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1-15-2022
SANCTIFY, SANCTIFIED
LESSON 2

We see in the Old Testament that certain people often were sanctified unto God. This means that they were consecrated to Him in some manner.

The first account of this is found in Exodus 13:2 where God told Moses to sanctify the firstborn of the womb for both man and animal. If you recall, the final plague on the Egyptians was the death of the firstborn male in every family and also of the livestock. The firstborn males represented the generation of the family bloodline.

God called for the firstborn males of all Israel to be set apart unto him. The human family lines were traced generationally through the lineage of the eldest male. Among the animals, the firstborn was to be set apart as a sacrificial offering to the LORD.

The priesthood was also sanctified unto God, consecrated to minister unto God on behalf of the congregation of Israel. They went through special rites of cleansing to make them holy unto God. This was done for the sake of the people as they performed the sacrifices and the temple or tabernacle service.

The people often were sanctified or consecrated using the washing with water. Fasting was sometimes used to sanctify people as a means of cleansing them on the inside for God's purposes. Fasting cleanses or makes "holy" the spirit and soul internally while the water symbolically washes away or cleans away sin or impurity.

The key to remember is the act of a person or people to become consecrated entirely to God.

As Christ-followers, we are to be consecrated to Him, sanctified, or set apart for His glory.