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A Biblical View of Holiness







"GOD'S HOLINESS IS DEADLY TO SINFUL HUMANITY





I The Lord spoke to Moses after **the death** of the two sons of Aaron, when they drew near before the Lord and died, **2** and the Lord said to Moses, "Tell Aaron your brother **not to come at any time** into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat that is on the ark, so that he may not die. For I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat.

Leviticus 16:1-5



3 But in this way Aaron shall come into the Holy Place: with a bull from the herd for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. 4 He shall put on the holy linen coat and shall have the linen undergarment on his body, and he shall tie the linen sash around his waist, and wear the linen turban; these are the holy garments. He shall bathe his body in water and then put them on. **5** And he shall take from the congregation of the people of Israel two male goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering.

Leviticus 16:3-5



"HOW CAN A HOLY GOD HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH A SINFUL PEOPLE?"



Exodus 3:1-5

] : FIRE IN THE BUSH

Now **Moses** was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was **not consumed**.



Exodus 3:1-5

#1: FIRE IN THE BUSH

3 And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." 4When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see. God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ₅Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for **the place** on which **you are** standing is holy ground."



#2: FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN

Exodus 19:10-12

10 the Lord said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments 11 and be **ready** for the third day. For on the third day the Lord will **come** down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. 12 And you shall set limits for the people all around, saying, 'Take care not to go up into the mountain or touch the edge of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall be put to death.

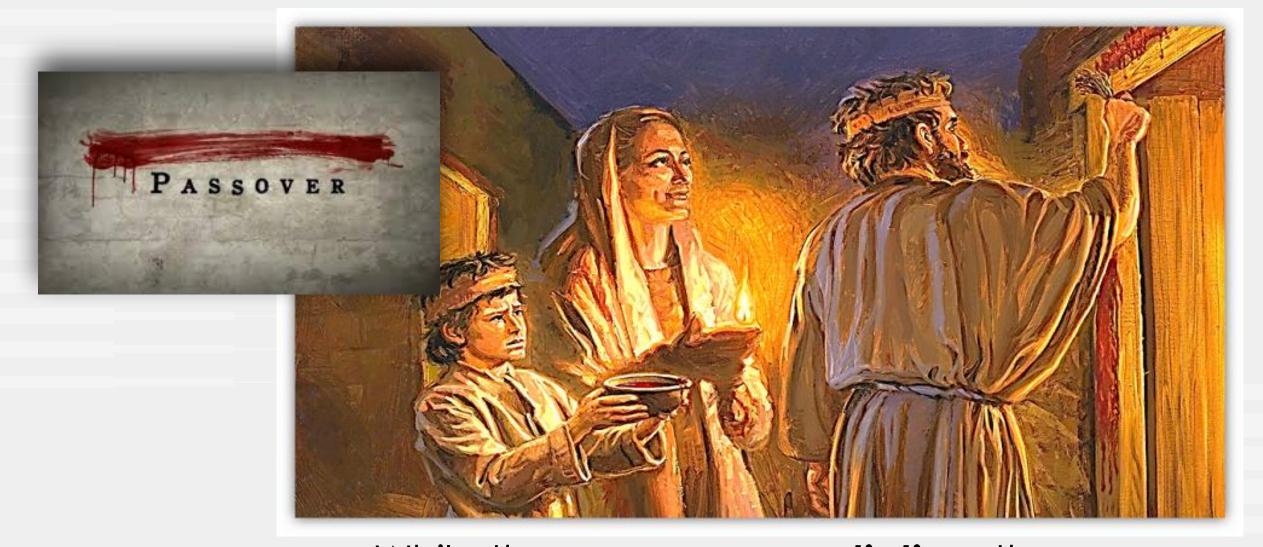


Exodus 19:17-18

#2: FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN

17 Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. 18 Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the Lord had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly.





While there was **no negotiation**, there was a **provision**: "When I see the blood, I will pass over you."



"HOW CAN A HOLY GOD HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH A SINFUL PEOPLE?"





#1: **OUR SIN** IS MUCH WORSE THAN WE THINK

Leviticus 16:1

1 The Lord spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they drew near before the Lord and died,



#1: **OUR SIN** IS MUCH WORSE THAN WE THINK

Exodus 10:1-3 "Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and **put** fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the Lord, which he **had not** commanded them. 2And fire came out from before the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord."



#1: **OUR SIN** IS MUCH WORSE THAN WE THINK

Leviticus 16:2 2 and the Lord said to Moses, "Tell Aaron your brother **not to come at any** time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat that is on the ark, so that he may not die. For I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat.



When we don't take God's holiness seriously, we may think that sin is **not** a big deal.

Hebrews 12:29 ESV "... for our God is a consuming fire."

Psalm 92:15 ESV "to declare that the Lord is upright; he is my rock, and there is **no** unrighteousness in him."



And one **called** to another and said: "**Holy**, **holy**, is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.

And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

Isaiah 6:3-5



#2: GOD'S GRACE IS MUCH GREATER THAN WE THINK

Leviticus 16:6-10 6"Aaron shall **offer** the bull as a **sin offering** for himself and shall make **atonement** for himself and for his house. 7Then he shall take the **two** goats and set them before the Lord at the entrance of the tent of meeting. «And Aaron shall cast lots over the two goats, one lot for the Lord and the other lot for Azazel.



#2: GOD'S GRACE IS MUCH GREATER THAN WE THINK

Leviticus 16:9-10 ,And Aaron shall **present** the goat on which the lot fell for the Lord and use it as a sin offering, 10 but the goat on which the lot fell for Azazel shall be presented alive before the Lord to make atonement over it, that it may be sent away into the wilderness to Azazel.



15 "Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering that is for the people and bring its blood inside the veil and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, sprinkling it over the mercy seat and in front of the mercy seat. 16 Thus he shall **make** atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleannesses of the people of Israel and because of their transgressions, all their sins. And so he shall do for the tent of meeting, which dwells with them in the midst of their uncleannesses.

Leviticus 16:15-16



17 No one may be in the tent of meeting from the time he enters to make **atonement** in the Holy Place until he comes out and has made **atonement** for himself and for his house and for all the assembly of Israel. ¹⁸ Then he shall go out to the altar that is before the Lord and make atonement for it, and shall take some of the blood of the bull and some of the blood of the goat, and put it on the horns of the altar all around. And he shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it and consecrate it from the **uncleannesses** of the **people** of Israel.



Leviticus 16:17-19



20 "And when he has made an end of atoning for the Holy Place and the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall **present** the live goat. **21** And Aaron shall **lay** both his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, all their sins. And he shall put them on the head of the goat and **send** it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who is in readiness. 22 The goat shall bear all their iniquities on itself to a remote area, and he shall let the goat go free in the wilderness.



Leviticus 16:20-22

"But when Christ **appeared** as a high priest of the **good** things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) 12 he **entered** once for all into the holy places, **not** by means of the blood of goats and calves **but** by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. Hebrews 9:11-14



#3: JESUS IS THE HIGH PRIEST: GOD'S ONLY PROVISION TO GO BEYOND THE VEIL



of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, 20 where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 6:19-20



#4: WE MUST RECEIVE GOD'S GRACE BY FAITH



29 "And it shall be a **statute** to you **forever** that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall **afflict yourselves** and **shall do no work**, either the native or the stranger who sojourns among you. **30** For **on this day** shall atonement be made for you to **cleanse** you. You shall be **clean** before the Lord from all your sins.

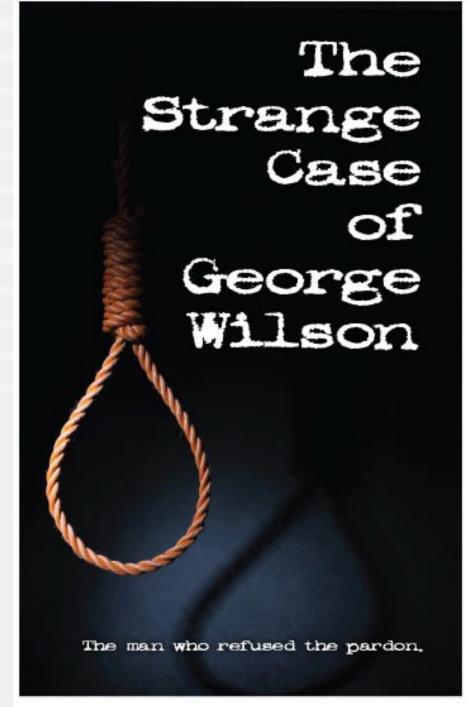
Leviticus 16:29-30



30 And whoever does any work on that very day, that person I will **destroy** from among his people. 31 You shall not do any work. It is a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwelling places. 32 It shall be to you a Sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict yourselves. On the ninth day of the month beginning at evening, from evening to evening shall you keep your Sabbath."

Leviticus 23:30-32

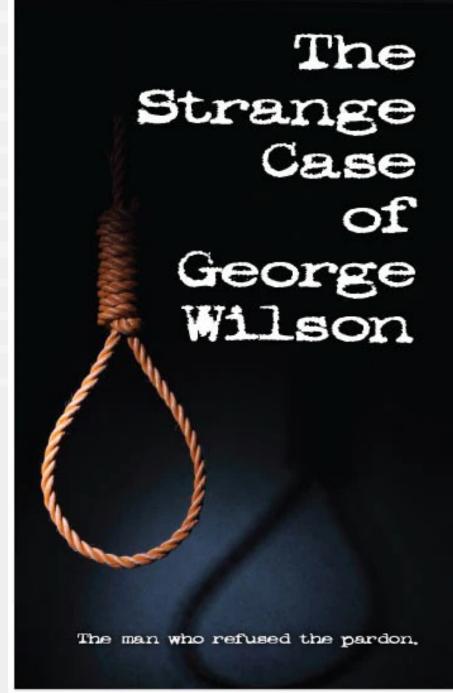




About 200 years ago a man named George Wilson was sentenced to be **hanged** for robbing the United States mail and for murder. Andrew Jackson, who was then the President, exercised his prerogative and sent Wilson a pardon. Willson however, refused the pardon. And insisted that it was **not** a pardon unless he accepted it.







But Wilson refused the pardon, and the case went to the Supreme Court.
Chief Justice John Marshall wrote the official ruling for the court.

"A pardon is an act of grace," he said, "the validity of which is not complete without acceptance. It might be rejected by the person to whom it was offered, and the court could not force it upon him. The court cannot give the prisoner the benefit of the pardon unless he claims the benefit of it."



#4: WE MUST RECEIVE GOD'S GRACE BY FAITH

"For by grace you have been saved through faith.
And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast"



GOD'S HOLINESS IS DEADLY TO SINFUL HUMANITY BUT JESUS PROVIDES A PATHWAY FOR PEOPLE TO RETURN TO HIM. HIS SAVING GRACE.



Application Questions:

1. What challenges do you have when it comes to embrace a holy living? 2.God's work of salvation comes first; our obedience is done in response. In what way do you want to respond to God's holiness resulting in experiencing the grace of God upon your life?



