins us on our earthly journey and shares His Holiness.

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He did this through the sacrificial system found in the book of Leviticus and He still does it today. How? Through word and sacrament.

How did He do it?

- 1st –Consecrated the altar and sanctuary (8:10-16)
- 2nd –Consecrated the HP and the priests (6:14-18)
- 3rd –Consecrated the people (1:4, 4:14-15,21)



How does God still do it?

- 1st –Consecrate the altar and sanctuary
- 2nd –Consecrate the Pastor
- 3rd –Consecrate the people



What part of the church is the “Sanctuary?” Why do we call it this?

Who leads the service on Sunday? Why him?

Why does the pastor eat the bread and wine before communing others?

How are the people consecrated?

God communicates His holiness with His people through holy things.



By their access to the holy thing the people shared in God's holiness.

The objects that were burned were very real to the people. They were from their flocks and from their crops. How did the use of physical objects help the people better comprehend what God was doing here?

God communicates His holiness with his people through holy things.



By their access to the holy thing the people shared in God's holiness.



Ask the question, how does God communicate his holiness today? What holy things does God use to let His people share in His holiness?

Baptism, and Holy Communion.

Next Week:

“Stoke the fire, Pa.

We got some burnin’ to do!”

