

RUSSELL SANDERS

1-16-2022

SANCTIFY, SANCTIFIED – LESSON 3

We have looked at the Hebrew word for “holy” which is qadesh or qadash. Among its meanings are “made holy” and “to observe as holy.”

Yesterday we considered that it is applied to certain living beings, both human and animal. Today we speak of God being sanctified.

What does that mean? Does it mean that God is to be set apart to Himself or to be consecrated to Himself? No, not at all.

It means that He is to be sanctified to the eyes of man and to the heart of man. He is made to be seen as holy. That is because he IS HOLY, but mankind has not always seen Him that way.

Consider Israel’s 400 years of Egyptian captivity. They forgot who God really was, and they learned of the Egyptian pagan gods. Moses led them out of the familiarity of Egypt into the barren wilderness of the Sinai Peninsula.

While Moses and Joshua spent 40 days on the mountain receiving the Law and Commandments, Aaron was making the congregation a golden calf to worship. It was an image of the Apis Bull, the greatest of the Egyptian gods. “Behold, the god who brought you out!” They worshipped and danced before it. They had little or no concept of Yahweh, Jehovah. God needed to provide a way to cause the Israelites to know or observe Him as a Holy God. He needed to be sanctified, or set apart, in their eyes from all else that were called gods.

We see how this occurred in chapter 20 of Numbers. They were at Meribah in the wilderness of Zin (later called Sin) where there was no water. They feared dying of thirst. They chided Moses and Aaron and blamed them for their predicament.

God told Moss to speak to this great rock in Meribah, and He would bring forth water from it sufficient for two million people and all their flocks. That is a lot of water to come from a desert land, especially from a mountain rock. Moses was not obedient. He struck the rock with his rod instead of speaking to it. Nonetheless, God brought forth the water.

God rebuked Moses for not believing His instruction of how in verse 12, **“to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel...”** However, because God did perform the miracle, verse 13 says, **“and He was sanctified in them.”** This means God was “made holy” in their eyes and “set apart” from all other gods.

Numbers 27:14 further verifies this as it says, **“to sanctify me at the water before their eyes, that is the water at Meribah in Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin.”**

Ezekiel speaks of judgment against Gog who comes against Israel in the last days. Through judgment God says in verse 23, ***“Thus will I magnify myself and sanctify myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I AM (Jehovah).”*** Their “eyes” will come to see Him as the Holy One.

God must be “sanctified” in your eyes and mine. We see Him as holy, set apart to be worshipped.